



# RECYCLING ADVOCATES

www.RecyclingAdvocates.org

January 2007

*Involving people in creating a sustainable future through local efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle*

## 2007 – The Year of Recycling? A Look Ahead at the Upcoming Legislative Session

By Katy Daily

As we approach the dawn of the 2007 legislative session, Recycling Advocates is gearing up for what may prove to be the most active session we've seen in decades with respect to recycling legislation. Two major issues are predicted to be debated this year: electronic waste recycling and a revamping of Oregon's seminal environmental legislation, the bottle bill.

Recycling Advocates is part of a coalition of diverse groups who is working with Representative Jackie Dingfelder (D—Portland) to bring a comprehensive electronic waste (e-waste) recycling program to Oregon. Around the country states are considering solutions to the persistent, ever-increasing problem of what to do with e-waste. Computers and other electronic equipment have exceedingly short life spans and consumers are left with few options for confidently disposing of their e-waste in an environmentally sound manner when they are through with it.

The solution Recycling Advocates is proposing is a shared responsibility program where manufacturers who sell products in Oregon will be required to finance free, convenient and environmentally sound recycling services throughout the state. These services will include the collection, transportation and processing of items. Consumers, retailers, charities and local and regional governments will all have a role to play.

There is broad, bi-partisan support for e-waste legislation and we are encouraged that Representative Dingfelder has been named the chair of the House Energy and the Environment Committee. We will need to work hard to ensure that any legislation covers a wide range of electronic products and that it ensures the environmentally sound management of the used electronics.

2007 may also prove to be the year where we finally see expansion of Oregon's bottle bill, which

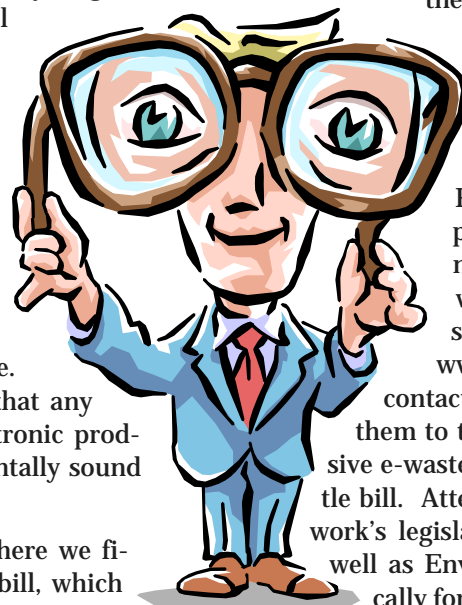
hasn't been significantly updated since its inception in 1971. Recycling Advocates and a number of other conservation and recycling groups are working with Representative Vicki Berger (R—Salem), whose father pioneered the original bottle bill. We are examining many alternatives for expansion, such as increasing the deposit, changing the way the system is managed, and most importantly increasing the types of containers that are collected.

Expansion of the bottle bill is a challenging political proposition (for a good background articles see the Oregonian article <http://www.oregonlive.com/news/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/news/1165643708207800.xml&coll=7> and the Willamette Week article <http://www.wweek.com/editorial/3305/8332/>). However, there is increased interest in expanding the program this year partially due to the DEQ determining that the rigid plastic container recycling rate for 2005 dropped below 25%, which triggers a law that will affect how beverages are packaged. Containers covered by the bottle bill are recovered at a rate of over 70%, while non-covered containers are in the 20% range, so one of the easiest ways to increase the rigid plastic recycling rate is to include more plastic containers in

the bottle bill. For the first time in years, we believe there is political will in Salem to address the shortcomings of the bottle bill.

### What can you do?

Recycling Advocates needs to be a large presence this legislative session and we need your help. Please take a minute and write a letter to your Senator and Representative (visit <http://www.leg.state.or.us/findlegsltr/> to find contact information for your legislators) urging them to take action on implementing comprehensive e-waste legislation as well as expanding the bottle bill. Attend one of the Oregon Conservation Network's legislative training session (web site TBA) as well as Environmental Lobby Day to lobby specifically for e-waste. The key is to get involved.

