

### Tacoma Tool Library – all about community!

We're making it possible for more families to embrace sharing as a way to decrease waste and build community connections. Zero Waste Washington reached out in a number of communities, and now a steering committee of enthusiastic residents are creating the Tacoma Tool Library with plans to open its doors in early 2016! This will be a place where residents can borrow a wide variety of tools at little or no cost and take workshops to develop skills from sewing to woodworking to basic home repair. While a number of tool libraries exist in Seattle, this will be the first in Tacoma. Zero Waste Washington is continuing to provide support, and we're excited to help spread this great model to other parts of the state.



### Paint take-back next year?

During the 2015 legislative session, Zero Waste Washington weighed in on bills about recycling funding, microbeads, and detachable tabs on aluminum cans. We also supported important legislation requiring manufacturers to set up a safe and convenient program to recycle leftover latex paint and properly dispose of toxic oil-based paint. Eight states including our neighbors to the south, Oregon and California, already have similar programs in place and it's time for Washington to join them! Although the bill didn't pass this year, it remains our key policy goal as the 2016 legislative session approaches.

### Old car seat, new life



A couple years ago, Zero Waste Washington and nonprofit CoolMom teamed up to make children's car seat recycling a reality in King County. Since then, we've done lots of research, knocked on many business and government doors, and ran three collection events that brought in 325 car seats for reuse or recycling. Now, we're delighted to announce that a local recycler is accepting car seats for dismantling on an ongoing basis and families can drop off seats for recycling at a handful of locations in Seattle and King County. We're also excited to share what we've learned through a comprehensive issue paper, compelling outreach materials, and a user-friendly website at [recycleyourcarseat.org](http://recycleyourcarseat.org).

## Light recycling across Washington

Big-picture changes take persistence and collaboration! Zero Waste Washington worked tenaciously for many years to pass state policy requiring manufacturers to provide a recycling program for mercury-containing lights. This year we saw the results of our hard work: LightRecycle Washington launched its recycling program providing over 300 drop-off locations for fluorescent lights around the state. In its first 9 months of operation, over 700,000 lights were collected for recycling!



## Good data in = good info out

**Question: How many errands do people do when they take a trip to recycle something?**

**Answer: 2.7 on average!**

Zero Waste Washington carried out research to determine how common it is for residents of Puget Sound to perform additional errands when dropping off electronics for reuse or recycling. We learned that about 72% of people do more than one task when they are out recycling their computers or TVs. Why is this information important? Producer-provided recycling programs often use drop-off sites to collect toxic or hard-to-handle products. Rather than assuming that people make an extra car trip to drop off recyclables, this research gives us quantified data that can be used to perform life-cycle assessments of the environmental impacts of these programs.

## Your voice for zero waste

Zero Waste Washington works hard to be the public's voice for zero waste during policy debates and strategic conversations that set the direction for recycling and waste prevention in Washington. This year, we were at the table during a stakeholder dialogue on expanding the electronics recycling law to include printers and other peripherals. We were on a workgroup to review definitions of solid waste and recycling as part of a process to update solid waste handling rules. And we continued participating on the State Waste 2 Resources Advisory Committee and a workgroup exploring commingled recycling improvements.

