



RECYCLING ADVOCATES

www.RecyclingAdvocates.org

March 2007

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

Spring Volunteer Opportunities

By Kelly Caldwell

Here is your chance to help Recycling Advocates as well as help yourself and your community. Volunteer for RA now! Below are the many ways that assist us in our campaign to improve Oregon and the Northwest. . . WONT YOU HELP?

Earth Day Related Activities

This is probably one of Recycling Advocates biggest days of the year! Be a part of it!

Before the event (mid-March to April 20th)

Join the Earth Day Committee to plan RA involvement at Earth Day events. For the event we will prepare displays and materials that educate and encourage event attendees to the next level of recycling, particularly around compostables. We will ensure adequate bins and receptacles will be available, with a demonstration display at the Recycling Advocates booth. We will encourage waste reduction by advising the booth committee and other teams to ensure vendors and organizations receive clear direction and support around recycling needs.

On Earth Day (Sat. April 21st)

Donate two hours of your time to make person-to-person contact with event participants at Woodlawn Park at NE 13th Ave and Dekum . We need you to let people know about our great organization and how they can get involved!

Earth Day Wrap-Up (Sun. April 22nd)

Do you enjoy hands-on activities like sorting recyclables? Recycling Advocates is sponsoring the recycling education component of the City Repair Earth Day Celebration (www.cityrepair.org). We have an ambitious event waste reduction goal of no more than a single 35 gallon garbage can full of waste for the whole event, which is expected to draw over 3000 people! We will involve kids and people of all ages in a very visible recycling demonstration project, and we need knowledgeable people like you to be there to help support the beginners. By "sorting and reporting" we can educate people about what is possible and how to make it happen.

Rechargeable Battery Recycling Campaign

We are kicking off a rechargeable battery recycling campaign this summer to engage and inform businesses, organizations and consumers about the new initiative to increase recycling of rechargeable batteries from hand held electronic equipment. We will start planning this month. The campaign goal is to increase local recycling rates on this recoverable resource from about 5% to 50%. This will divert an additional 58,000 pounds of materials

from the waste stream in the Portland Metro area.

Advocacy Activities

Recycling Advocates exists to support and advocate for policies and individual consumer choices that create a sustainable future for us all. We are highly motivated to see that appropriate state recycling and environmental legislation is passed this year. We are currently working on shaping a bill to establish regulation and standards to support electronic waste recycling. We are also actively working for an updated Oregon Bottle Bill. Sign up for e-mail Action Alerts during the Oregon legislative sessions, so that you receive regular updates and are aware of the opportunities to make a difference. Send requests to info@recyclingadvocates.org. This is a great way to make a difference from your home phone or computer!

RA Speakers Bureau

Do you have knowledge to share about a specific aspect of recycling and sustainability? Or do you want to let others know how to get involved in making a difference with Recycling Advocates? Let us know of your interest and skill areas, because there are many opportunities to educate and spread the word. Free training on making presentations is available on request!

Eco Parties

Learn how to throw an Eco-party, or help others to do so!

Association of Oregon Recyclers Conference 2007

Help Recycling Advocates do their part to organize an awesome event in Bend this summer!

Misc. and Organizational Help

There are a wide variety of ways to help Recycling Advocates. Volunteer your skills. We need folks to enter data, make phone calls, write newsletter articles, conduct research, and you could even become a leader through service on the RA Board of Directors. Volunteers also gain experience and develop relationships, and have fun!

This list of volunteer options is not intended to be complete. Please contact Kelly Caldwell at 503-777-0909 or volunteer@recyclingadvocates.org to sign up to help in your area of interest, share your ideas and/or discuss additional types of activities. Your volunteer energy and membership contributions are the primary way for Recycling Advocates to strengthen and grow. We are you!

Attend our Volunteer Gathering on March 15 (see page three for details) or fill out a Recycling Advocates Volunteer Interest Form (available soon on the RA website or from Kelly) so that we can match your skills and interests with volunteer activities that you will be super excited about and want to make time for.

From the President with Betty Patton



Dear Members,

Last month I told you that we are going to have a very busy year. Well, it is even busier than I thought!

The Rigid Plastic Container Recovery rate discussion has quieted for a while. EQC did reject the petition to modify the rules for recycling rates and recycled content. Thank you to our Board member Rob Guttridge for compiling our thoughts and submitting our opinions on this issue.

