

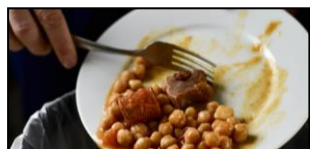
Zero Waste Washington 2019 Year in Review



WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATORS PASSED FIVE ZERO WASTE BILLS

Wow, what a banner year! Thanks to tireless work by legislative champions supported by advocacy from Zero Waste Washington, our members and partners, we celebrated five new pieces of statewide zero waste legislation this year:

- ✓ **Paint stewardship:** Soon, Washington residents will be able to take their leftover paint to collection sites, including paint stores, so that latex paint can be recycled back as paint sold at places like Habitat for Humanity and oil-based paint can be re-used or safely disposed. Championed by Representative Strom Peterson, Washington now joins 8 other states and Washington DC with this product stewardship program. Be sure to hang onto your old paint till next November, so you can take it back!
- ✓ **Plastic Package Stewardship:** This law authorized a study that will gather data to support legislation in 2021 that would dramatically improve our recycling system in Washington. Similar to programs in place in EU and in British Columbia, the end-of-life of all plastic packaging would be responsibly managed by the producers. We'd like to particularly thank zero waste champion, Senator Christine Rolfes, for her steadfast leadership on this issue and, along with partners, look forward to working with her to draft the groundbreaking legislation in 2021.



- ✓ **Food waste:** Food waste accounts for a shocking 17% of the load to our landfills by weight. Representative Beth Doglio championed legislation to cut this waste in half by 2030, relative to 2017 levels. Now, work is getting started to assess and plan for this change at the Department of Ecology, cities, and counties across the state.

- ✓ **Compostability labeling:** "Is this compostable or not?" It's so confusing! That's why we are so proud of the legislation spearheaded by Representative Bill Ramos, authorizing the state's attorney general and local governments to pursue false or misleading environmental claims for plastic products claiming to be "compostable" or "biodegradable" when in fact they are not. This law also requires clear and easy-to-understand labeling on compostable products sold in Washington. Compostable bags must be green- or brown-tinted and utensils will have to be clearly marked!



- ✓ **Sustainable Recycling.** Led by Representative Jared Mead and requested by Department of Ecology, this law creates a recycling development center to research, incentivize, and develop new markets for recyclable commodities. It also requires creation of plans to reduce contamination in the recycling stream. This will spur local jobs!

EVEN MORE COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE STATE SAY FAREWELL TO PLASTIC



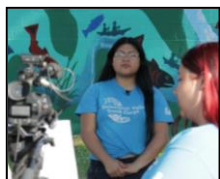
Dozens of volunteers and community members across the state are partnering with Zero Waste Washington to legislate plastic carryout bags and styrofoam food serviceware out of their communities. To date, there are 35 reusable bag ordinances and 9 food serviceware ordinances in place in Washington. More are in the works! And stay tuned for statewide bills in 2020!

BRING YOUR OWN CONTAINER GAINING STEAM

Most people don't know that it is currently illegal to bring in your own container for food. The state department of health is updating its food safety code and has been highly responsive to Zero Waste Washington and the hundreds of Washingtonians who sent in comments supporting *bring your own container*. If the state adopts new language in 2020, customers will be allowed to bring their own containers to restaurants and grocery stores.



DUWAMISH VALLEY YOUTH LEAD THE WAY



In partnership with the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition and funded by King County, and the King Conservation District, we launched two projects with the Duwamish Valley Youth Corps. While learning job preparedness skills, the students are doing litter assessments, creating videos about waste prevention and plastic pollution, doing outreach to businesses about ways to reduce their single-use plastic food serviceware, and talking to decision-makers. The youth voice is powerful!