



Electronics Recycling News by Lorraine Kerwood

Heavens to Betsy! The NextStep hive has been buzzing since the new electronics recycling law rolled out January 1, 2009!

NextStep Recycling is registered as the **only reuse and recycling nonprofit** in the Willamette Valley that is participating in the free statewide electronics recycling legislation which began January 1, 2009. **In 20 business days we have recycled over a quarter of the quantity of TVs we received in all of 2008! We have sent a total of 80,000 monitors and TVs to recycling. We recycled 860 computers and 112 laptops. These numbers do not include what we have pulled off for reuse. As the reuse contractor for Lane County Waste Management Division, NextStep will be handling the major-**

ity of our community's obsolete electronics. NextStep has refurbished and redistributed over 18,000 computers and many more thousands of other electronic devices.

NextStep Oregon E-Cycles Collection Depots:

NextStep West Eugene:
2101 West 10th
Avenue Eugene, OR
97402 541-686-2366

NextStep Mohawk:
1483 Mohawk Blvd
Springfield, Or
97477 541-744-6901
<http://www.nextsteprecycling.org>

Oregon E-Cycles, established by Oregon's Electronics Recycling Law (ORS 459A.300-.365), is a new statewide program that requires electronics manufacturers to provide responsible recycling for four types of electronic devices. The new

statewide program provides free recycling of computers, laptops, monitors, and TVs. The program is financed by electronics manufacturers and jointly implemented with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

According to the Oregon DEQ, unwanted computers, monitors and TVs – referred to as electronic waste or “e-waste” – is the fastest growing waste stream in the U.S. With technology constantly changing, we replace our electronics every few years. In 2007 alone, Americans generated about 232 million units of computer and TV-related e-waste, only 18% of which was recycled. In addition, it's estimated that 235 million more units are stored in our basements, closets, and garages.

Anyone can bring seven or fewer computers, laptops, monitors, and TVs at a time to participating Oregon E-

Cycles collectors for free recycling. The program does not provide free recycling of keyboards, mice, speakers, printers, scanners, or other types of electronics or appliances; however, *NextStep will continue to accept these items.*

This law, though well intended, is focused **only** on recycling. Everything coming into the state program must go to a shredder. At NextStep, we see the value of **REUSE BEFORE RECYCLING**, and the importance of capturing technology and redistributing refurbished material to our community members. As more and more community members cannot afford technology, we need to ensure that the playing field is level. We have designed a society that has a technology infrastructure more and more community members are getting pushed out of the loop because they can't afford to purchase a

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Expanded Bottle Bill — Just Add Water

Beginning January 1st, Oregon added water and flavored water to the list of containers that can be redeemed for a 5 cent refund. The types of containers now included in Oregon's Bottle Bill are: water/flavored water, beer/malt bev-

erages, soda water/mineral water and carbonated soft drinks. Only containers purchased in Oregon and labeled OR 5c can be redeemed.

Retailers under 5000 square feet are only required to take

back the size and brand of containers they sell. Retailers over 5000sq ft are required to accept all brands and sizes for each type they sell.

For more information go to <http://oregon.gov/OLCC>

Keep Old Medicines Out of Drains and Toilets *by Sarah Grimm*

The growing surplus of unused and expired pharmaceuticals is impacting our environment in unusual and unsettling ways—as well as leading to increases in drug abuse and accidental poisonings.

When drugs are flushed or poured down toilets and drains, they go directly into the water supply. Medicines in wastewater cannot be removed by treatment plants at this time, so they end up in our lakes, rivers, and streams. Over 80% of waterways tested in the U.S. show traces of common medications such as acetaminophen, hormones, blood pressure medicine, codeine, and antibiotics.

Studies by the U.S. EPA have linked exposure to medications to the growing number of defects and mutations showing up in fish and other aquatic life, not to mention exposure to antibiotics causing drug-resistant super germs.

Clearly, the popular method of flushing old medicines must be stopped immediately if we want to halt the environmental damage we are doing. But keeping them around the house is no answer either.

