



# WASTE NOT

WASHINGTON CITIZENS FOR RESOURCE CONSERVATION

FALL 2009



E-Cycle Washington provides free recycling of computers, monitors, laptops and TVs. To find the drop-off location closest to you, call 1-800-RECYCLE or go to

<http://www.ecyclewashington.org>

Schools, small businesses and small governments with larger quantities can also use the program, but must call 1-866-779-6632 to make arrangements.

E-Cycle Washington does not cover peripherals, accessories, or other electronic devices. For recycling options for this equipment, you can go to the following web sites. Take It Back Network members and e-Stewards are committed to sending electronics to responsible recyclers and typically charge a fee to cover their costs.

<http://www.ban.org/pledge/Locations.html>

<http://www.TakeItBackNetwork.org>

## Riding the Producer Responsibility Wave — What's Next?

Computers, monitors, and TVs are the first products to be collected and recycled in Washington using a mandated producer responsibility approach. Manufacturers have also voluntarily stepped up nationally to recycle rechargeable batteries and mercury-containing thermostats. As momentum builds for this approach, we expect many more toxic or hard-to-handle products to be added to this list. Read more in this newsletter about producer responsibility efforts here in Washington for fluorescent lights and unwanted medicines.



*All Shred, a division of Peninsula Services located in Poulsbo, is one of 240 E-Cycle Washington collectors offering free take-back of computers and TVs.*

## Free and Convenient Recycling of TVs and Computers — Made Possible by Electronics Manufacturers

In 2006, WCRC and our partners successfully passed one of the strongest electronics recycling laws in the country. Now, three years later, there's E-Cycle Washington. In the first 9 months of this landmark recycling program, **over 29 million pounds of old computers and TVs have been collected.** That's about 2,200 units each and every day! And it's all set up and paid for by the producers who make the computers and TVs.

There is no charge to residents dropping off TVs, computer monitors, computers, or laptops. And there are 240 drop-off locations around the state.

If the computer or TV that is dropped off still works, it may be reused through resale or donation. A 2009 addition to the electronics law also allows collectors in the program to repair computers with new parts or parts from other old computers.

The manufacturer-run Washington Materials Management and Financing Authority set up this program on behalf of over 200 participating manufacturers that sell their computers and TVs into Washington. They are using only recyclers who meet "preferred standards" developed by the Department of Ecology, which helps keep our toxic electronic waste from being shipped to developing countries.

With E-Cycle Washington, we're on our way to it being as easy to responsibly recycle a computer or TV as it is to buy one.

Washington was one of the first states in the country to pass an electronics recycling law using a producer responsibility approach. Since then, 15 more states have followed our lead! WCRC helped start a wave that shifts the momentum away from government-funded approaches and establishes producers as the party responsible for setting up and paying for the recycling programs.

## BOARD MEMBERS WANTED

Interested in working with a knowledgeable and fun group of people who are committed to making a difference? Consider joining WCRC's Board of Directors. TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT SUELLEN MELE AT:

[suellen@WasteNotWashington.org](mailto:suellen@WasteNotWashington.org)

### Welcome New Board Members!

WCRC is pleased to welcome two new members to our Board: Cheri Peele and Viki Sonntag.

**Cheri Peele** works as a Senior Associate at Cascadia Consulting Group on environmental policy issues, including product stewardship and chemical policy. Cheri also works with Clean Production Action on greening supply chains and chemical policy. She worked with the Persistent, Bioaccumulative Toxics Initiative at the Washington Department of Ecology from 2001 – 2006, and on solid waste and mercury policy at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs from 1998 – 2001.



**Viki Sonntag** is the founding director of EcoPraxis, a non-profit that works collaboratively with small businesses and community-based organizations to put the vision of sustainable community economies into practice. Current projects include research on the local food economy and developing a sustainability information network based on community indicators. Her PhD thesis examined the relationship of overconsumption in the highly industrialized countries to changes in production technologies.



### Thanks to Our Funders – That Means You!

WCRC gives our heartfelt thanks to all of our wonderful members for your support. Even in this difficult economy, our 2008 autumn fundraising efforts raised more money from more donors than the previous year. One of our members (who asked to remain

### 2009 State Legislature

By *Suellen Mele*,  
WCRC Program Director

Difficult and disappointing. Those are the two words I'd use to describe Washington's 2009 legislative session related to environmental legislation.