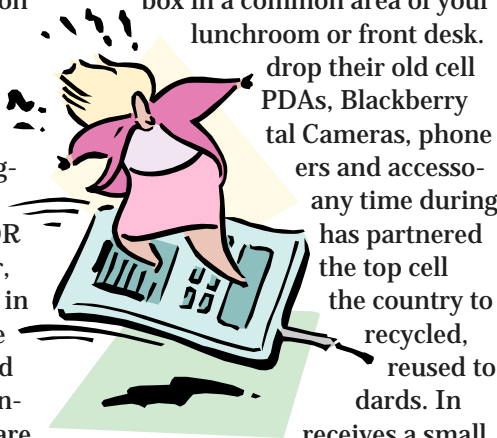


## A Couple of Recycling Tips from EarthShare of Oregon

### 1. Recycle an old cell phone (and help your co-workers recycle theirs, too!)

It seems everyone these days has one or two old cellular phones just taking up space at home or in the office. We look at them and think, "I can't just throw these into the garbage, but what can I do with them?" Earth Share of Oregon has the solution.

You can arrange for Earth Share to place a cell phone recycling collection box in a common area of your office, like a lunchroom or front desk. Anyone can drop their old cell phones, PDAs, Blackberry Devices, Digital Cameras, phone batteries, chargers and accessories in the box any time during the drive. ESOR has partnered with Recellular, the top cell phone recycler in the country to ensure they are recycled, refurbished and reused to the highest standards. In turn, Earth Share receives a small portion of the value for newer phones.



*Earth Share can help you run a cell phone recycling drive in your office, church or other group -- contact Ariel Zimmer at 503-223-9015, or [ariel@earthshare-oregon.org](mailto:ariel@earthshare-oregon.org) for more information.*

### 2. Don't know what to do with your old printer cartridges?

Earth Share of Oregon has partnered with TONERinx and now collects old printer cartridges for recycling. Just like cell phone recycling, you can arrange for Earth Share to place a cartridge recycling box in a common area of your office. ESOR then collects both ink and laser jet cartridges for recycling and receives a small portion of their refurbished value.

*Please contact Ariel Zimmer at 503-223-9015, or [ariel@earthshare-oregon.org](mailto:ariel@earthshare-oregon.org) for more information.*

**Recycling Advocates is a proud member of**



## From the President with Betty Patton



Dear Members,

At the end of 2006 and the beginning of 2007 we can review the past and plan for the future. A lot of issues and ideas came up last year and Recycling Advocates weighed in on many of them.

In 2006 we talked a lot about reuse and recycling of computers and other electronic products. The passage of legislation in Washington bodes well for another attempt by Oregon legislators. In fact, it looks like we will have more bills brought up during the 2007 session.

We may also have an opportunity to encourage our public servants to expand our bottle bill. We will keep our members informed and hopefully engaged to encourage very high levels of return for recycling.

Reports came out during 2006 about Oregon's waste generation. The sad news is that our waste is increasing. I hope we can put ourselves on a diet during 2007. Generating 8.2 pounds per person per year of waste is an obesity of material consumption that doesn't sound very environmentally healthy.

Reports were also released this year warning of a decrease in rigid plastic container recycling rates. Maybe an expanded bottle bill will address this issue.

The volatile gas prices we experienced this year have resulted in most of us using less. I want to continue that trend in 2007.

In 2006 consumers continued to increase their interest in and demand for organic produce and locally produced food. Participation in Community Supported Agriculture continues to grow. More and more chefs are working closely with local farmers. The Slow Food Movement is strong in Portland and the distance our food travels to our plate is decreasing.

Our schools are embracing sustainable plans and programs that are leading the nation. Lori Stole, a Recycling Advocates' Board member for many years has headed up the Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative, an organization established to keep sustainability within all aspects of the curriculum and school maintenance.

Waste prevention and using less of everything are my focuses for 2007. I'm putting my life on a diet. I'm excited about the challenge and I welcome any ideas from readers. Please send ideas to [info@RecyclingAdvocates.org](mailto:info@RecyclingAdvocates.org). All are welcome.

Happy New Year,

- Betty

# Get Involved! Advocate for Recycling this Legislative Session

By Katy Daily

**G**ear up for the 2007 legislative session and learn how you can help us pass important recycling legislation. Come to one of the Oregon Conservation Network's Citizen Lobbyist Trainings.