When prescription drugs languish in medicine cabinets, they become too easily available and appealing to potential drug abusers, especially young adults and youth.

The federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reports that nonmedical use of prescription drugs is second only to marijuana use among persons 12 years of age and older, and that prescription drug abuse is increasing at an alarming rate. Currently the EPA and Oregon's DEQ both instruct households to wrap and conceal medications for disposal in the garbage. (view instructional video at www.smarxtdisposal.net/). But since landfill leachate eventually ends up in rivers and streams, after going through waste water treatment, this is an imperfect solution at best—some would say it's no solution at

all.

While several communities in Oregon and around the U.S. have conducted pilot programs and British Columbia has had a successful drug take-back program for 10 years, our area has yet to see a meaningful solution. Significant obstacles have made progress slow, not the least of which is current federal law. The U.S. Department of Justice Controlled Substances Act prohibits any of the more than 20,000 controlled substances from being handled by anyone other than law enforcement or the patient it was dispensed to.

However, if all goes well,

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Waste-Based Biz

Reusable building supplies
Waste prevention education and information
Processing of recycling
Deconstruction



bring
REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE
 RETHINK

www.bringrecycling.org

Planet Improvement Center
 4446 Franklin Blvd between
 Springfield and Eugene 746-3023



M.E.C.C.A.
 Materials Exchange Center
 For Community Arts

www.materials-exchange.org

43 W Broadway
 Eugene
 302-1810

Store Hours: Tuesdays 9-2
 Thursdays 9-2 & 6-9
 Saturdays 11-3

Indigo Cat Computer Refurbishing & Recycling Cottage Grove - Shawn Goddard – Computer Refurbishing Instructor for teens and adults swagoddard@msn.com




NEXTSTEP
 transforming technology for the next generation

Now with 2 locations to serve you!

Reuse Store days/hours: Tue-Sat 10am-5pm
 1483 Mohawk **Springfield**

Tue-Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5 2101 W 10th **Eugene**

Donations received Tue-Sat 10-5
www.nextsteprecycling.org



WasteFree Oregon Event Recycling and Composting Service
 Willy Brenninghouse and Shari Smith willywray@yahoo.com and 746-2975



Electronics Recycling continued

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new computer or a new cell phone.

The United Nations estimates that recycling computers consumes 20 times more energy than reuse. Refurbishing offers the most efficient alternative to dealing with the world's growing mountain of e-waste. By keeping valuable resources local, out of the shredder, offering job and social skills training, and relying on local workers, refurbishing also counters one of the prevailing problems in computer technology and distribution - rapid obsolescence. NextStep believes the triple bottom line of people, environment, and economy is what will make our community sustainable.

The environmental benefits of reuse over recycling are "staggering," according to US EPA officials. The use of refurbished computers by low-income individuals and agencies greatly contributes to education and skills training for future careers in small businesses, government agencies and industry. Computer refurbishing and redistribution are essential for social welfare and economic advancement. **DO-NATION TIPS FROM NEXTSTEP:**

1. Donate your old computer right after buying your new one.
2. Three-to-five-year-old working computers can be upgraded to do the six things most people do with com-

puters: Internet browsing, e-mail, word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, and finances.

3. If you donate your electronics to NextStep, you are eligible for a tax break.
4. NextStep will wipe your hard drive and remove your personal data.
5. The Basel Action Network's "Exporting Harm" report estimates that 50 to 80 percent of U.S. e-waste ends up in Asia. Experts debate the exact number; NextStep works with local processors, who have been vetted to ensure they do not ship container loads of e-waste over seas.

NextStep is ...

