

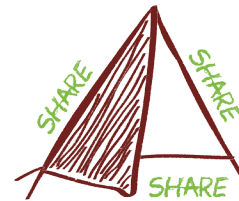
Give your child's old car seat a new life

If you've wondered what to do with your child's outgrown car seat, you're not alone! Zero Waste Washington is working with CoolMom to expand car seat reuse and recycling options for families in King County. Our first car seat event in Seattle was a great success, bringing in just over 160 seats for reuse and recycling. Our longer term goal is to bring about a convenient and ongoing program, with a strong local dismantling and processing infrastructure and sustainable financing. You can learn more and track our progress by going to our new website, recycleyourcarseat.org.



Lights recycling coming soon!

A manufacturer-established program to recycle fluorescent bulbs and tubes throughout Washington is set to launch in January 2015. The law establishing this long-awaited program was a negotiated agreement between stakeholders to address the thorny issue of how to pay for the program. Zero Waste Washington supported this bill because of the critical need to properly recycle lights that contain highly toxic mercury. Now, we're monitoring progress to ensure that the program is convenient for residents and meets the intent of the law.



Waste prevention meets community connection

What can prevent waste, save money, and help build connections with our neighbors? Community sharing projects! Think book libraries but for things like tools, kid's toys, outdoor gear, or durable party supplies – whatever people want to borrow rather than buy. Zero Waste Washington is working to create a lending library in south King County while connecting with people to support their leadership on zero waste. We've connected with 38 community and religious groups, and gained input from over 120 people! Now, we're working with the City of Federal Way to bring community members together to develop the project.



Collaborating on carpet recycling

Sometimes it takes good questions and lots of listening. That's what Zero Waste Washington has been doing to figure out how to increase reuse and recycling of carpet in Washington. Working with our government partners, we gathered information and ideas from key people through in-depth interviews, an on-line survey, and a stakeholder summit. We're sharing the results, which will inform how we and others move forward. We're still planning next steps, but it's clear that carpet recycling is in crisis because of all the unrecyclable carpet made from PET (a specific plastic resin) and that manufacturers need to be part of the solution.

State policy action

During the 2014 legislative session, Zero Waste Washington weighed in on bills related to mercury-containing lights, paint stewardship, composting, and incineration. The lights bill passed (see above) and the bill defining energy from waste-to-energy incineration as a renewable resource was defeated – both good things. While the paint stewardship bill was not successful, we expect it to be considered again in 2015.

Local policy action

At the local level, we supported a successful Seattle ordinance to prohibit food waste from disposal as garbage. This step will have a big impact on increasing Seattle's recycling rate and decreasing greenhouse gases that contribute to climate disruption. We also testified at a King County Board of Health hearing on rulemaking regarding the secure medicine return policy. The rules were adopted, taking us one step closer toward a manufacturer-provided take back program.

Your voice for zero waste

Zero Waste Washington works hard to respond to emerging issues in strategic ways. This year, we joined a workgroup that is reviewing definitions of solid waste and recycling as part of a Department of Ecology process to update solid waste handling rules. We also provided comments on Ecology's 2014 update of the State's Solid and Hazardous Waste Plans. Because communication and collaboration is essential, we continued participating on the State Waste 2 Resources Advisory Committee and on the steering committee of CRADLE2, a national effort of non-profits working to promote cradle-to-cradle solutions for zero waste.



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