WCRC collaborated on two cutting-edge producer responsibility bills this year. The Secure Medicine Return bill, sponsored by Rep. Dawn Morrell and Sen. Adam Kline, requires drug producers to provide and pay for the convenient and secure collection and safe disposal of unwanted medicines from households. The bill was endorsed by over 50 diverse groups, including law enforcement, health and medical organizations, local governments, civic and faith organizations, and environmental groups. But it was fiercely opposed by PhRMA (Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America) and many drug companies. The bill passed through three committees in the House, but did not get a floor vote. This year, Goliath won. But my bet will be on David in 2010.

anonymous, but you know who you are) put out a \$5,000 matching challenge grant asking previous \$100 and over donors to increase their gifts. Many of you did just that, and WCRC received the \$5,000 match. We are so grateful for all your generosity and trust in our work.

WCRC also sends our deep gratitude to the following groups who are funding our work in 2009:

- The Bullitt Foundation
- Department of Ecology (through Public Participation Grants)
- Electronics TakeBack Coalition
- Earth Share of Washington
- Linda Sue Park Fund for Gaia
- Sustainable Path Foundation

### Good-Bye and Thank You

WCRC Board and staff are sadly saying goodbye and sending a heartfelt thank you to Todd Carey and David Stitzhal. Todd Carey has been part of WCRC's staff since 2003. He successfully catalyzed the launch of Take It Back Networks

The Recycling Act for Mercury Containing Lights, sponsored by Rep. Sam Hunt and Sen. Craig Pridemore, would create a producer-provided recycling program for mercury containing lights such as compact fluorescent bulbs. This bill also made it through three committees in the House before it was done for the year. However, a successful budget proviso requires the Department of Ecology to develop recommendations for a convenient and effective mercury-containing lighting program for residents, small businesses and small school districts, and to report back to the legislature by December 2009. As it develops its recommendation, Ecology is soliciting input from diverse stakeholders – and WCRC is at the table. New inspiration is also coming from Maine which recently passed the first-in-the-nation producer responsibility bill for mercury-containing lights!

So as I look toward the 2010 legislative session, I find myself focusing on two very different words. Tenacious and strategic. That's how I think of WCRC, the superb coalitions of groups, and the legislative champions who are working for these producer responsibility bills.

for electronics in two counties – a clear demonstration of his ability to obtain tangible results and get others excited about recycling. He also was our Office Manager for many years, doing a diversity of tasks with unfailing good humor.

David Stitzhal has served on the WCRC board since 1999. He has an even longer history with the organization, previously working as WCRC's project director for waste reduction and recycling programs. His deep knowledge of the world of toxics, grant smarts, and institutional memory have been critical to the organization's growth and success. Todd and David, we appreciate your many years of service. You've been an important part of our WCRC "family," and we will miss you both!

### WCRC Move

WCRC is moving to a new location! Starting in November, we can be found at 911 Western Avenue (Suite 588), Seattle, WA 98104. Our phone number and email addresses will remain the same.

## 25,000 Pounds of Unwanted Medicines Collected

A pilot project to securely take back medicines from households operated at 25 Group Health Cooperative pharmacies and 12 select Bartell Drugs locations in Washington. Although the pilot officially ended, Group Health Cooperative and Bartell Drugs are continuing to provide the program as a public service. With limited advertising, close to 25,000 pounds of medicines (in original containers) have been collected so far. It's clear that demand for a safe way to dispose of

unwanted medicines is high! For information about participating pharmacies and what can be returned, go to <http://www.medicinereturn.com>

A diverse coalition of representatives and advisers— including WCRC — were involved with this pilot, which was funded with short-term grants and in-kind government contributions. However, an ongoing sustainable statewide program will need ongoing sustainable funding. That's why WCRC is pushing for secure medicine return legislation requiring drug manufacturers to set up and pay for a statewide return program for unwanted medicines from households.

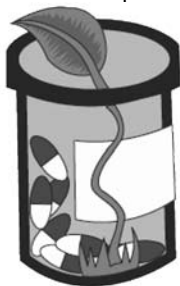


Secure medicine return for residents at select Bartell Drugs locations.

