

2017 Zero Waste Washington Legislative Work

Zero Waste Washington's #1 priority at the state legislature in 2017 was SHB 1047 - the Secure Drug Take-back bill - which was championed by Representative Strom Peterson. We made significant progress on this bill but it did not make it all the way through. All of the bills we supported did not make it through.

Bills that did not pass:

- ***Secure Medicine Return (SHB 1047 - the Secure Drug Take-back bill)*** was championed by Representative Strom Peterson. We put significant resources into support of this bill. Secure Medicine Return ordinances that are similar to SHB 1047 had passed in King, Kitsap, Snohomish and Pierce counties. The manufacturers' program launched in King County in January 2017 with more than 99 secure medicine drop boxes. The other county programs were expected to start later in 2017. This means that 58% of the state's population would soon have access to takeback boxes at local drugstores, medical centers and sheriff's offices where old, unused medicines can be dropped off for safe disposal, paid for by the pharmaceutical industry. Zero Waste Washington and a coalition of agencies and organizations supported these ordinances because of concerns about the opioid epidemic, suicide prevention, children's poisonings, and drugs getting into fish in our rivers, lakes and marine waters. Our goal was to make this program available to ALL of the residents of Washington.
- ***Paint (SHB 1376 - Concerning paint stewardship)***: Requiring stewardship of used latex paint. This bill had come up several times for the past few years and would have been a major step forward for Washington if passed.
- ***Recycling solar panels (HB 1048 - Promoting a sustainable, local renewable energy industry through modifying renewable energy system tax incentives and providing guidance for renewable energy system component recycling)***: This bill was primarily about solar incentives and included language requiring guidance for solar module product stewardship plans and implementation.
- ***Tire fee (HB 1191 - Eliminating the fee on the retail sale of vehicle tire)***: Repealing the one-dollar fee on the retail sale of new replacement vehicle tires, which was established to help pay for cleanup of used tire dumps and to stimulate tier recycling.
- ***Children's computers. (HB 1596 - Requiring manufacturers of electronics to report the presence of high priority chemicals under the children's safe products act)***. Adding children's electronics to the list of products in the Children's Safe Products Act.
- ***E-waste recycling. (SHB 1824 - Concerning electronic product recycling)***. Updating the E-Cycle law that Zero Waste Washington championed in 2009. Adds transparency and sanctions for violations.
- ***PFAS in food packaging (HB 1744 - Concerning the use of perfluorinated chemicals in food packaging)***. Banning the use of Teflon-like chemicals in food packaging including "to go" containers.

Bills that passed (we had concerns):

- ***Fees for Light-Cycle (SB 5762 - Concerning financing of the mercury-containing light stewardship program)***: Decreasing the amount of the annual fee required to be paid by a stewardship organization to the Department of Ecology and would reduce the frequency of independent financial audits to only once every three years (now they are annual). We are concerned about this bill because we want to make sure

that Ecology has enough funds to effectively administer and enforce the program. Also, we are concerned that fewer financial audits will reduce needed transparency of the program.

Environmental Priorities Coalition

Zero Waste Washington is part of the Environmental Priorities Coalition. The Coalition is made up of more than 20 statewide organizations working to safeguard our environment and the health of our communities in the state legislature:

- **Oil Transportation Safety** (HB 1611) - Addressing a \$3.6 million funding shortfall in state oil spill prevention programs, improve oil spill prevention for Puget Sound, and provide more public input on proposed oil pipeline projects.
- **Protecting All Communities From Toxic Pollution** (HB 2182) - Stabilizing funding to clean up thousands of toxic sites, prevent and control pollution, and provide grants to support communities dealing with a toxic pollution threat.
- **Water for People, Farms, and Fish** - Providing reliable water supplies for rural homeowners, local farmers, and the rivers and streams our state relies on.