During the month of March we are encouraged to comment on DEQ's Waste Prevention Strategy. DEQ will hold a discussion meeting in Portland March 2 from 1:00 to 4:00 at Metro. In addition, our Board will try to submit comments by the delivery date of March 28th. And as always, our organization will pursue the waste prevention ethic wherever possible.

Oregon's legislative session is not even 2 months old, and already two of our hottest topics are getting hearings in committees and a lot of publicity. Electronic scrap recycling legislation is being discussed in a work group, with our board member Katy Daily at the table. Watch for HB2626 or something similar to come out of this work group. More details are in this newsletter. A modernized bottle bill for Oregon is also being discussed in a work group. This group is just starting, but promises to result in something we can all be interested in. Watch for SB634 and others. It is going to be a wild ride!

On April 21st Recycling Advocates will be participating in an Earth Day Celebration at Woodlawn Park. We're going to have a big presence at this event and of course, we'll have a lot of fun. You are welcome to join us as a volunteer or as an attendee. (www.cityrepair.org/wiki.php/projects/earthday).

Stay tuned and stay plugged in. There are lots of action opportunities for people like us.

- Betty

DEQ Waste Prevention Strategy

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has drafted a Waste Prevention Strategy that identifies priority areas of waste prevention work and project initiatives that the Department's Solid Waste Program proposes to undertake over the next 10 years. This work is being done to help achieve the waste generation goals in Oregon law – first stop the growth in per capita solid waste generation (discards) and ultimately to stop the growth in total solid waste generation.

The Waste Prevention Strategy identifies four areas where DEQ proposes to focus its efforts:

- ◆ Design, construction, remodeling, and demolition of buildings. Design considerations, including house size, are prominently featured.
- ◆ Waste generation by businesses, with a short-term focus on packaging waste prevention.
- ◆ Education of consumers regarding high-impact consumer choices and the environmental and financial benefits of waste prevention alternatives.
- ◆ Foundation research and analysis into the causes of increasing waste generation and the economic and environmental impacts of prevention.

The Strategy is a "high level" document intended to provide broad direction for the priority work that the Department of Solid Waste staff will focus on over the next 10 years related to waste prevention. Once the broad priorities and direction have been agreed upon, the next step will be to look at implementation costs and available resources to implement the priority projects. The priority projects and timing of implementation will be determined by the resources available to implement the projects identified in the final Strategy.

We are interested in hearing from Oregon residents, businesses, and nongovernmental organizations regarding the priorities and waste prevention work the Department is proposing. The comments we receive will help us to get a better sense of the priorities to focus on.

Public meetings to discuss the draft Strategy are planned for Portland (March 2) and Bend (March 9). Comments on the draft Strategy can be provided to DEQ through March 28.

To download a copy of the Strategy, or learn more about the discussion meetings and other options for providing input, please visit the Strategy's web page at: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/wasteprevention/wpstrategy.htm>. Alternatively, feel free to contact David Allaway at allaway.david@deq.state.or.us or Jan Whitworth at whitworth.jan@deq.state.or.us.

- David Allaway, Oregon DEQ



RECYCLING ADVOCATES

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The Board

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Administrator, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster

You're invited!

Mark your calendars!

Join other Recycling Advocates and volunteers on Thursday, March 15th for a friendly meet and greet. This informal gathering will be held at the home of Betty Patton, RA President.

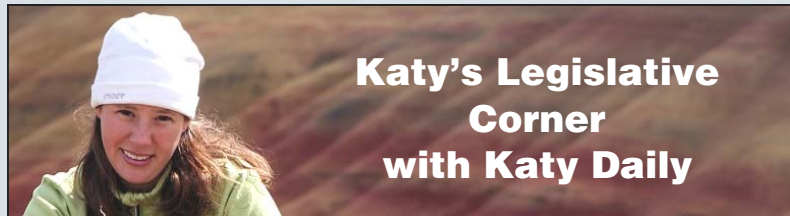
We will network over snacks and beverages from 7pm -7:40, and then have conversations about Recycling Advocates activities and volunteer opportunities (see page 1). This event is a cross between a party and a meeting, so come and expect a relaxed atmosphere AND receive some important information about opportunities with this great organization.

This Spring we are gearing up for some exciting stuff! You may even leave with a volunteer assignment if you are willing!

