



RECYCLING ADVOCATES

www.RecyclingAdvocates.org

September 2008

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

Recycling Advocates' Annual Meeting and Forum Rescheduled

We hope you can join us on September 22nd at Portland's City Hall

By Katy Daily

Recycling Advocates' much anticipated Annual Meeting and Public Forum, *Solving the Plastic Bag Dilemma: Is Oregon Ready?*, has been rescheduled and relocated to accommodate the anticipated large turnout for this important and topical discussion.

This summer both Seattle and Los Angeles followed San Francisco in passing some sort of fee or ban on plastic and paper checkout bags. In Portland, Commissioner Sam Adams announced this summer that he intends to introduce a proposal to address both plastic and paper checkout bags. Recycling Advocates is working to insure that waste reduction is our first priority locally. We are interested in hearing your ideas at the forum.

With an estimated 100 billion plastic bags consumed in America each year, as well as an astonishing 1.14 million paper supermarket bags consumed each hour in the U.S., many feel the anticipated wave of American cities passing such legislation can't come soon enough.

Of course, those who don't want to see an end to the great checkout bag giveaway have sounded the alarms. In Seattle, the American Chemistry Council (plastics lobby) and the Washington Food Industry (grocers lobby) have gathered enough signatures to place a measure on the ballot next year to repeal the Seattle fee.

RA's timely forum will feature four prominent speakers, including Commissioner Adams, and take input and questions from the audience. The speakers will illuminate the many effects of our widespread use of paper and plastic bags and identify the pros and cons of each. They will review Seattle's approach to reducing checkout bag waste, and discuss Commissioner Adams' plan for Portland.

Our distinguished panel of experts includes:

- **Sam Adams**, *Portland City Commissioner and Mayor Elect*
- **David Allaway**, *Waste Prevention Specialist, Oregon DEQ*
- **Tom Watson**, *King County Recycling Specialist and Seattle-Times Eco-consumer columnist*
- **Brian Rohter**, *CEO, New Seasons Market*

Come join the Recycling Advocates' Board, members and the general public at this great event. We believe the time is right for Oregon to once again take the lead in assuming responsibility for solving a major environmental problem. Please RSVP to info@recyclingadvocates.org.

RA Annual Membership Meeting and Forum

New Date

Monday, September 22, 2008

Reception 6:30pm

Program 7-9pm

New Location

**Portland City Hall, Council Chambers
1221 SW 4th Ave., Portland**

RSVP

info@RecyclingAdvocates.org

This forum is FREE and open to the public. Spread the word!



2007 was a banner year for recycling legislation in Oregon and Recycling Advocates is working hard to make sure 2009 is too!

Last July at Recycling Advocates' annual membership meeting, fresh from the successful (and unanimous) passage of the Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2007, Representative Vicki Berger talked about how the e-waste legislation should serve as a model for much broader producer responsibility legislation. We agree, and have been meeting with a coalition of legislators, environmental groups, and regional and state agencies to bring comprehensive product stewardship legislation forward in 2009.

The concept of producer responsibility and product stewardship isn't new. In fact, Oregon's Bottle Bill was one of the first examples of product stewardship legislation. The concept behind product stewardship is that those who manufacture, import, sell or use products

are responsible for minimizing the product's environmental impact throughout all stages of the product's life cycle. The greatest responsibility lies with whoever has the most ability to affect the life cycle environmental impacts of the product. As an example, the e-waste bill requires producers to be responsible for financing and implementing the collection and management of electronic waste for environmentally responsible reuse or recycling.

The proposed Product Stewardship Act of 2009 will act as a framework for many products to be brought under the product stewardship umbrella in Oregon without the need of passing separate legislation for each product. Many products already have voluntary producer responsibility systems, and this framework aims to strengthen these programs that are already in place. However, there are many more products for which there is no take back model in place and the burden for managing the end of life disposition of these products usually lies with local governments and ultimately taxpayers.

Some products that have been recommended for early adoption under the Product Stewardship Framework are rechargeable batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, paint, carpet and pharmaceuticals. Many more products fit the criteria and will be prioritized based on a set of criteria determined by the legislation.

Recycling Advocates is integral in the discussions around bringing this legislation forward and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is taking a strong lead in bringing the Product Stewardship Act forward in 2009. We hope you all will be involved in helping us bring this important legislation to fruition and helping maintain Oregon's strong reputation as a national leader in recycling and product stewardship.

- Katy Daily

Junk to Funk in Third Year

By now you've surely heard of the Junk to Funk Recycled Fashion Show Contest since it's approaching its 3rd year and not only sustaining, but going strong. J2F encourages you to dive into the nearest dumpster and come out with a flashy, functional, funky getup to show off on the runway!

J2F is an annual event featuring 30 selected pieces of creative, wearable art designed with "trash" as both inspiration and textile. Judging takes place as designs are strutted down the runway and is based on three criteria: 1) percentage of recycled material, 2) creativity, and 3) craftsmanship. Artists are competing for cash prizes! Submissions for entry are encouraged by professional artists and apparel designers as well the creative public (that's you!)

