



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

“The stars just lined up” at the Annual Membership Meeting

By Rick Paul

The annual meeting of the Recycling Advocates' membership was held at Free Geek on August 20. About 25 members and guests attended to hear President Betty Patton give a state of the Advocates report, introduce three new candidates for the board, and present the program of the evening.

The members re-elected board members Katy Daily, Wayne Rifer, and Rob Guttridge. Newly elected to full terms were Johnny Leuthold, Lindsey Newkirk and Tanya Schaefer. Tanya has previously served on the board and as the resource person for the Advocates. The members also made a change and elected as co-Presidents, Katy Daily and Rhett Lawrence, Vice President Rob Guttridge; Secretary, Betty Patton; and Treasurer, Rick Paul.

After the formal board meeting, Katy introduced Representatives Vicki Berger (R- Salem) and Jackie Dingfelder (D- Portland). These two Representatives were key figures in the passage of the 2007 legislation on the Bottle Bill and electronic waste. Rep. Dingfelder did inform the group that she was giving up her seat in the House and will be running for the Senate seat in her district. Both Representatives talked about the inside work done to pass the two pieces of legislation, stressing that it was a bipartisan effort to pass this legislation. As Rep. Berger said, “the stars just lined up” for these pieces of legislation.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm for social time among the members.

See the follow-up article on the makeup of the new board of directors on page 3.



Dear Members,

This is my first column as one of the newly-elected “Co-Presidents” of Recycling Advocates and I want to start by thanking all the members who came out for our Annual Meeting on August 20. As detailed elsewhere in the newsletter, we had a great member meeting and then got to share in some of the glory of the successes of the 2007 legislative session with Reps. Jackie Dingfelder and Vicki Berger. So thanks again for making our meeting a success and for continuing your support for Recycling Advocates.

The legislative victories on the Bottle Bill update and the E-waste bill remind us what kind of power RA has when we focus our efforts and really take on an issue. Obviously, we were part of a larger effort on these bills, but I do think RA can take a fair amount of the credit for these bills passing, so we should all pat

ourselves on the back. We should give an extra pat on the back to our other new Co-President Katy Daily and new Board member Johnny Leuthold for the extraordinary amount of work they put in on getting this legislation passed.

As we move forward at RA, we want to hear more from our members about what our next set of challenges should be. What do you think we should be working on? Is there something you think we're doing too little or too much of? As an entirely volunteer-driven organization, Recycling Advocates relies on its members to set the agenda, so let us know what you think should take priority.

Finally, we'll be switching up the format of this column over the coming issues and likely having Board members give us their thoughts on a rotating basis, so be on the lookout for that. I also want to thank outgoing President Betty Patton for her wonderful years of service to RA. You've been a fantastic President, Betty, and we're glad you're sticking around on the Board to continue your work with us. Thanks a lot, Betty!

Los Angeles: Nation's first large city to collect polystyrene curbside

Los Angeles residents now can recycle polystyrene foam (popularly known as Styrofoam) among other plastic products in their Blue Recycling Bins, announces City of Los Angeles Public Works Board President Cynthia M. Ruiz. "As of July 1, the City's Blue Bin Recycling Program became the first large city in the nation to include polystyrene foam in its recycling program," adds Ruiz.



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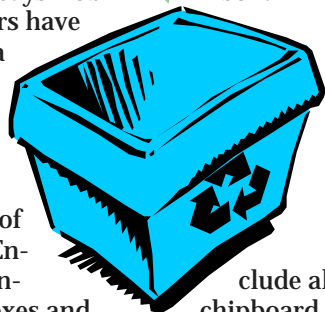
The Department of Public Works incorporated the product into its recycling programs to provide residents convenience in recycling plastic materials and other environmental considerations, according to Bureau of Sanitation Director Rita Robinson. "We now recycle foam to curb our dependency on urban landfills as well as to help reduce green house gas," says Robinson.

