



RECYCLING ADVOCATES

March 2005

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

Managing E-waste in Oregon

Oregon Electronic Product Stewardship Act Has Been Introduced into Oregon Legislature

SB 740

SB 740 for electronic recycling has been introduced in the Senate Environment and Land Use Committee. This bill is a priority for Recycling Advocates.

This legislation will create a convenient service for the reuse and recycling of electronic products through the establishment of an Advanced Recycling Fee, paid at the point of purchase. Electronic products are providing ever-greater services in our homes and businesses. As a result we are seeing the first wave of obsolete products that require disposal – old televisions and computers. Presently it is estimated that only 10 – 15% of these products are recycled.

The public is increasingly asking that recycling be made available for their old electronics. Dell held collection days for the public last year in 17 cities and collected 2 million pounds of used computer equipment, serving nearly 9000 customers. The Portland event was one of the largest, bringing in 142 tons. As it now stands, local governments will bear the burden of disposing of this waste, but they cannot afford to do so. The costs in Lane County for handling e-waste are between \$5 and \$20 per item.

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Bottle Bill Action

Senate Bill 862 calls for overhaul of Oregon's landmark statute

Seemingly out of nowhere has come a legislative measure that would radically overhaul Oregon's groundbreaking, yet outdated, Bottle Bill. The bill, as introduced, would take the duties of running the bottle deposit and refund system out of the hands of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission and give the reins over to a new "Beverage Product Stewardship Board."

The bill also expands the definition of beverage containers, something that RA has been calling for in the past years. Additionally, it increases the deposit amount from 5 to 13 cents. Recycling Advocates has wanted to see the deposit amount increase as a means to motivate consumers to redeem deposits.

What is the Beverage Product Stewardship Board?

The legislation calls for a Board that would consist of seven members who are appointed by the Governor. The Board's membership would be made up of stakeholders in matters of recycling markets, the beverage industry, local governments, environmental advocacy, solid waste collection, and retail beverage sales. Drafters of the bill want to see a wide range of interests on the Board.

The Beverage Product Stewardship Board would have authority over the certification of new "redemption centers" and "redemption convenience zones" (see below), administering the collection and return of container deposits and refunds, and "promoting the development of markets for the recycling of beverage containers."

Dealers, Redemption Centers and Convenience Zones

The new Beverage Product Stewardship Board would oversee the development of local redemption centers. These could be beverage dealers (retailers) or stand alone

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Recycling at Events: Order Your Copy Today

New edition now available

The long-awaited update of RA's *Recycling at Events* is now available. Members of Recycling Advocates may obtain a free copy by contacting RA at info@recyclingadvocates.org or by phone at (503) 777-0909.

The new edition of this important guide was made possible with our collaborating partners, Metro and Portland's Office of Sustainable Development. Specific topics include establishing goals, dealing with food, vendors, and volunteers, site logistics, set-up, publicity, and, of course, recycling. The guide contains an updated and expanded list of resources for event materials for event planners.

Many thanks go to RA member Tanya Schaefer for volunteering several hours of her time to make this project a success.

Pass the word to colleagues

RA members can help market the guide by spreading the word to others in the recycling, sustainability, and event planning fields. Do you know someone in Oregon and beyond who could benefit from our guide? Recycling Advocates will sell and ship copies of the guide to anyone outside the Metro boundaries. Sales of the guide will cover for the cost of printing and mailing of the publication.

Note: Would you like to help defray our cost of sending you your free copy of the guide? Our postage costs will run \$0.60 for each free copy sent to members. If you would like to cover your mailing costs, send us a written request along with sixty cents. Your help will free up RA funds for other recycling and waste prevention projects.

E-waste in Oregon, continued

The problem will only get worse if we dawdle. The Oregon backlog of old computers and TVs in storage is growing by over 300,000 units this year – an accumulated cost that is increasing by \$4 million each year.

We have been studying this problem and talking for 4 years. We know what needs to be done. We know the options. We know what the stakeholders think. It's time to act.

Contents of the Bill

SB 740 will establish a convenient, safe and reliable service for reuse and recycling of the following electronic products: desktop computers, including mice and keyboards; CRT monitors; flat panel displays; laptop computers; televisions; and computer printers. An Advanced Recycling Fee (ARF), paid at the point of sale, will cover costs for collection and recycling services plus administration. The ARF will be set to cover the costs for each electronic product, not exceeding \$10. To pay for collection and recycling, an average fee between \$3 and \$4 per unit sold is anticipated.

