

Zero Waste Washington celebrates 40 years!



THE BEGINNING: ACTIVISTS ADVOCATING FOR A BOTTLE DEPOSIT SYSTEM

In 1979, after I-64 (*Washington Beverage Container Deposit*) was defeated at the ballot box, the proponent activists decided to form a new statewide waste organization: Washington Citizens for Recycling (which evolved to a 501(c)(3) in 1982). Our organization has since had an illustrious history helping define Washington as a national leader in reducing waste, recycling, composting, fighting incineration and more.

Over 40 years, we have lobbied, hosted important workshops, “watchdogged” issues, worked with youth, and educated the public and decision-makers on the nuances of waste issues. Major efforts include:

- ✓ Successfully working to pass the best and defeat the worst of over **70 waste laws**, many first-in-the-nation
- ✓ Researching thorny waste problems to identify solutions for used oil, recycled content, bleached paper, toxics, tires
- ✓ Piloting takeback programs and other initiatives that led to the eventual passage of key producer responsibility laws

We honor the many individuals who have been part of our history - board, staff, volunteers, partners, funders, members and supporters. **Thank you for making it happen!**

Zero Waste Washington 2022 Year in Review

GROUNDBREAKING COMPOSTING BILL PASSED

Although it was a short legislative session, there was a flurry of activity on zero waste-related bills. Four passed into law: addressing better extraction and monitoring of landfill gas (HB 1663); regulating toxic chemicals in products (HB 1694); siting energy facilities (HB 1812); and ... a major bill to **reduce organic material** – yard and food waste – in our landfills. This bill (HB 1799) was championed by Representative Joe Fitzgibbon and Senator Mona Das. In landfills, organic material rots and turns into methane gas, a potent greenhouse gas. This new law, signed by Gov Inslee on March 25 will:

- ✓ Reduce barriers for donating surplus food
- ✓ Increase composting and anaerobic digestion in WA by increasing organics collection and facilities
- ✓ Require businesses to divert their organic waste
- ✓ Provide grants to farmers for compost
- ✓ Make it easier to ID compostable foodware



Governor Inslee, Rep. Fitzgibbon and many partners at the signing of HB1799

Looking to 2023: Zero Waste Washington and our many terrific partners are tee'ing up big bills to modernize our

recycling system and reduce packaging (including, harking back to our start in 1979 – a **bottle “bill” deposit** section), make it easy to recycle all batteries, finally get Right to Repair over the finish line (we hope!), and address compostable foodware.

FURNITURE REPAIR PROJECT TAKES OFF



In 2022, we launched a new pilot project to repair donated, damaged furniture and provide the refurbished items to recent refugee families. Fabulous fixers and other volunteers repaired, sanded, stained, painted, and re-sewed/re-upholstered, over 100 furniture items, collectively weighing almost 9,000 lbs. and avoiding 4,180 kgCO₂e.



VIDEOS PRODUCED BY DUWAMISH VALLEY YOUTH AS THEY LEARN ABOUT PLASTIC POLLUTION

In partnership with the Duwamish River Community Coalition, we worked with a cohort of Duwamish Valley Youth Corps students. While learning job preparedness and developing leadership skills, the students assessed litter, **created educational videos about waste prevention and plastic pollution**, and did community outreach about reducing plastic.

AND SO MUCH MORE... We don't have room to describe all of the other amazing activities: Fix-it Fairs in Seattle, Repair Economy Summit, Litter Assessments, Litter Summit, Seattle Refill stations, PreCycle Innovation Challenge, Testing for toxic phthalates in products, Sustainable K-12 cafeterias, Research of WA Repair/Reuse/Rental businesses...**Thank you to all!**