



The Closed-Loop Scoop

Washington State Department of Ecology, Solid Waste & Financial Assistance Program

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Free Electronics Recycling Law Moves Ahead

State takes first step to carry out new law by January 2009

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) has adopted the first of two rules necessary to carry out the state's new law for recycling electronic products. The rule adoption marks the first big step in launching a one-of-a-kind law that requires manufacturers to provide consumers free recycling of electronic products by January 1, 2009.

"This new electronics recycling program is good for Washington, our businesses and our citizens," said Governor Chris Gregoire. "It is an important step forward in making Washington a healthy place to live and to put our market-based economy to work for the environment."

"We listened to citizens, businesses and stakeholders for their recommendations on thoughtful and practical ways to carry out this new law," said Cullen Stephenson, manager of Ecology's solid-waste program. "This service will be unique in the nation and we're proud to be making it a reality."

After January 1, 2007, consumers will see registered manufacturers' labels on specific consumer products: computers, monitors, and televisions. Electronics manufacturers must register before that date with Ecology and pay a fee to cover the cost of administering the law, including registration, enforcement and planning. After that, only labeled products from registered manufacturers can be sold in Washington.

As part of the new rule, recycling companies that collect and transport the products turned in for recycling can begin registering with Ecology. They must register by January 1, 2008.

Meanwhile, Washington residents who want to recycle electronics can call toll free 1-800-RECYCLE (800-732-9253) or go online to <http://1800recycle.wa.gov>. Most services currently available do

have a cost. Recycling electronic products keeps toxic metals such as lead out of landfills and the environment. Electronic products contain heavy metals and other chemicals at hazardous levels that make them difficult to recycle or dispose of safely. For example, picture tubes might contain four to eight pounds of lead. By recycling televisions and computers, Washington's citizens contribute to a safer, cleaner environment.

According to data, Washington averaged one television set a household in 1970. By 2010, Washington will have one television set a person. In 1970, personal computers were unheard of. They went on the market in the early 1980s and started becoming affordable about a decade later. Ecology estimates approximately one computer per person statewide by 2010.

"These products represent a whole new waste stream with hazardous impacts on public health," said Stephenson. "Washington is ahead of the curve on managing this problem." Reducing toxic threats is one of Ecology's four priorities in the agency's four-year action plan. Ecology and the state Department of Health are working together to reduce or eliminate those chemicals that pose significant threats to the health of our citizens and our environment.

Information Workshops

Before drafting the second rule needed to carry out the state's new law, Ecology is hosting two afternoon workshops to seek input from the public. These will be February 27, 2007, in Lacey and March 1, 2007, in Ellensburg. For more details, call Jay Shepard at 360-407-7040 or visit <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/eproductrecycle/InfoWorkshops.html>.

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Kitsap County Waste Reduction Program Wins Award

EPA gives county its sixth WasteWise award

On Friday, October 20, 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) presented Kitsap County with a Local Government Partner of the Year award.

For six straight years, Kitsap County has won a WasteWise award. Much of its success comes from finding innovative ways to improve its waste reduction program. In 2005, Kitsap County piloted a junk mail and fax waste reduction program in its Public Works Department, eliminating more than 1,200 pieces of junk mail and 1,000 junk faxes. It planned to expand this program to all of its departments in 2006. Kitsap County's waste reduction efforts saved the county more than \$700,000 in avoided disposal costs in 2005. It also has a strong employee education program that includes posters, electronic newsletters, departmental coordinator workshops, and 30-minute training sessions to inform its staff on how to maximize their participation in the waste reduction program.

EPA is proud to honor Kitsap County for these extraordinary achievements at the

2006 WasteWise and National Partnership for Environmental Priorities (NPEP) Annual Conference: Partnering for Success in Sustainability. Kitsap County is one of only ten organizations to receive a Partner of the Year award at this event.

WasteWise is a free and voluntary partnership program EPA launched in 1994. The program provides guidance and recognition to nearly 1,900 participating organizations that are working to find practical methods to reduce municipal solid waste and improve financial performance. EPA is pleased to recognize Kitsap County, Washington and other members that have made the program a success through their sustained commitment to waste reduction.