## Pharmaceutical Waste Reduction – Looking Upstream

WCRC is working hard on secure disposal for our unwanted medicines. We are also asking, “How can we reduce the amount of drug waste that gets created in the first place”? For the past two years we've been working with health care providers to develop solutions and educate on how to reduce medicine waste from households. We have been working on both long-term and immediate strategies aimed at payers (insurers), pharmaceutical manufacturers, healthcare practitioners, and consumers.

WCRC is working on a national summit



that will bring together key stakeholders to encourage waste reduction strategies. One example of a solution is insurance providers promoting starter packs of small quantities of medicine for certain new treatments, which could cut down on the economic and environmental costs from wasted drugs. There are also steps that we consumers can take. For example, we can try to buy only the amount of medicine we will use and no more.

To learn more about what can be done by drug manufacturers, insurance providers, doctors, and consumers, go to [www.medicinereturn.com/waste-reduction](http://www.medicinereturn.com/waste-reduction). We also have pamphlets for health care practitioners; let us know if you'd like some.

## NOTEWORTHY

### Recycling Fluorescent Lights

Switching to energy efficient fluorescent lighting is an important step in conserving energy and reducing greenhouse gases. However, each fluorescent bulb and tube contains a small amount of mercury, a potent neurotoxin that needs special handling when discarded. To provide opportunities to recycle these mercury containing lights, WCRC partnered with Pierce County and Tacoma to launch a “Take it Back Network” for fluorescent lights, modeled off an existing program in King County. These networks are made up of retailers that provide residents with convenient opportunities to responsibly recycle fluorescent lights. Check the following website for participating locations and cost: <http://www.takeitbacknetwork.org>

As part of this project, WCRC also encouraged retailers to stock less toxic lighting. We produced a document that describes greener lighting alternatives, available on our website at [www.wastenotwashington.org](http://www.wastenotwashington.org).

In the long term, WCRC wants to see manufacturers take responsibility for collecting and recycling burned out fluorescent bulbs and tubes. See the related article on the 2009 State Legislature for an update on our efforts to get legislation passed toward this goal.

### WCRC to Launch New Outreach Campaign

This fall, WCRC will kick off a strategic outreach campaign to spread the word about producer responsibility and build citizen interest. We'll reach out to residents and influential individuals, asking them to tell us about their experiences with E-Cycle Washington and requesting new actions – like signing on to support producer responsibility principles. Stay tuned for lots more on this campaign!





# WASTE NOT

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## Washington Citizens for Resource Conservation

WCRC is the public's voice for recycling and zero waste. We protect people and our natural world by advocating for products designed and produced to be healthy, safe, and continually recycled and reused.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Laura Blackmore, *Chair*  
Emma Johnson, *Treasurer*  
Christine Hanna,  
*Fundraising Committee Chair*  
Cheri Peele, *Secretary*  
Viki Sonntag, *Vice Chair*

### STAFF

Eva Dale, *Project Manager*  
Suellen Mele, *Program Director*

## Supporting WCRC

Your membership is essential to WCRC's efforts to prevent waste and advocate for product stewardship. Please consider donating by using the enclosed envelope or going to our website at <http://www.WasteNotWashington.org>. Through EarthShare Washington, you can also support WCRC and other leading conservation nonprofits at work through a payroll contribution. Ask your human resources professional, or visit <http://www.esw.org>.



## New Name for WCRC

We want to give you a "heads up" that WCRC will soon have a new name. While our current name has served us well for many years, we are looking for a name that more clearly conveys our vision and increases excitement about our work. We hope to make an announcement in the coming months.

### WCRC's Annual Meeting & Holiday Party

**Tuesday, December 15, 2009, 5 – 7:30 p.m.**

**620 – 36th Ave, Seattle 98122 (home of Laura Blackmore, Board Chair)**

WCRC's board and staff invite you to celebrate the season and our 2009 successes. We'll also elect board members at a brief business meeting. (If you are unable to attend, contact Suellen at 206-441-1790 to obtain a ballot).

Beer, wine and ample appetizers will be provided.

PHONE: 206-441-1790 • EMAIL: [INFO@WASTENOTWASHINGTON.ORG](mailto:INFO@WASTENOTWASHINGTON.ORG) • WEBSITE: [WWW.WASTENOTWASHINGTON.ORG](http://WWW.WASTENOTWASHINGTON.ORG)



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