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Spring 2016 News from Zero Waste Washington

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NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2016

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Zero Waste will miss you, Suellen!

Written by Nanda Guajardo, Board Chair

Recently, the Zero Waste Washington Board of Directors has been thinking of Suellen as a unicorn. A rare, magical, bright being that has created Zero Waste Washington into a small-but-mighty non-profit with a profoundly large reach. With grace, passion and sincere devotion, Suellen has worked tirelessly for the past 12 years to get more done for a small organization than most typical humans could do. But Suellen isn't a figment, she's a *real*, incredible woman and I am so fortunate to have collaborated with her for the past six years.

And now, after so many years, Suellen is transitioning out of her leadership at Zero Waste Washington...[continue reading](#) →

Producer responsibility programs a big success

For more than a dozen years, Zero Waste Washington has spoken out for producer responsibility. We want manufacturers to provide convenient and responsible recycling programs for the products they make. We've tenaciously and strategically educated, organized, collaborated, written policy, and lobbied to make this approach a reality. Now, two landmark producer responsibility laws for electronics and mercury-containing lights are operating in Washington. And a medicine take-back program is in the works in King County.

Have these programs made a difference? Yes!!

[continue reading](#)→



Over 300 million lbs of electronics recycled!

Almost 1 million fluorescent lights recycled!

Analyzing drop-off recycling: Zero Waste Washington investigates one component to help us puzzle together the full picture!

Question: How common is it for people to do multiple errands when they are dropping off their electronics for reuse or recycling?

Answer: Very common! An estimated 72% of people in the Puget Sound area do more than one task when they are out recycling their electronic waste.

Question: How many errands do people take on when they take a trip to recycle their electronics?

Answer: 2.71 on average!

In 2015, Zero Waste Washington carried out research to determine how common it is for residents of Puget Sound to carry out additional errands when dropping off electronics for

reuse or recycling. The study has been summarized, including the results, in our report... [continue reading](#) →

Tacoma Tool Library grand opening!

The Tacoma Tool Library is now open! Zero Waste Washington has been advocating and organizing for community sharing and planted the seed for this fantastic project just over a year ago. Now this community-led project is up and running and welcoming people into the Tacoma Tool Library space.

Grand Opening Party
May 14 2016, 7pm to 10pm
1314 MLK Jr Way, Tacoma, WA 98405

Enjoy food, drinks, and entertainment and learn more about the library with your fellow celebrators. Check out their [website](#) or [Facebook event page](#) for more information!

Zero Waste Washington is fiscally sponsoring the Tacoma Tool Library, and you will see us at the party too!



TACOMA
TOOL LIBRARY

GiveBIG for Zero Waste!



On Tuesday May 3rd, your donations to Zero Waste Washington will be matched, dollar for dollar and then some, up to a total of \$5,000 if you donate through the Seattle Foundation's online GiveBIG event. You can even schedule your donation [now](#) for May 3rd.

As always, your support lets Zero Waste Washington fight for system changes. Here's what your contribution means to Zero Waste:

\$50 – allows us to give a presentation to a community group on producer responsibility

\$100 – will send a staff member to testify on a bill fighting for zero waste in Washington

\$250 – means we can organize a community meeting about sharing for waste prevention

Support medicine take-back in Snohomish County

The Snohomish County Board of Health is considering policy to establish a medicine take-back program that is provided and financed by drug manufacturers and convenient for residents throughout the county. If you live in Snohomish County, please let the Board of Health know that you support a producer-provided take-back program for unwanted medicines! You can contact them at medicines@snohd.org or testify at a public hearing on May 10. Click [here](#) for more information about the proposed policy and how to provide input.



The proposed policy will create a safer and more environmentally-sound alternative to flushing unwanted medicines into our water systems or throwing them in the trash. It will also be an important part of a comprehensive approach to help prevent accidental poisonings and abuse of pharmaceuticals.

While law enforcement agencies in Snohomish County have voluntarily stepped up to provide take-back programs for unwanted medicines, it's uncertain whether they will be able to continue paying for them in the future. The proposed producer-financed approach will provide sustainable funding to ensure a sustainable program.

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2016 Legislative Session: Holding the line

Zero Waste Washington continues to work hard for zero waste policy. During the 2016 Legislative Session, we took a strong stand in support of good policy on paint stewardship and solar panel recycling. This year it was also critical to hold the line against bills to

weaken environmental laws. We opposed harmful policy on public participation grants and the design of aluminum beer cans. [Read more about the results.](#)

Help us find our new director

Zero Waste Washington is searching for an Executive Director to hold our zero waste vision, provide strong and collaborative leadership, and build organizational capacity. Please help us spread the word about this job opening! Go to our [website](#) or click [here](#) to see the job announcement.

Zero Waste Washington is the public's voice for zero waste. Our members are at the heart of all we do. Your tax-deductible contribution directly supports our tenacious, effective advocacy both for big-picture change and on the ground in our community. **[Thank you!](#)**

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