- The Reuse Contractor for Lane County Solid Waste Management Division for the last 5 years
- A registered collector and recycler for the Oregon E-Cycles State Collection Program
- A registered collector for the Manufacturers Recycling Management (MRM) Program
- -A registered collector for the Individual Producer Responsibility Program (IPR)
- A regional collector for the Greensight Electronics Recycling Program
- A regional collector for the Sony TakeBack Electronics Recycling Program
- A participant in eBay Giving Works



Fall 2008 From left to right: Jay Ritcher, Nancy Hines, Dawn Meckel-son, Laurie Kinder, Maradee Girt, Walt Depuy, Jeannie Peterson, Kelly Bell, Naomi Depuy, Janette Friel, Emily Horton, Julie Berndt, Dustin Arnold, Jantzen Lloyd, Annie Lukasik, Cathy Tracy and RaNae Mitchell Not pictured; Maegn Holbrook, Val McLeod, Kathy Presnell, Rich Reuter and Dale Stepp,

27th Annual Public Interest Environment Law Conference U of O School of Law February 26th-March 1st, 2009

“Solidarity! United Action for the Greener Good”

When leading defenders of the environment tackle the immense problems facing our planet and its inhabitants, they never attempt to address the issues alone. Instead, they identify and maximize their shared missions and work cooperatively to find solutions. The students of Land Air Water (LAW) at the University of Oregon are pleased to announce that they will host the annual conference of the National Association of Environmental Law Societies (NAELS) and the Environmental Alliance Worldwide (ELAW) in conjunction with the 27th annual PIELC. We look forward to seeing you at the conference to celebrate an environment of collaboration.

February



Wednesday March 4th, 2009 6 - 9pm
Glenwood Central Receiving Station Building C

POTLUCK!

BRING: A dish or non-alcoholic beverage to share and your own place setting. We have dishes and utensils if you forget. **MOVIE TBA**

ACTIVITY: Letter writing campaign- tell your legislator that you don't want pharmaceuticals going in the landfill and waste water. Drug companies need to take them back!

March

March 6, 2009 9am - 3pm Lane County Fairgrounds



100+ agencies will be at the Lane County Fairgrounds on Friday March 6, to offer assistance with all aspects of basic needs to 1, 500+ people who are homeless. Food and entertainment will be offered. Bike repair, haircuts and animal kenneling will be provided.

We strive to be a ZERO WASTE event.
Shifts are available:
Thurs 3/5 setup 1- 4pm
Friday 3/6 8am - noon
Friday 3/6 11:30am - 3:30 pm
Friday 3/6 breakdown 3:30-7:30pm

Free t-shirts provided for all volunteers.
Master Recyclers are welcome to volunteer for longer periods or to help coordinate waste diversion for this event.
Contact BJ at 342-5027 or bjhurwich@yahoo.com



March 21-22, 2009 9am - 4pm Junction City

The Long Tom Grange Daffodil Festival will be held Saturday and Sunday, March 21-22, 9am - 4pm.

Last year was our first "going green" endeavor ... to be continued, refined and improved each year.
Master Recyclers are needed to top sort and educate guests about the recycling and composting system.

Morning and afternoon shifts are available. Lunch is provided if you can work all day.
Contact Jo Holzbauer to volunteer for a shift at 998-5364 or jo.holzbauer@gotsky.com

11th Annual Earth Day Celebration
Saturday April 18th, 2009 11am-5pm

EWEB's River Edge Plaza • 500 E 4th Ave • Eugene
Celebrate the Earth and its resources. Features include educational activity booths, the John H. Baldwin Film and Lecture Series, two musical stages, a Procession of All Species and much more. 40+ volunteers are needed to staff all aspects of this FREE event. Contact Kelly @ kelly.bell@co.lane.or.us or 682-2059 if you would like to help set-up the day before, unload vehicles the morning of or volunteer for a shift during the event.

April

BRING IT HOME

Seeking Attention Seekers!

Do you like to be in the spotlight? Impress the neighbors? Be the talk of the town?

Do you *also* have a home or garden that makes creative reuse of materials? Perhaps a storage shed pieced together from discarded garage doors; a fence made from recycled gutters; or even a bird condo using an old set of stairs?

If so, we'd like to BRING the attention right to your doorstep.

BRING IT HOME will be the premiere Home & Garden tour of creative reuse projects across the Eugene-Springfield area. Sponsors **BRING** Recycling and the **Eco Builders Guild** are currently accepting entries from property owners who would like to showcase their inventive and eco-friendly home construction solutions. It's okay to show off! (And we'll help you do it).