For more information about EPA's WasteWise program and details about the 2006 WasteWise and NPEP Annual Conference, please visit the WasteWise Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/wastewise> or contact the WasteWise Helpline at (800) EPA-WISE (372-9473).



Calendar of Events

March 13, 2007, BuiltGreen Conference & Expo, Everett. For more information, call 425-460-8238 or visit the conference Web site at <http://www.builtgreen.net/conference.html>.

March 13, 2007, Sustainable Supply Chain Development for Public Works and Transportation Infrastructure.
March 23, 2007, Practical Sustainability Strategies for Government: Opportunities and Responsibilities.
These workshops, and more, will take place at the University of Oregon's Portland campus. For details, visit the Web site at <http://center.uoregon.edu/sustainability/workshops/schedule.php>.

Seeking Solutions: 2007 Environmental Health Lecture Series: March 21, 2007, Biofuels;
April 18, 2007, Sustainable Systems. These evening lectures happen at Town Hall Seattle. For details, visit the Web site at http://www.sightline.org/get_involved/events/sblf07.

April 16-18, 2007, BioCycle West Coast Conference, San Diego. To learn more, visit the conference Web site at <http://www.jgpress.com/conferences1/conferences1.html>.

May 6-9, 2007, Washington State Recycling Association Conference. Vancouver, Washington. For details, call 206-244-0311 or visit the Web site at <http://www.wsra.net/Conference/Conference%2027.html>.

May 31-June 2, 2007, 5th Business Alliance for Local Living Economies Conference, Berkeley, Calif. For details, visit the Web site at <http://www.livingeconomies.org/events/conference07>.

May 30-31, 2007, 3rd National Product Stewardship Forum, San Francisco. To learn more, visit <http://www.productstewardship.us/index.php>.

June 4-7, 2007, Northwest Hazardous Waste Conference for Household and Small Business Programs, Troutdale, Ore. Check Web site for upcoming information: <http://www.nahmma.org/calendar.cfm>.

Recycling Rate Hits New High in Seattle

Residents send more than half of their garbage to the recycling bins

Seattle set a new record for recycling rates, with 52.1 percent of residential garbage heading to recycling bins instead of the landfills.

The residential recycling rate climbed by 2.7 percentage points compared to 2004 and was 2.2 percentage points higher than the previous record set in 1995. The figures are based on an annual waste audit conducted by Seattle Public Utilities (SPU).

SPU officials cite Mayor Greg Nickels' 60% Recycling Plan and the efforts of businesses and residents as the primary reasons for the city's recycling progress.

"Seattle is once again leading the way on recycling, thanks to the commitment of residents across the city," Nickels said. "People understand that recycling is one of the most important steps they can take to protect the environment, and it shows the kind of impact we can make when everyone works together."

New programs, such as the city's food waste recycling service and mandatory recycling ordinance, made a difference. In the first year of the food waste program, residents recycled 6,000 tons of scraps. Given a mandate by the city, businesses recycled 68,000 tons of paper in 2005, nearly 14,000 tons more than in 2004.

SPU reports show that all sectors increased their recycling in 2005, except the city's two recycling transfer stations, which dropped slightly from 18.8 percent to 17.9 percent. Combining commercial, residential and transfer station rates, the city recycled 44.1 percent of its waste last year, an increase of 2.9 percentage points over 2004.

"There's still more that can be done," said Nickels. "More than half of our garbage is made up of paper, food waste, plastic, glass and metal that could be recycled."

Seattle's goal is to recycle 60 percent of its waste by 2010. Seattle's recycling rate steadily declined in the late 1990s to a low point of 38.2 percent in 2003. That year, Nickels unveiled a range of new recycling services for Seattle residents and businesses, including commercial food scrap collection, more frequent collection of yard waste, vegetable food waste added to yard waste, new yard waste collection carts, new public place recycling containers, and free curbside recycling for businesses.

Seattle also established an ordinance that prohibits recyclable paper and cardboard and yard waste in commercial garbage. The ordinance also prohibits recyclable paper, cardboard, cans and bottles in residential garbage.