Manufacturers, acting in partnership or individually, will share responsibility with local communities to make this program a reality. Manufacturers will form an independent, nonprofit organization to contract for collection and recycling services, to achieve performance goals, to develop sustainable markets, to provide public notification and education, and to report annually to the DEQ on results. Communities will have a say as to how the collection

services are implemented locally.

Manufacturers will also be responsible for providing products that can be easily recycled, that contain less hazardous substances, that use recycled materials, and that are designed for extended life, repair and reuse.

The Oregon Departments of Revenue and Environment Quality will play key administrative roles in the program, establishing performance goals and environmental handling requirements, overseeing fee collection, and enacting enforcement measures if necessary. The Oregon Economic and Community Development Department will track and report on associated job growth.

The bottom line is that the bill will have no fiscal impact on the state budget. All costs associated with the program, from administration to collection and recycling, will be covered by the ARF. This program will increase business opportunities, not government spending. This bill will solve a growing problem while it is still manageable and before the costs go through the roof.

Who supports this bill?

This approach is advocated by a very diverse set of interests. The supporters include Recycling Advocates, along with Association of Oregon Recyclers and Oregon Environmental Council. In addition a group of eleven electronics manufacturers – called the Manufacturers' Coalition for Responsible Recycling, including Panasonic, Sharp, IBM and others – along with Waste Management Inc. and Earth Protection Services, a local electronics recycler, are supporters.

RA needs your help!

For years, RA members have been concerned about e-waste in Oregon. Now is our opportunity to take action. RA members can testify, come to hearings in Salem to show support, write letters to legislators, and call their representatives. To find out who your legislators are and how to contact them, go to www.leg.state.or.us or call (503) 986-1000.

Recycling Advocates will send out Action Alerts to members for whom we have an e-mail address and who have requested to be on our Action Alert list.

Bottle Bill, continued

centers. Beverage retailers would pay the Board the deposits collected. The redemption centers would receive 1.5 cents per container as a "handling fee." The consumer would receive back 10 cents as a refund. The Board would retain 1.5 cents and any funds from unredeemed containers, which would support the Beverage Product Deposit Fund.

Each redemption center would be located in a redemption convenience zone. Retailers may refuse to pay out deposits to consumers if their store is located within a redemption convenience zone. If a retailer is not in a convenience zone, then it "may not refuse to accept from any person any empty beverage containers of the kind, size and brand sold by the dealer" (i.e., retailer).

Expanding the definition of beverage and beverage container

Currently, Oregonians pay and collect deposits on "beer or other malt beverages and mineral waters, soda water and similar soft drinks." If it fizzles, we pay the deposit and collect the refund. The new definition casts a wider net: as introduced "[b]everage means a drink in liquid form and intended for human consumption, other than milk, medicine or flavorings."

A beverage container would include any individual, separate, sealed glass, metal or plastic bottle, can or jar that is more than seven fluid ounces and less than one gallon and contains a beverage.

Who's behind the bill?

Senate bill 862 was sponsored by Senators Verger, Bates, Kruse, Ringo, and Bruce Starr, as well as Representatives Butler, Dingfelder, Nolan, and Roblan. The development of the legislative proposal took some in the recycling field by surprise. Both the Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR) and Recycling Advocates received text of the bill only shortly before its introduction.

What you can do

Recycling Advocates' Board has yet to take a position on the bill but will likely take up the issue at its March Board meeting. Still, RA members have the opportunity to weigh in on this major

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overhaul of Oregon's bottle bill. This proposed statute contains several elements that RA supports:

- increased deposit fees
- elimination of the distributors from the process of collecting deposits
- diversion of any unredeemed deposits from the distributors to a fund that will support beverage container collection and recycling
- clear stakeholder and governmental oversight of the whole issue of managing beverage containers in Oregon.

As a concerned citizen, you can lobby your state representative and senator about SB 862. To view the bill online, go to www.leg.state.or.us/searchmeas.html. To find out who your legislators are and how to contact them, go to www.leg.state.or.us or call (503) 986-1000.

Thank you to Earth Share donors

More than 4000 Oregonians donated to Earth Share of Oregon (ESOR) last fall – if you are one of them, thank you! Employees in over 80 businesses and public agencies pledged support for Earth Share's 68 nonprofit members who work to protect human health, preserve wildlife habitat and reduce the effects of global warming. Recycling Advocates is strengthened by our membership in Earth Share and by support from donors like you.