If you are unable to attend this gathering but would like to get involved, no worries! Just download a volunteer interest form from the website or leave a message for Kelly Caldwell at the main Recycling Advocates voicemail or by emailing volunteer@recyclingadvocates.org. And stay tuned for the next Recycling Advocates Gathering to be held in May!

Please RSVP by calling 503-777-0909.

Thursday, March 15
7:00-8:30 pm
32 NE 44th Ave.
Portland



Significant events in February continue to make 2007 the year for recycling in Oregon.

The debate about whether to overhaul the Bottle Bill, Oregon's landmark environmental legislation, began with a flourish in the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee on February 20. Senate President Peter Courtney, House Speaker Jeff Merkley, Representative Vicki Berger (whose father was the "father" of the bottle bill), and others testified about the importance of this "Oregon institution" and the long overdue need for improvements.

Vicki Berger summed it up perfectly: "Updating the bottle bill will not be easy ... it has always been a three way dance; there's the distributors, there's the grocers, and there's the consumers, and I believe consumers hold first position here and they should not be forgotten...they love their bottle bill."

Right now three bills have been introduced and more are expected. They are SB 481, SB 634 and SB 706. All three of them add covered containers and increase the deposit, but SB 481 and 634 contain a more significant overhaul of the current system.

Overall there are many good things in all of these bills, but none of them is perfect. Whatever is passed we need to make sure that we maximize recycling rates by insuring the following:

1. Most if not all beverage containers are covered;
2. The program is flexible enough to include new beverages as they are introduced into the market;
3. The deposit for containers is increased to reflect today's cost of living; and
4. The ease of redemption does not decrease for Oregon consumers.

Recycling Advocates also supports the effort to create some sort of product stewardship board that oversees this and other programs and institutes more of a manufacturer responsibility into the system.

A work group has been formed by Senator Avakian, chair of the committee. RA will be working closely with members of the work group to ensure our concerns are represented.

While the last two weeks focused on the Bottle Bill, earlier in February electronic waste recycling was the topic du jour. On Wednesday, February 7, a delegation of six bi-partisan legislators stood on the capitol steps declaring that now is the time to do something about the growing problem of e-waste.

That great energy carried into the House Energy and Environment Committee hearing that afternoon where there was almost unanimous support for a program. After the hearing, chair Jackie Dingfelder brought together a diverse group of stakeholders to form a work group to hammer out the differences in the three e-waste bills that have been introduced.

Katy Daily from Recycling Advocates participated in the work group, and the result will be a very strong bill. The work group wrapped up this week and a hearing on HB 2626 is expected in the next two or three weeks once the amendments are drafted.

Down the street from the Capitol, the Environmental Quality Commission rejected the petition submitted by business interest groups that would have weakened existing rules to artificially inflate Oregon's rate of recycling for rigid plastic containers. They wanted DEQ to re-define "recycled in Oregon" to include containers that were not actually recycled but were "intended" to be recycled. They also wanted to weaken the rules that would require them to use recycled material in their containers, which is kicking in this year because we fell below the 25% recycling rate for these containers.

These same groups have introduced bills in the legislature that accomplish the same objectives. RA will be working to stop these roll backs to Oregon's recycling laws. We will keep you posted as future developments occur.

Recycling Advocacy Calendar for March 2007

◆ One Day Can Make a Big Difference

Tuesday, April 3

Do you want to recycle the more than 20,000 tons of electronic waste that end up in Oregon landfills every year? Do you support moving towards renewable energy and decreasing our dependence on foreign oil? Do you want Oregon's landmark Bottle Bill to be improved to increase recycling rates?

Do you want to be part of shaping a cleaner future for Oregon?

On April 3rd, you'll have the chance to do it. Environmental Lobby day is a fun, interactive day, designed to provide you with **detailed** information on the key bills that are currently facing the legislature, **in-depth training** on the most effective ways to influence decision-making, and **direct experience** lobbying your legislators in Salem!

Please join 300 of your fellow Oregonians at our Capitol for the Oregon Conservation Network's Environmental Lobby Day. Visit www.olcveducationfund.org/events and register today.

◆ Recycling Advocates Volunteer gathering

Thursday, March 15

See details page 3.

◆ Recycling Advocates board meeting

Monday, March 26, 7:00 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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Address _____

Phone, Day _____ Evening _____

Email _____ Send my newsletter by Email

*Your name, if this is a gift membership _____



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