Want in? Have a question? Contact BRING's Michele Piastro for details @ 541-606-9093.



BRING IT HOME
 July 26th, 2009 from 10am to 5pm
 **Tickets go on sale June 1st
 **Sponsorships are available



Cottage Grove Home & Garden Show May 2nd-3rd

Cottage Grove High School 1375 S River Road
 Master Recycler Volunteers wanted: Saturday & Sunday 10-6
 Host Recycle Jeopardy! or Top-sort and educate Contact
 Kelly at 682-2059 or kelly.bell@co.lane.or.us if you would
 like to staff the Master Recycler booth or top sort bins and
 educate the recycling public.

Springfield Clean-up May 16th

South B street lot (off South 16th)
 Master Recyclers needed 8am-4pm to help unload vehicles and
 educate the public and other volunteers in the art of recycling
 Sign up for a 2 hour shift or work all day. Free t-shirt (for early
 sign-ups) and lunch provided. Come join us for a day of recy-
 cling – all efforts deeply appreciated. Contact Todd Thompson
 with the City of Springfield to volunteer for a shift at 912-1389
 or tthompson@ci.springfield.or.us

May

ASUO Spring Street Faire
 May 6th- 8th

University of Oregon
 Volunteers needed to manage recycling and com-
 posting at waste stations. Contact Nick Schultz
 to volunteer at 346-2354 or crsec@uoregon.edu

Willamette Valley Music Fest
 May 16th-17th

Cuthbert Amphitheater
 Enjoy the music and help folks compost their
 plate and recycle their can! Contact Nick Schultz
 to volunteer at 346-2354 or crsec@uoregon.edu



3100 E 17th Ave
Eugene, OR 97403

Phone: 541-682-2059
Fax: 541-682-2353

E-mail: kelly.bell@co.lane.or.us

Please report volunteer hours. Include: date, #of hours, activity, a contact person, and the # of people served!

Event Coordinators-After an event please fax your volunteer sign-in sheets attn: Kelly at fax #682-2353 to insure that Master Recyclers receive credit towards "payback."

Keep Old Medicines Out of Drains and Toilets, continued

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the 2009 Oregon Legislature will have the opportunity to frame a solution. Two different agencies are working on draft legislation, either of which could result in a functional collection program for pharmaceuticals and medications.

The Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies facilitated high-level, multi-stakeholder planning efforts in 2006 and 2007. The result is a comprehensive, well thought out draft legislation that would result in a producer-funded take back program, much like the program in British Columbia. In addition, the Oregon DEQ has drafted a Product

Stewardship Framework proposal for legislative review this year. This could result in a framework system of reviewing specific materials for product stewardship requirements. Product Stewardship is primarily aimed at items that are difficult or expensive to recycle, or harmful to people and the environment when disposed incorrectly.

Making producers responsible for the end-of-life of products not only ensures items are correctly recycled, reused or destroyed, but it also encourages waste prevention changes in the design, manufacturing and distribution of products. Most importantly,

Product Stewardship programs shift the financial burden of proper disposal from taxpayers back to producers who profited by making the material in the first place. If passed, pharmaceuticals will join mercury, paint, tires, and chemicals on the waiting list, but with enough input from citizens, it could quickly float to the top.

You can be part of the solution. Talk it up. Ask your friends what they do with their old drugs. Make sure none still ascribe to the old ways. Ask your pharmacy and medical providers what they tell people –and correct them firmly-but politely, if they say flush ‘em.

Speak out! Call or write your Senators and Representatives, invite your friends to do so, too. Let them know you want to protect Oregon’s rivers and drinking water. Stay informed. Visit www.oracwa.org to get the latest information on legislation drafted by the Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies’ work group, and search the web for info periodically through the legislative session to see how these proposals are fairing.

In the meantime, Lane County’s Household Hazardous Waste Program can accept all non-controlled medications. Call 682-3111 for preparation instructions.