

Recycling Advocates 2006/2007 Annual Report

The Mission

Formed in 1987, Recycling Advocates (RA) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with the mission to involve people in creating a sustainable future through local efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Our membership is comprised of conservation-minded citizens and waste prevention professionals.

The Issues

To maintain Oregon's natural beauty and the human health of its residents, we must conserve our natural resources and minimize extraction of raw materials through resource conservation. Recycling Advocates focuses on the 3 R's of waste prevention (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle). We encourage greater product stewardship, educate and inform citizens and professionals about waste prevention, and advocate for sound legislation and policies affecting waste prevention in Oregon.

Key Accomplishments in FY 06/07 (7/1/06 – 6/30/07)

- Recycling Advocates closely monitored the Bottle Bill legislation (SB707) and the E-waste legislation (HB2626) as the bills progressed through both houses. RA kept its members informed and recruited their testimony to encourage passage of both bills.
- RA continued to submit testimony and statements on key issues and plans from Metro, DEQ, City of Portland, and other regional jurisdictions.
- RA began working with the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation to increase collection in Oregon.
- RA continued to elevate the visibility of key issues in recycling and waste prevention through publications, monthly newsletters, our web site, informational displays, and special events.
- RA continued its involvement with the Master Recycler Program, training community volunteers..

3R's Outreach and Education

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle make up the 3R's of waste prevention. Outreach and education remain key strategies for involving people in creating a sustainable future through preventing waste. Recycling Advocates reaches out to citizens in a variety of ways.

Monthly Newsletter

The monthly Recycling Advocates Newsletter remains our most popular publication due to its original articles as well as news gathered from other waste prevention organizations on local, regional, national and international topics. This year, the newsletter included original articles on Oregon's E-waste and bottle bill legislation, holiday waste prevention ideas, waste generation and diversion statistics, and many other issues. The newsletter also provides resources for education and citizen-based legislative action, and a calendar of related events. It is sent to members, hard copies are distributed at points around the Metro area and it is available to all on the RA website.

RA Website

Our website is a key communication tool for members and nonmembers alike. This year, it was a resource for current details, rallies and testimony opportunities for the two major pieces of legislation of interest to the recycling community. The expanded bottle bill legislation generated a lot of interest among our members, and the website provided talking points.

Tabling at Events

This year member volunteers presented RA's educational displays and materials to hundreds of people at the Association of Oregon Recyclers Education Conference, the City Repair Project's Earth Day Event, the Multnomah County Fair, community college events in the region, and luncheon discussions at various businesses.

Supporting Master Recyclers

Master Recycler Program graduates received the RA newsletter for free for a year following their graduation, keeping them updated on new developments in waste prevention. Betty Patton, Wayne Rifer, and Katy Daily presented to Master Recycler classes throughout the year.

Special Events

We organize a special event each year in conjunction with our annual member meeting. In August 2006, RA held its member meeting to highlight the year's successes and to plan for the future. Our keynote speaker was Elizabeth Grossman, author of *High Tech Trash*. Her extensively researched book detailed the international environmental impact of improperly discarding our computers, televisions, and their peripherals. This meeting spurred our members to begin advocating diligently for the statewide e-waste legislation eventually passed in June 2007.

Citizen Voices

RA member volunteers represented Recycling Advocates and the "voice of the citizen" on a number of advisory boards over the year.

Portland Recycles!

The City of Portland has researched and analyzed a variety of changes to both residential curbside and commercial collection of recyclables. The City convened two task forces to discuss these approaches. RA had a representative on the residential as well as on the commercial teams to encourage the City to maximize its diversion percentage. The residential task force's recommendations will be implemented in 2008. Changes to the commercial system are still being discussed.

Other Boards and Organizations

Recycling Advocates continues to work with a number of other organizations to promote waste prevention policies and behaviors. A partial list of our collaborative partners includes: Association of Oregon Recyclers, Earth Share of Oregon, Master Recycler Program, Oregon Conservation Network, the Oregon League of Conservation Voters, OSPIRG, and the Northwest Waste Prevention Coalition.

Citizen and Legislative Action

Central to our mission is the engagement of citizens in waste prevention policy and practices. To assist our efforts to keep Oregon at the forefront of waste prevention policies, Recycling Advocates continued its relationship with the Oregon League of Conservation Voters' Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) in 2006 and 2007. RA participated in OCN's selection of shared environmental priorities for the conservation community in the 2007 Legislative session, and our e-waste legislation topic was included in OCN's Priorities for a Healthy Oregon. We encouraged our members to participate in OCN's Environmental Lobby Day in February 2007.

Electronic Waste Recycling

E-waste legislation to offer computer and television recycling to residents was studied and attempted for many years in Oregon. RA was at the forefront of this issue back in 2000. Because of RA's leadership and experience with this issue, many RA board members were active advocates for this solution. RA members and members wrote and published newsletter articles, wrote letters to the editor, and talked with their elected officials at length about the need for a legislated approach. Years of RA's efforts resulted in the bill passing unanimously in both houses. (Signed by the Governor on [date].)

Bottle Bill Expansion

For 35 years, Oregon has had a deposit on carbonated and malt-based beverage containers. During the 2007 legislative session SB707 was introduced and eventually passed. This law expands the beverages covered under container deposit legislation and creates a task force to discuss further implementation. RA members attended hearings, testified when appropriate, and wrote articles for our newsletter. RA members also contacted their elected representatives to encourage passage of this bill signed into law in June 2007.

Members and Earth Share of Oregon: The Core of RA Financial Support

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, RA members totaled 159. Membership contributions totaled \$1,482.

The bulk of Recycling Advocates' funding comes from Earth Share of Oregon's workplace giving program. RA considers ESOR support to be a key source of unrestricted funds. Employees who work for companies where ESOR has organized giving programs dedicate specific amounts from their paychecks to support RA and its programs. Currently ESOR distributes funds to 68 member organizations through programs in over 100 workplaces.

Promoting Earth Share of Oregon to RA members and the public is one of our major fundraising strategies. To this end, RA promotes ESOR in our newsletter, and RA member volunteers provide support to ESOR by giving presentations at firms where ESOR has organized workplace-giving programs. Earth Share of Oregon support totaled \$6,298 in FY 2006/2007.

FY 2006 Available Resources

Earth Share of Oregon:	\$6,298
Foundation Grant :	\$2,000
Membership Dues:	\$1,482
Direct fundraising:	\$120
Bank Interest:	\$591
Funds from Reserves:	\$4,374
<hr/> Total:	<hr/> \$14,865

*FY 2006 Expenditures**

Programming:	\$7,006
Management:	\$2,312
Fundraising:	\$1,561
Lobbying:	\$2,100
<hr/> Total:	<hr/> \$12,979

**rounded to nearest dollar*

RA Board Elections and Staff

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A board of directors elected by RA members provides guidance for Recycling Advocates. In August 2006, members elected the following slate of board members:

President

Betty Patton
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Secretary

Rhett Lawrence
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Treasurer

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At Large

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Katy Daily

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Wayne Rifer

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Volunteer Coordinator

Theresa Smith
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At Large

Dana Gantz
503-679-5430
Petit.Miette@Gmail.com

In support of the organization and the board, RA hired the following consultants:

Resource Consultant

Richard Lee-Berman
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Development Contractor

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