If you and your co-workers don't have an ESOR giving program, this is how it works: ESOR works with employers to allow employees who want to support environmental nonprofits to donate through payroll deductions. Through this program, employees can choose to support Earth Share as a whole, enabling all of ESOR member groups to benefit, or they can designate their support for one or more specific groups. In this way, even a small gift of a dollar or two per paycheck adds up to a generous contribution. It's easy and it makes a difference!

For more information, please contact Ron Shoals at ESOR: (503) 223-9015 or ron@earthshare-oregon.org; or visit www.earthshare-oregon.org.

Donate Your Old Cell Phones!

Earth Share launches cell phone collection program

Earth Share of Oregon now participates in a cell phone donation program. The "Donate a Phone Campaign" is designed to collect used cell phones lying idle in America's closets and drawers. These phones are just waiting to be reprogrammed, refurbished or recycled. The program keeps the unusable phones out of the landfills by recycling them or managing their safe disposal.

The monies collected from the reprogrammed phones are split between the Wireless Foundation and Earth Share of Oregon.

The Wireless Foundation also donates reprogrammed phones to local domestic violence shelters and public schools in low-income neighborhoods.

ESOR will use its proceeds for local operations, which will help reduce the organizations' administrative fees. This will enable member groups like Recycling Advocates to receive more funds for our projects.

Earth Share will drop off "Donate a Phone" box's and pick them up at the request of any company or organization. Drop-off locations need not an ESOR workplace company or member. For more information go to www.wirelessfoundation.com or call Ron Shoals of Earth Share of Oregon at (503) 223-9015.

Save these Dates

AOR Conference in June

The Association of Oregon Recyclers will hold its annual conference from June 23-25 in Redmond. This year's theme is "Recycling - Brand Oregon. For more information, contact Pacific Agenda (503) 223-8633 or pmorgan@europa.com.

Question of the Month

We find ourselves in the middle of the legislative session and have an opportunity to play a role as citizen lobbyists.

Do you plan on contacting your state representative and senator about specific legislative bills?

E-mail your responses to info@recyclingadvocates.org or call us at (503) 777-0909 and leave a message by March 20.



RECYCLING ADVOCATES Membership Application

- \$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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Day _____ Evening _____

E-mail _____ Send my newsletter by e-mail

*Your name, if this is a gift membership: _____

Your membership contribution to RA is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

Celebrate spring by giving an RA membership today!

Upcoming Events and Workshops

Illahee's 2005 Lecture Series

How Cities Learn: Portland's Place on Earth

Lucy Lippard presents "Art and Place: Traveling to Here"

Date: March 9, 2005.

All lectures begin at 7:30 pm at First Congregational Church, 1126 SW Park in Portland. Visit www.illahee.org or call (503) 222-2719 for more information and to order tickets.

Recycling Advocates Board Meeting

Date: March 28, 2005.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

For location and information, call (503) 777-0909.

Recycling Advocates is proud to be...

Be in the Know with Action Alerts!

Help pass key recycling legislation

Action Alerts help you stay in the know about key and time-sensitive legislative and policy issues, such as the two senate bills featured in this month's newsletter. The alerts are a tool for empowering RA members as citizen lobbyists.

All members of Recycling Advocates can receive Action Alerts as a member benefit. Starting this month, all members will automatically receive Action Alerts by e-mail, unless they request to be taken off the Action Alert list.

For more information about RA Action Alerts, please call RA at (503) 777-0909 or send an e-mail to info@recyclingadvocates.org.



a member of Earth Share
OF OREGON

Become an Engaged Citizen

Metro Regional SWAC opening announced

Metro's Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee seeks a Multnomah county citizen ratepayer representative.

Metro's SWAC is comprised of government, industry, business and citizen ratepayer representatives who consider solid waste policy and planning issues, and advise Metro Council. The group meets approximately 10 times a year at Metro Regional Center, on the 4th Thursday of each month, from 10 a.m. to noon.

If you would like to be considered for Multnomah county citizen ratepayer vacancy, please contact: Janet Matthews, Metro's Solid Waste Policy and Program Manager at (503) 797-1826 by March 31st.

Editor's note: Many thanks to RA member Tanya Schaefer who recently stepped down as the Multnomah County citizen representative on the SWAC.

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