



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

Oregon Legislative Session—*The fight is not yet over*

By Phaedra Booth

As the Oregon Legislature winds to a close this June, Recycling Advocates likely will not see as many victories as we had hoped this session, but the fight is not over yet. Luckily, 3 of our priority bills are still alive and we will continue to shepherd them through the final stages of the law-making process. Leadership has indicated they are steadfast in their June 30th adjournment deadline, so this gives us a few short weeks to put these bills in motion.

- HB 2184-B, the current Bottle Bill enhancement, is still in Chair Roblan's House Revenue committee—with no hearing scheduled. There are many reasons Oregon needs an improved Bottle Bill:
- HB 2184-B encourages greater recycling. An estimated 10 billion containers will be recycled over the next 20 years as a result of HB 2184, according to the Oregon DEQ. This is 10 billion containers staying out of our landfills and off our roadsides, reducing the need for new plastics.
- HB 2184-B saves energy. An estimated 25 trillion Btu's will be saved over the next 20 years, according to the DEQ. This is equivalent to providing electricity to nearly 10,000 homes for the same time period.
- HB 2184-B reduces global warming pollution. According to a report by the Governor's Advisory Group on Global Warming, recycling decreases the use of materials with high lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions, decreases burning of fossil-derived wastes such as plastics, reduces the emissions of methane from landfills, and recovers energy generated during the combustion of wastes and methane at disposal sites. The DEQ estimates HB 2184-B will prevent 1.6 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions over the next 20 years.
- HB 2184-B keeps our roadsides clear. Oregon's roads are threatened with the trash from the more than 500 million containers not currently covered by the Bottle Bill. With these millions of bottles not covered by the Bottle Bill, there is little incentive to prevent or collect roadside litter. In a time of state budget cuts that may affect litter pick-up programs, it is especially critical to limit roadside trash by strengthening the Bottle Bill.

As you already know, Oregon led the nation in creating the first Bottle Bill. Now is definitely time for Oregon to make the Bottle Bill work for all beverage containers. HB 2184-B is very much a cost-effective way to keep our roadsides clear, encourage greater recycling, save energy, and reduce pollution in a time of steep budget cuts. Recycling Advocates is working diligently to ensure HB 2184-B is heard in the House Revenue Committee and passed to the House floor for a vote.

The second of our three bills has been amended into a simple reporting bill. HB 3465 aims to make our Bottle Bill return system more transparent and accountable by requiring the state's beverage distributors to report on the number of cans and bottles sold each year and the number returned for deposit annually.

At present, when we throw deposit containers away or put them in curbside recycling rather than redeeming them, the five cent deposit is retained not by the state, but by the beverage distributors. DEQ estimates distributors receive a windfall of \$20-30 million every year from unredeemed deposits. This is decidedly more than they need to administer the Bottle Bill, which distributors claim the money is used for.

Simple accounting will give the public—and legislators—hard numbers on how successful the redemption program is, and how many of the deposits are actually staying with the distributors. HB 3465 will also require that distributors report their progress on creating redemption centers.

The bill also promotes good government. The reported information will be critical for improving redemption rates, keeping litter off the streets, and diverting recycling from landfills. The bill passed out of the House Revenue Committee on June 3 on a party-line vote, but will likely be re-referred back to Revenue while we gather support in the House.

And lastly, our final piece: HB 3037-A is alive and well. This bill establishes an environmentally sound and cost effective pilot recycling program for household paint and directs paint manufacturers to create a program which will collect, transport and process post-consumer paint

Leadership Clark County Launches "Got Bag?" Program

Re-printed with kind permission of the Vancouver Business Journal—May 1, 2009

Answering the question "Paper or plastic?" has gotten easier in recent years. More shoppers are saying "Neither, I brought my own." This trend toward shopping with re-useable bags only works, however, when people remember to bring their bags into stores.

This year, the Leadership Clark County environmental team decided to support this environment-friendly approach by mounting the "Got Bag?" campaign. They want those re-useable bags out of cars and kitchens and into stores throughout the county.

The team formed partnerships with Clark County, the City of Vancouver and 31 participating grocery stores represented by the Northwest Grocery Association. The Vancouver City Council and Board of Clark County Commissioners both issued proclamations naming Saturday, April 18 as "Got Bag?" day. The officials also proclaimed April 22 as "Earth Day."

Albertsons, Fred Meyer, QFC, Safeway and WinCo stores throughout the area held special promotions through

April 18 promoting reusable bags. These events included giving away "Got Bag?" stickers, provided by the Clark County Solid Waste program, for cars and refrigerators and for some stores free reusable bags to customers. The stores will also have a variety of in-store and parking lot signing reminding customers about re-useable bags. In addition, the stores agreed to support this campaign for one year.