Submissions are due October 15th. Artists selected to participate in the 2008 Junk to Funk Recycled Fashion Show Contest will be notified by November 1st for the November 15th show at the Wonder Ballroom.

For Junk to Funk Rules, Instructions, and Application please visit the website www.junktofunk.org

Election of Recycling Advocates Directors

The September 22nd Annual Membership Meeting will include election of the 2008-2009 Board of Directors election. This year, of the current nine board positions, terms for **Rhett Lawrence**, **Betty Patton**, **Rick Paul** and **Tanya Schaefer** will expire. All have agreed to stand for re-election to their seats and there are no new candidates running for office this year.

Here is a brief run-down of the qualifications of the Directors standing for re-election:

Rhett Lawrence

Rhett Lawrence is a Policy Analyst with Save Our Wild Salmon and has been a member of Recycling Advocates' Board of Directors since 2004. He became involved in recycling in the late 80's in trying to expand his college's recycling program beyond just newspapers and aluminum cans. Rhett practiced law in Georgia for 7 years before moving to Oregon in 2000 to become a full-time environmental advocate. After 5 1/2 years doing policy work and lobbying in the Oregon Legislature for OSPIRG, he took his current position with Save Our Wild Salmon in 2006. Rhett has been the Co-President of Recycling Advocates for the last year.

Betty Patton

Betty began her involvement in recycling as a volunteer when she lived in Texas. So within a month of moving to Oregon in 1992, she joined Recycling Advocates. In very short order she was on the board and heading up campaigns and projects. Betty was Chair of the Board from 1994 to 1997, and again from 2005 to 2007. She remains on the board as Secretary. She runs a 15-year-old consulting firm in Portland that specializes in solid waste and recycling.

Rick Paul

Rick's family recycled everything and as an adult it was just natural to continue that practice. As a teacher Rick recycled cardboard and helped with the BRING recycling center. Professionally he started by helping a friend turning it into a full time position in recycling. Presently Rick works for Far West Fibers as a Project Manager. His primary project is E-scrap. He 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.

Tanya Schaefer

Tanya grew up in Connecticut where she began recycling as a youngster, tossing glass containers into color-separated bins at the town dump, and still finds it difficult to commingle. Tanya has worked for OHSU and RA, is a Master Recycler, and served on RA's Board from 2002 to 2004. Now a stay-at-home parent, Tanya was elected by the Board last year to fill an at-large vacancy. She has focused on membership issues, and asks the members to elect her to a two-year term.

Metro should adopt the Business Recycling Requirements

In September 2008, the Metro Council will consider adopting a new program to increase business recycling in the region. As Metro notes, businesses generate almost half of the garbage in the Metro region. This garbage includes over 100,000 tons of paper and containers that could and should be recycled.

After years of training, education, and encouragement within a voluntary system, Metro has now proposed mandating business recycling for these targeted products. The City of Portland has mandated the requirements and it is time to take that mandate region-wide.

By applying these requirements to all of the Metro area, an estimated 80,000 tons of material will be diverted from the landfill and instead be recycled. The obvious resource conservation is a benefit, but this additional recycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions as well. The extra paper collection will feed our Oregon paper mills that have dedicated the resources to use recycled feedstock.

Any assistance that businesses need to implement or enhance recycling programs is available to them and has been for some time. Well-trained and experienced staff is available with Metro, as well as the city and county governments that serve the area.

Both Metro's policy advisory committee and their solid waste advisory committee have already endorsed the program. Later this month, the Metro Council will consider it, first at a Council hearing on September 11. Public testimony will be taken on September 18 (more info is available from Metro at <http://www.oregonmetro.gov/index.cfm/go/by.web/id=21730>).

Recycling Advocates fully supports this mandatory approach and is encouraging the Council to adopt the plan. RA will be submitting comments to the Council and hopes to testify at the September 18 hearing. We would also encourage letters to the editor and letters of support to Metro from RA members, so let us know if you need additional information.

- Betty Patton & Rhett Lawrence

Recycling Advocacy Calendar for September 2008

◆ **RESCHEDULED/RELOCATED: Recycling Advocates annual membership meeting/plastic bag discussion**

Monday, September 22, 7 p.m. -9 p.m.

Portland City Hall, Council Chambers, 1221 SW 4th Ave., Portland.

The annual membership meeting will focus on the debate raging around the usage, recycling and banning of plastic bags. Meeting will include the election of board of directors. Open to all RA members and the general public. Get details at www.RecyclingAdvocates.org. (See article page 1.)



Join us as a Member of
RECYCLING ADVOCATES

- \$25 Advocate \$50 Friend \$100 Supporter \$250 Sustainer
- Other _____ 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 or visit www.RecyclingAdvocates.org/join.htm and pay by credit card or PayPal.

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RECYCLING ADVOCATES

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