Polystyrene foam, has become a reusable resource where in the past little or no recycling market existed, notes the Bureau Director. "Less energy is needed to manufacture the product," says Robinson. "Also, current economic factors have contributed to its viability as a recyclable commodity."

Clean polystyrene foam joins several items that can be placed in curbside blue recycling containers, says Bureau of Sanitation Executive Officer Enrique Zaldivar. "These items include all clean dry paper, cardboard boxes and chipboard, aluminum, tin, metal and bi-metal cans, coat hangers, glass bottles and jars," says Zaldivar, "as well as all plastics coded 1 through 7, including empty plastic containers, plastic bags, film bags, and food trays."

Manufacturers label plastic consumer products by type in code designations 1 through 7. "Before July 1, the City only accepted plastics in Codes 1, 2 and 4," Zaldivar notes. "All plastics now are accepted in the City's recycling program."

Recycling Advocates is studying this issue as there are some concerns about the stockpiling of polystyrene due to a lack of adequate markets. Look for a follow-up article in the near future.



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Opinion

Let's do More!

By Anna Faro, *RA member*

I'm becoming more concerned about businesses not doing all they can to increase recycling. Can we do more to encourage them by commenting to managers about our concerns? I feel we are all responsible to let businesses, managers of events, etc., know that recycling is important to us. Their actions should be a way for them to give to the community by showing care and concern for our environment.

One example would be to register complaints if your work place or gym doesn't provide a separate receptacle for the many plastic water and juice bottles that do need to be recycled. Yes, it will take effort on our part, but much more change is needed, and sooner rather than later. It's what we all are wanting. So please, instigate change and contact me if you know of ways to help even more. . . Thank you

You may contact Anna Faro and let her know your opinion at 503-282-0298

Contribute to ESOR at your workplace: it's so easy

Recycling Advocates is a proud member of Earth Share of Oregon. What does this mean to you? You and your fellow employees can choose to have contributions sent automatically to your favorite Oregon conservation groups, including Recycling Advocates. Since your contribution is spread out over the course of a year, the amount deducted from your paycheck is minimal, and all gifts are fully tax deductible. You can make a difference!

If your workplace is not currently involved in an ESOR giving campaign, establishing one is easy. ESOR will work with your employer to set up a program that meets your company's needs.

Oregon's natural beauty and livability is legendary. With your contribution to ESOR, you can help ensure that it stays that way. For more information, please contact Meghan Humphreys at ESOR: 503-223-9015 or meghan@earthshare-oregon.org; or visit www.earthshare-oregon.org



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RECYCLING ADVOCATES

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Tanya Schaefer • *At Large*
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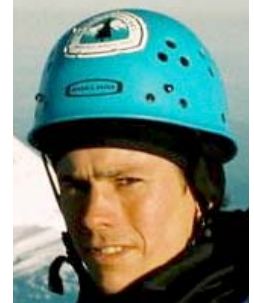
Meet your new Board of Directors

Each of your new and not-so-new directors was asked to answer three questions as concisely as they can: 1. How/why did you get involved in recycling? 2. Current employer and project? 3. What is most important recycling issue today?



Katy Daily

- Katy Daily, Co-President**
1. I feel like I always have been involved in recycling issues, but have been more involved since becoming a Master Recycler in 2004 and joining the RA board.
 2. I work for the Oregon League of Conservation Voters as the Political Director and currently we are very focused on passing Ballot Measure 49 which fixes many of the problems of Measure 37.
 3. I think the most important issue facing the world is global warming. There are many components of resource conservation and recycling that help stem human's contribution to global warming.



Rhett Lawrence

- Rhett Lawrence, Co-President**
1. I became involved in recycling in the late 80s in trying to expand my college's recycling program beyond just newspapers and aluminum cans.
 2. I'm a Policy Analyst with Save Our Wild Salmon.
 3. I think the continued expansion/updating of the Bottle Bill is the most important recycling issue confronting our state right now.