Still another means of increasing recycling is to expand recycling opportunities at the city's garbage transfer stations. That option is part of a proposed garbage facilities plan now under consideration by the Seattle City Council.

Earlier this year, the Solid Waste Association of North America recognized Seattle's recycling program for excellence by and the American Forest & Paper Association named the city its "Community Recycler of the Year."

Visit the mayor's web site at <http://www.seattle.gov/mayor>. Get the mayor's inside view on initiatives to promote transportation, public safety, economic opportunity and healthy communities by signing up for The Nickels Newsletter at www.seattle.gov/mayor/newsletter_signup.htm.



New Years parties overflow recycling bins in Valparaiso, Chile.
(This picture and those on page 5 are courtesy of Ecology employee Gretchen Newman.)

Oregon's Plastic Recycling Rate Drops

Rate fails to meet mandate for 25 percent recycling

The recycling rate for rigid plastic containers in Oregon dropped in 2005 to 24.3 percent, according to a report issued recently by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The recycling rate projected for these containers in 2007 will remain below 25 percent

This is the first time the recycling rate for rigid plastic containers has fallen below 25 percent since the state first began calculating the rate in 1993. Unless the recycling rate increases back over 25 percent by 2008, this decline will trigger recycling-related requirements on some companies that package products in plastic bottles and containers.

As part of the 1991 Oregon Recycling Act, the Oregon Legislature passed a law mandating a 25 percent recycling rate for these containers. This mandate was to help jump-start the recycling of plastics. The law encourages container manufacturers to recycle the plastic they use. Passage of the law helped lead to many plastic bottle collection programs throughout Oregon. According to the law, any rigid plastic container sold in Oregon must meet at least one of the following three criteria:

- Contain at least 25 percent recycled content.
- Be made of plastic that is recycled in Oregon at a rate of at least 25 percent.
- Be reusable (refillable for at least five times).

Certain containers, including medicine containers and food containers other than beverage bottles, are exempt from the above requirements.

Until 2007, all packagers have been in compliance with the law because the overall recycling rate for plastic containers has exceeded 25 percent. Following DEQ's announcement of the drop in the recycling rate, some packagers may need to take new steps. These changes could be using recycled plastic in their containers or changing to use a type of plastic with a higher recycling rate, if the overall recycling rate remains below 25 percent through 2008. By law, packagers have a one-year grace period in which to prepare to meet the state requirements. This means the earliest that DEQ can enforce the recycling requirements will be 2008.

Two main factors contributed to the lower recycling rate, according to Peter Spendelow, DEQ solid waste specialist.

First, the sale of water and juice in plastic bottles is increasing while soft drink sales are declining. Soft drink bottles have high recycling rates under the Oregon Bottle Bill, while no-deposit water and juice bottles have much lower recycling rates.

Second, manufacturers are using more plastic to make containers other than bottles. Most curbside recycling programs collect only plastic bottles, so plastic tubs and trays often are not recycled.

On the other hand, Spendelow sees four possibilities for increasing plastic recycling:

- Many local governments and recycling collectors are considering adding tubs and other plastic containers to their curbside programs. They would also provide each customer with a single large roll-cart for storing and recycling.
- Recycled plastic prices are high due to the high cost of petroleum, leading businesses to separate out more plastic items for recycling.
- There is industry interest in improving the effectiveness of the facilities that sort commingled recyclables. Such changes lead to less disposal of missorted plastic.
- Expanding Oregon's bottle bill to include more beverage bottles, such as water bottles, could push Oregon's plastic recycling rate up to close to 30 percent.

DEQ compiles the recycling rates through information from recycling and waste disposal facilities in Oregon. It also gleans information from its annual material recovery survey and waste composition data. It takes about a year to compile all the data for each recently ended calendar year.

DEQ's Rigid Plastic Container Recycling Rate Report is available on DEQ's Web site at <http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/pubs/docs/sw/Rpc2005-07Report.pdf>. Questions may be directed to Peter Spendelow at 503-229-5253 or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5253.