"Cooperation from the Northwest Grocery Association member stores has been outstanding," said Sally Fisher of Clark County Public Works. "These stickers will serve as constant reminders for shoppers to use their own bags. That, in turn, cuts down on paper and plastic waste while also saving money for the stores. It's a win-win," she said.

The county also gave away the stickers and a limited supply of "Got Bag?" re-useable bags at Earth Day weekend events April 18 at Vancouver Farmer's Market, Marshall Center and the Salmon Creek Greenway Eco-Fair, according to Fisher.

For more information on this effort, please visit these web sites:

- Thinking Beyond the Bag – video and slides links
www.cityofvancouver.us/News.asp?submenuID=16578&id=57245
- www.co.clark.wa.us/news/news-release.asp?pkNewsSeq=1729

Protect the Earth -- through public speaking



So many issues, so little time. It is not always easy to find the best way to have our message heard and we're grateful that you have answered the call. For a number of years, Recycling Advocates has been able to reach a broader audience through our membership in EarthShare Oregon. And we could use your help this year.

EarthShare Oregon is a nonprofit organization that collaborates with businesses and public agencies to enable their employees to support 71 environmental groups through workplace giving campaigns. Last year, more than 4,000 Oregonians supported EarthShare through giving campaigns in 100+ workplaces.

Recycling Advocates was able to use the funds raised through EarthShare to pursue our legislative goals.

In order to get the word out to their employees about the

giving options available, many workplaces invite EarthShare members to give brief presentations about their projects. If you have a passion for Recycling Advocates work, a small amount of time to volunteer to make a 5-10 minute presentation, and a willingness to overcome stage fright about public speaking, let us know! We'd love to have you represent us as only you can do it as a generous and committed supporter.

If you'd like to learn more about EarthShare and about their business partners in your area, you can visit the EarthShare website at www.earthshare-oregon.org. To join the team of speakers for the 2009 Fall EarthShare Campaign, please contact Meghan Humphreys: 503-223-9015 or meghan@earthshare-oregon.org.

Katy Daily's Latest Challenge

The Recycling Advocates Board of Directors sends its hearty congratulations to our stalwart and tireless fellow Board member, Katy Daily, and her partner, Stuart McDougall, on the birth of their twin boys. Katy and Stuart welcomed Arlo (4 lb, 10oz) and Quinn (4 lb, 13oz) at around 4 p.m. on May 21. While the Board will certainly miss Katy's energy and expertise over the next few months, we are very excited for the family and cannot wait to educate Arlo and Quinn on the finer points of waste reduction (the boys are reportedly much more attuned to the waste *production* side of the equation at present). We suspect that the adjective "tireless" no longer



Future RA member Arlo

applies to Katy and that she has in fact learned the meaning of the word "tired" in the last few weeks, but if anyone can handle this, it's Katy. Best of luck to Katy, Stuart, Arlo, and Quinn!

- Rhett Lawrence



Future recycler Quinn



RA Co-chair Katy Daily

Oregon E-Cycles program a big hit!

The state of Oregon is reporting through DEQ that the collection of E-scrap has exceeded the expectations for the first quarter of the year. The second quarter numbers are not yet reported, but it is expected they will show the same.

During the first quarter of the year, close to 5 million pounds of computers, monitors and televisions were collected and recycled, according to Kathy Kiwala, DEQ Solid Waste Program. The minimum total returns for the year are 12.2 million pounds, based on 3.3 pounds per person in Oregon. Since the early returns were so positive, DEQ has already adjusted up the per-person pounds for 2010. It is expected that this month's switch-over of television reception from analog to digital will continue to impact the number of televisions available for recycling.

You can get up-to-date information on the program from DEQ's website: www.oregonecycles.org. This is a program strongly supported by RA in the authorization by the legislature and implementation by DEQ. As members, you should be proud of the impact of this amount of material no longer going to the landfills in Oregon.

- Rick Paul

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for end-of-life management. Included in this bill is statewide collection of household paint in distribution centers across urban and rural areas of the state, as well as a requirement to report to DEQ.

The last of Recycling Advocates' 2009 Product Stewardship bills, HB 3037-A demonstrates industry-initiated stewardship and still highlights the need in Oregon for framework legislation to address a variety of

post-consumer materials. Even if we aren't able to obtain the larger infrastructure similar to the E-Cycles program this session, HB 3037-A is helpful because of the continued strong support it has received from the paint industry and because it raises the bar. We expect to see HB 3037 scheduled for a work session in Ways and Means very soon and are optimistic about its prospects for passage.

Recycling Advocacy Calendar for June 2009

◆ **Association of Oregon Recyclers
Annual Conference & Trade Show,
Redmond**

Thursday–Saturday, June 11-13

“Get on Track” at AOR’s 31st Annual Conference and Trade Show in Redmond, Oregon.

See details and register at

www.aorr.org/2009_annual_conference.htm

◆ **Recycling Advocates board meeting**

Monday, June 29th, 7:00 p.m.

For location and information call 503-777-0909



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