Rob Guttridge

- Rob Guttridge, Vice-President**
1. I first got involved in recycling in recycling picking up and redeeming empty bottles littered near my parents' house, in the 1960s.
 2. Clark County, Waste Reduction Specialist.
 3. Global warming



Rick Paul

- Rick Paul, Treasurer**
1. My family recycled everything and as an adult it was just natural to continue that practice. As a teacher I recycled cardboard and helped with the BRING recycling center. Professionally I started by helping a friend turning it into a full time position in recycling.
 2. I presently work for Far West Fibers as a project Manager. My primary project is E-scrap.
 3. I believe the most important issue of Sustainability is Global Warming. There are so many issues revolving around this important issue that relate to our occupation of this globe.



Betty Patton

- Betty Patton, Secretary**
1. I got involved in recycling in Texas implementing a local collection event. This was a way that, as an environmentalist, I could have an impact on my community.
 2. I am currently self-employed with Environmental Practices, LLC, a consulting firm I started in 1993.
 3. I see the critical recycling issue is pursuing the highest and best use for all discarded materials. Degrading the resulting product with each cycle, is not ideal recycling.



Wayne Reifer

- Wayne Reifer, At-large**
1. Because of my dedication to the environment. When I began, recycling was very immature and I predicted that there would be many years of creative opportunities.
 2. Green Electronics Council. I manage operations of the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT).
 3. Integrating Product Stewardship with integrated waste management.



Tanya Schaefer

- Tanya Schaefer, At-large (newly elected)**
1. It must have been the thrill of tossing glass into color-separated bins at the town dump as a toddler.
 2. Part-time freelance writer; full-time mother.
 3. Waste prevention.



Lindsey Newkirk

- Lindsey Newkirk, At-large (newly elected)**
1. Moving to Portland surrounded me with people that take recycling to a commitment I hadn't experienced before. Becoming aware of the waste generated at events, I became passionate about creating recycling and waste diversion systems for them.
 2. Self employed; owner and operator of Elysium Events LLC; a green events company. Current projects consist of: Junk to Funk Recycled Fashion Show Contest, the Bite of Oregon, and Oregon Natural Step.
 3. Two important issues today are compostable food service ware recycling and recycling in the apparel industry.



Johnny Leuthold

- Johnny Leuthold, At-large (newly elected)**
1. I became involved in recycled paper procurement efforts to help focus attention on "closing the loop."
 2. I work as an Engineering Technician in industrial wastewater pretreatment. My latest project focused on producer responsibility legislation; I'll continue to work on e-waste program implementation.
 3. Consumers are still the key: We must continue to advocate for appropriately designed products, especially by practicing waste reduction in our daily choices.



Richard Lee-Berman
Administrator

Recycling Advocacy Calendar for September 2007

◆ Muddy Boot Organic Festival

Friday-Sunday, September 7-9, 2007

Muddy Boot Organic Festival, celebrating sustainable and organic living in our community. It will kick off with a keynote presentation given by Jean-Michel Cousteau, founder of Ocean Futures Society. The presentation will be held on Friday, Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. at St. Philip Neri Church. Tickets are available for \$35 each at www.muddyboot.org or call 503-231-4955.

◆ "An Inconvenient Truth" Project

Saturday, September 15, 6:30 p.m.

FREE—Oregon Secretary of State Bill Bradbury, who recently completed a rigorous training program led by former Vice President Al Gore, will present and educate about issues and solution surrounding global. Cedar Hills United Church of Christ located at 11695 SW Park Way, Portland.

◆ SCRAP Iron Artists

Saturday, September 25th, 2007, 12:30-8:00p.m.

Fifth annual competitive "sculpt-off" in Portland. Ten artist teams have three hours to create sculptures from reused materials provided by the School and Community Reuse Action Project

(SCRAP) and other organizations. \$250 to compete, or you can be a sponsor for \$500 or more. More info from ironartist@scrapaction.org, or go to www.scrapaction.org/newsletter.html.

◆ Recycling Advocates board meeting

Monday, September 24th, 7:00 p.m.

For location and information call 503-777-0909



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