

Landmark medicine return law in King County

We had a big victory this year with the passage of a law requiring drug companies to provide take-back and safe disposal of unwanted medicine from King County residents! The program will help keep medicines out of our waterways and should be up and running in about 18 months. This is only the second such law in the country, and Zero Waste Washington is proud to have been one of the leaders of the highly effective, diverse coalition that helped make it happen.



Holding the line on fluorescent light recycling

Despite industry attempts to weaken Washington's mercury-containing lights recycling law, Zero Waste Washington and our partners successfully prevented any damaging changes. However, the statewide recycling program for fluorescent lights has been delayed and we expect this issue to go back to the legislature in 2014. Zero Waste Washington contributed to passing the original law and will continue to work tenaciously for a producer-financed recycling program for mercury-containing lights.

Collaborating on carpet recycling

In Washington, most old carpet is thrown into landfills or incinerated. More carpet recycling means less waste, more recovered materials for use in new products, and fewer greenhouse gas emissions. Zero Waste Washington, in partnership with Seattle Public Utilities and King County LinkUp, has launched a project to significantly increase the recycling of carpet throughout Washington. Our goals are to learn more about carpet recycling in Washington, explore ways to increase recycling, and build a diverse coalition to tackle challenges and consider joint strategies.



Legislative update

Zero Waste Washington supported manufacturer-led efforts to pass recycling laws for paint and rechargeable batteries. While neither of these bills passed during this tough legislative session, our persistence builds momentum for future successes. In addition, we supported efforts to protect the Model Toxics Control Act from harmful amendments, and helped successfully preserve state grant funding for citizen involvement in cleanup of hazardous sites and in waste prevention and recycling programs.

Sharing, communities, and a new direction

During a fruitful planning process in 2012, Zero Waste Washington renewed our commitment to big-picture policy change and embraced an exciting new strategic direction to model zero waste on the community level. Now, we are launching a Community-Powered Sharing Project in a low income neighborhood that will show how shared ownership can reduce waste and build stronger community connections. Residents will create a lending library stocked with durable long-lived products such as tools, party supplies, or toys that can be shared by many.



Partnering to recycle children's car seats

270,000. That's the number of children's car seats that are discarded each year in Washington, and each one contains about 15 pounds of rigid plastic, metal, nylon and foam that could instead be recycled. Even better, car seats that have passed a safety inspection can be reused! Zero Waste Washington is excited to announce a new partnership with CoolMom to expand opportunities for parents in Seattle and King County to reuse or recycle unwanted car seats. We look forward to telling you more about this project in 2014.

E-Cycle reaches 200 million pounds

Zero Waste Washington and our partners did the heavy lifting to pass a stewardship law for computers and TVs back in 2006, but the benefits keep coming! The five-year old E-Cycle Washington program, which is financed by electronics manufacturers, has provided \$47 million in recycling services, created 125 jobs, recycled 200 million pounds of electronics, and kept 13 million pounds of lead out of the environment.

Your voice for zero waste

Zero Waste Washington works hard to stay aware of emerging issues, develop smart responses, and participate in key meetings so that we can serve as the public's voice for zero waste. In 2013, we participated on the State Waste 2 Resources Advisory Committee, the King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee, and a workgroup exploring commingled recycling improvements. We also are on the steering committee of CRADLE2, a national collaborative effort of non-profits in nine states to promote cradle-to-cradle solutions for zero waste.