Annual Solid Waste Status Report

The *Solid Waste in Washington State - Fifteenth Annual Status Report* will be available this March at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/solidwastedata/report.asp>. If you would like a hard copy please contact Millie White at MIWH461@ecy.wa.gov (360-407-6900).

27th Annual Recycler of the Year Awards, Vancouver, Wash., May 8, 2007

Each year, the Washington State Recycling Association (WSRA) seeks nominations for outstanding recycling professionals, innovative government administrators, and everyday folks making a measurable difference to improve the economic vitality and environmental well being statewide.

A diverse volunteer committee composed of waste reduction educators, garbage collectors, recycling processors, government leaders, and environmental advocates will select the winners. WSRA will present the 2007 awards at the **Annual Banquet Dinner** at the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay in Vancouver, Washington, May 8, 2007.

Awards Nomination Process

For a nomination to be considered, WSRA *must* receive a completed form no later than **March 1, 2007** (no postmarks, but faxes are fine). The WSRA Awards Committee selects all award recipients. Areas of consideration include innovation, environmental and economic benefit, level of commitment, and expansion potential to the greater recycling community.

For more, visit the Web site at http://www.wsra.net/Conference/Recycler_Year.html.

This country cider mill in the south of Chile, near Valdivia, was washing out old pisco bottles by hand for reuse as cider bottles.



Recycling bins for cans, glass, plastics and "others" (paper products, textiles and probably just about anything remotely reusable) line up in a park called Cerro San Cristobal overlooking Santiago, Chile.

Washington State Waste Tire Program

An estimated 5 million waste tires are generated each year in Washington. Reports show about 25 percent of those waste tires end up in landfills. Washington State is currently developing a tire program to clean up waste tire piles as well as improving recycling and reuse opportunities. Fifty unauthorized piles around the state have stockpiled an estimated 3 million waste tires. Ecology is currently working on cleaning up the existing unauthorized waste tire piles. The 2005 Unauthorized Tire Pile Study (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0507043.html>) identified these sites.

Ecology has already started cleaning up at the largest waste tire pile in the state, located in Klickitat County. Local agencies, site owners, and Ecology are coordinating on additional tire pile cleanups.

In addition to tire pile cleanup, future uses of the tire fund may include demonstration projects for recycling of tires, local government enforcement programs, public information and education programs, and marketing studies for products made from recycled tires.

Ecology wants to hear from local agencies, recycling operations, and other interested parties concerning tire issues. Input from local communities and interested parties will help Ecology develop this program. Please provide comments, questions, and suggestions to Kara Steward at 360-407-6250 or kste461@ecy.wa.gov.

Status of Washington State Biosolids Rule Revision

January 2007 update

Background

In April 2006 the Department of Ecology (Ecology) began the process to amend the existing biosolids rule, Chapter 173-308 WAC, Biosolids Management. This rule established requirements for handling biosolids in the state. In accordance with Chapter 70.95J RCW, the state adopted Chapter 173-308 WAC on February 18, 1998.

Ecology formed the Biosolids Rule Revision Advisory Group (BRRAG) in the summer of 2006. This group consisted of a broad spectrum of stakeholders. Ecology staff drafted amendments to the rule. The BRRAG discussed and reviewed proposed significant changes and also commented on the draft rule text. The BRRAG met four times in the summer and fall of 2006 and discussed possible revisions to the rule.

Proposed Rule

Proposed rule language includes the following potentially significant changes:

- Requiring screening or another method to remove garbage from all biosolids products prior to end use (grinding would only be allowed as a secondary method after the initial removal occurs).
- Requiring a permit for all septage management facilities.
- Combining the three existing septage definitions into a single definition and allowing Ecology to impose a stricter application rate for mixtures.
- Imposing a \$600 minimum fee on all permittees (this would be an additional charge for permittees already paying a fee).
- Removing Alternative 3 and Alternative 4 as possible options for meeting Class A pathogen reduction requirements (two of six options currently in WAC 173-308-170).
- Requiring submittal of permit applications within 90 days after issuance of a general permit.
- Requiring public notice for all facilities each permit cycle if they apply to land biosolids that are not of exceptional quality.