Recycling Advocates is a member of the Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) which unites conservation groups around the state in an effort to protect Oregon's environmental heritage in the Oregon Legislature. OCN is offering a series of workshops around the state intended to make it easier for you to make your voice heard in the fight to protect our environment. These trainings will include presentations from local legislators, lobbyists and staff from conservation groups and will cover:

- ◆ Background on OCN's Priorities for a Healthy Oregon, the conservation community's highest priorities for the upcoming session.
- ◆ An overview of the 2007 Oregon Legislature "lay of the land" as it relates to conservation issues.
- ◆ Skills sessions to teach you how to use various lobbying strategies to impact decision-makers.
- ◆ Opportunities available for you to take action and get involved.

## Citizen Lobbyist Training Sessions

- ◆ **Eugene**  
*Thursday, Jan. 25 - 6:30 pm*  
EWEB Training Center - 500 E. 4th Ave., Eugene
- ◆ **Bend**  
*Sunday, Jan. 28 - 5 pm*  
Environmental Center, Audubon Room - 16 NW Kansas Rd., Bend
- ◆ **Salem**  
*Thursday, Feb. 1 - 6:30 pm*  
Salem Public Library, Loucks Auditorium  
585 Liberty St. SE, Salem
- ◆ **Beaverton**  
*Thursday, Feb. 8 - 6:30 pm*  
Tualatin Hills Nature Park and Interpretive Center, Beaver Den Room, 15655 SW Millikan Way, Beaverton
- ◆ **Milwaukie**  
*Sunday, Feb. 11 - 5 pm*  
Milwaukie Public Safety Building, Community Meeting Room - 3200 SE Harrison St., Milwaukie

Check the website for a Salem session TBA. To register call Nathaniel Applefield at 503-227-8073 or register on line at <https://www.thedatabank.com/dpg/232/>



## RECYCLING ADVOCATES

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[www.recyclingadvocates.org](http://www.recyclingadvocates.org)

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Dana Gantz • *At Large*

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Richard Lee-Berman  
*Administrator, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster*

## Metro's Recycle at Work Offers Free Assistance to Businesses

**R**ecycle at Work can help you with a range of tools and information - from giving a single recycling presentation to developing a comprehensive waste reduction and recycling program. Services are customized to meet the specific needs of your business. You set the priorities and the pace. Local Recycling Specialists are available if you have questions as you explore and enhance your recycling program.

Free Recycle at Work services include:

- ◆ Starting or expanding a waste prevention or recycling program
- ◆ On-site evaluation of your waste to determine what your major items are and how you can reduce, reuse or recycle them
- ◆ Free desk-side recycling containers
- ◆ Information on waste prevention, recycling and purchasing recycled-content products
- ◆ A detailed report summarizing your current waste-reduction practices with recommendations for improvement
- ◆ Employee educational materials and presentations including free posters and videos
- ◆ Help finding appropriate options for disposing of hard-to-recycle items in this region

To join Metro's Recycle at Work program and for more information visit their web site at <http://www.recycleatwork.com/>.

## Recycling Advocacy Calendar for January 2007

### ◆ Oregon Integrated Waste Management & Recycling Forum

Thursday, January 18

This Half-day event in Salem hosted by the Beaver Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA). AOR, SWANA, ORRA, and DEQ will each discuss their challenges and legislative focus in 2007. 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., lunch included. \$10 at the door. For more information and to register go to [www.SWANAoregon.org](http://www.SWANAoregon.org).

### ◆ U.S. Composting Council Conference

Sunday—Wednesday, January 21—24

Fifteenth annual conference and trade show on composting, wood waste, and organics recycling. In Orlando, Florida. Training workshops, equipment demos, tours, one-on-one consultations with experts. \$365 - \$485. Register at [www.compostingcouncil.org/index.cfm](http://www.compostingcouncil.org/index.cfm) or call 631-737-4931.

### ◆ Recycling Advocates board meeting

There will be two Recycling Advocates board meetings this month.

Monday, January 8, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, January 28, 7:30 p.m.

For location and information call 503-777-0909



### Join us as a Member of **RECYCLING ADVOCATES**

\$25 Advocate    \$50 Friend    \$100 Sustainer    \$10-24 Living Lightly  
 *I'm giving a gift membership to the recipient below\**

*Contact me about volunteering for RA*    *Don't sign me up for Action Alerts*

Please enclose a check and mail to: PO Box 6736, Portland OR 97228-6736

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