- Imposing stricter standards for new or upgraded storage lagoons but “grandfathering in” existing storage lagoons if they do not pose a risk to human health or the environment.

Public Comment

Since Ecology has filed the CR-102 Form with the Office of the Code Reviser (January 19, 2007), the rule language is now open for public comment. Ecology will accept formal comments on the proposed rule amendments until **5 p.m., March 8, 2007**.

Ecology sent written notice to permittees and other interested parties notifying them of the public comment period and providing information on how to comment. Notice has also appeared in the State Register and in several regional newspapers across the state. In addition, Ecology will hold two public hearings. The first public hearing will take place at Ecology headquarters in Lacey on February 27. The second hearing will be at Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake on March 1.

The public will have the same opportunity that local governments, private businesses, and other interested parties have to comment on the proposed amendments.

More Information on This Rule

Ecology has maintained a rule development website and a rule development e-mail list. The Web site serves to keep interested parties informed of what is going on. The e-mail list allows Ecology to send information to those interested in participating in the process. You can sign up for the e-mail list at <http://listserv.wa.gov/archives/308-biosolids-rule-development.html>. The rule development Web site is <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/biosolids/ruleDev.html>.

For those who wish to make comments on the proposed rule, an online comment form will be available during the public comment period. You can make comments on this rule by visiting the following website: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/biosolids/rul_comment.html.

"The first public hearing . . . in Lacey on February 27. The second . . . in Moses Lake on March 1."

175,000 Tonnes of CO2 Emissions Saved By Buying Recycled

News from London (in the Queen's English)

London organisations have saved 175,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions from being released through the purchase of recycled products. This is equivalent to the yearly emissions produced by over 29,000 households.

The achievements of the Mayor's Green Procurement Code - a sustainable purchasing programme, were announced last night at an awards ceremony in City Hall by Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone.

The Mayor also announced that those who have signed up to the Mayor's Code have diverted 394,453 tonnes of waste from landfill by choosing to buy recycled products in the past year. This is enough to fill the Royal Albert Hall four times. Purchases include 19,150 square metres of recycled carpet, 15,582 items of recycled furniture and 35,550 recycled printer cartridges.

Over £379 million has been spent on recycled products through the Mayor's Code funded by the London Development Agency and delivered by London Remade, since its launch in 2001. London organisations spent £157 million this year alone.

The Mayor announced the following winners in five categories: the London Borough of Tower Hamlets for best performing public sector organisation; Workspace Group for best performing private sector organisation; Business Eco for best performing small to medium enterprise (SME); Environmental Business Products for best performing newcomer

and, the Dominion Theatre for the extra mile award for innovation in creating a sustainable workplace. The Metropolitan Police Service was also highly commended in the extra mile category.

Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, said: "There are increasingly fewer reasons not to purchase recycled products. Increased demand generated by environmentally responsible companies has led to a range of high quality and value for money products on the market. The awards provide an ideal opportunity to recognise the outstanding achievements of companies across London in creating a sustainable city for the future."

Tina Perfrement from London Remade, continued: "Climate change is high on the agenda for many organisations and suppliers are responding to demand for a greater range of recycled and sustainable products and practises. Sustainable procurement is no longer limited to recycled paper but encompasses most office-based activity including furniture, computers and energy. This year Mayor's Code signatories purchased from 244 different suppliers compared to 125 in last year's report.

"Members of the Mayor's Code are leading the way in sustainable purchasing and will act as best practise champions for the rest of London and the UK to follow."



"There are increasingly fewer reasons not to purchase recycled products."



About London Remade

London Remade is in the business of recycling and creating environmental solutions for a sustainable capital. This is achieved through developing markets for recycled content products, providing tailored support to help grow green enterprises, and introducing green practises to existing businesses. London Remade acts as a leading advisor and consultant to London boroughs to improve recycling waste management. The ultimate aim is to transform London's waste into a reusable resource, to create viable everyday products and reduce the impact on landfill.

To learn more, visit <http://www.londonremade.com/>.

Department of Ecology

The Department of Ecology is an equal opportunity agency.

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We eagerly await your news.

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