

Environmental Earth News

OSPIRG Updates

Plastics Industry Seeks to Gut OR's Recycling Law

The plastics industry is trying to undermine plastics recycling in Oregon by weakening a recycling law (SB 66) passed unanimously by the 1991 Oregon Legislature.

The law requires rigid plastic containers to be made with 25 percent recycled content. If a package cannot be made using recycled content, the law gives the plastics industry three other options including reusable packaging, reduced weight packaging or packaging being recycled at a 25 percent rate.

industry is still trying to weaken the bill through other means.

Since more than 50 percent of plastic packaging is food packaging, the proposed changes would mean that the majority of plastic packaging would not be required to meet any recycling standard at all. Under these changes plastic packaging such as milk jugs would not have to be recycled in the state.

"The 1991 legislature unanimously passed SB 66 because Oregonians recognized the need to improve plastics recycling in Oregon," said OSPIRG Environmental Advocate Lauri Aunan, a lead lobbyist for the law. "Oregonians do not want the plastics they recycled to be buried or burned, and that's why there was such strong citizen support for this law."

"There must be a partnership between government and industry for recycling to succeed. The plastics industry is now trying to back out of its commitment to reach the 25 percent recycling rate."

By requiring plastic packaging to be recycled, SB 66 will boost demand for recycled plastics.

Oregon plastics recycling programs are already in trouble because there is no demand for the recycled plastics. For example, in August 1992, Far West Fibers' 2-4-6 plastics recycling program in the Portland-Metropolitan area failed when the company could not even give the plastics away, and had to pay to have the collected plastics hauled to the nearest processor.

"If SB 66 is weakened by exempting food packaging from recycling standards, or by giving food packaging a delay in meeting the 1995 standards,

Who is the plastics industry?

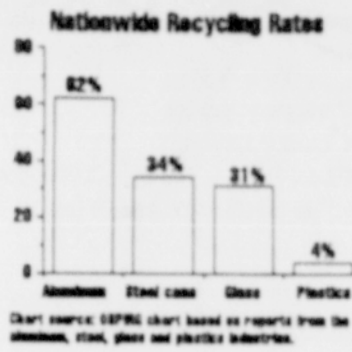
The "plastics industry" includes both producers of plastic and users of plastic. Some examples:

- Chevron Chemical Company
- Dow Chemical Company
- Du Pont
- Exxon
- Union Carbide Corporation
- Procter & Gamble
- Kraft General Foods
- Scott Paper Company

plastics recycling in Oregon may fail," added Aunan.

How you can help plastics recycling

1. Shop for packaging that you can recycle. If a product is available in plastic and in glass, paperboard or metal, choose the type of packaging that you can recycle in your community. It is usually easier to recycle glass or metal than plastic. In many cases, the plastic package is also more expensive.
2. Insist on recycled packaging. Tell your store and the manufacturer that you want packaging that you can recycle in your community and packaging that is made with recycled content (You can use the 1-800 number often printed on the label of a package to call the manufacturer.)
3. Support OSPIRG's plastics recycling agenda by signing OSPIRG's Plastics Recycling Campaign petition (available in Cannon Beach through Billy Hulst), or by meeting with or writing your local legislators to urge them to support the plastics recycling agenda.



In 1993 the SB 66 plastics recycling piece is under attack by the plastics industry who is trying to either exempt plastic food packaging from the law's recycling standards, or delay the law until 1997.

The plastics industry already tried to pressure the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) into recommending to the legislature to weaken the law, but due to citizen pressure (in fact the most citizen comment they ever had on any proposal), the DEQ did not make any recommendations that would weaken or compromise the plastics piece in SB 66. But the plastics

Plastics Recycling Campaign

Dear Oregon Legislature:

We want to recycle plastic packaging, but we need help from the plastics industry to make plastics recycling work. We urge you to support plastics recycling by supporting the following legislation in 1993:

Tough plastics recycling standards. Senate Bill 66, passed in 1991, requires plastic packaging to meet 25% recycling rates in 1995. The legislature should stand firm on SB 66 and strengthen the law by requiring 50% plastics recycling by 2000.

Truth-in-labeling law. Plastics should not be labeled "recyclable" unless consumers have access to convenient recycling. Plastics should not be labeled "recycled" without disclosing the percentages of post-consumer and pre-consumer content.

Recycling Market Development. The legislature should assist industries to fund the Recycling Markets Development Council, and provide tax credits targeted to improve plastics recycling markets.



Name	Address	Phone #
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		

OSPIRG

1836 SE 11TH AVENUE PORTLAND, OR 97214 • (503) 231-4181

HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS

PEACETRACE
recycled paper
503/282-7266
4134 N. Vancouver Ave. • Portland OR 97217

OFFICE PRODUCTS

Pacific Produce

PRODUCE
JUICE BAR
WHEAT GRASS
SMOOTHIES

1235 S. Hemlock, Cannon Beach, Oregon

DONALD LARSEN (503) 287-4777

Renewable Energy Inc.
Solar Energy

- Panels & Storage
- Controls & Parts
- Installation & Service
- Photovoltaics

P.O. Box 18064
Portland, Oregon 97213

EARTH MERCANTILE™

6345 SW Capitol Highway
(in Hillsdale)
Portland
246-4935

Oceana
NATURAL FOODS COOPERATIVE
Member-Owned since 1977

A full-line grocery store specializing in organically-grown produce, grains, herbs, wines and coffees.

413 NW Coast St. - Newport, OR 97365 503-265-8285
Located in Historic New Beach

CANNON BEACH SHUTTLE SCHEDULE

10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Friday - Tuesday
Hourly runs

Going South

Leaves from:	
Les Shirley Park	10:00
Candy Kitchen	05
Coaster	10
Midtown	12
Surforest	14
Tolovana Wayside	15
Haystack Heights	18
Wave Crest	25
Maher	30

Going North

Leaves from:	
Maher & Hemlock	10:30
Tolovana Wayside	35
R.V. Park	40
Midtown	45
Ecola Square	50
White Bird Gallery	55
Les Shirley Park	00

(Not all stops listed)
Shuttle will run going South at 6:10 p.m. from Coaster
Shuttle goes to lunch at 1:10 at Coaster and returns run at Midtown at 2:12 going South

CANNON BEACH ENERGY CONSERVATION PROJECT
P.O. Box 988 Cannon Beach, OR 97102
Phone 468-1000

SPUDS WILDLIFE COLUMN WINTER BIRDS

Birds become somewhat more apparent in the winter. As their background fades to neutral browns and greys, they in turn bring forward in brighter colours. Showing feet are of the birds who have managed to attract attention this month. And there are plenty more. Not included: Robins (no), Starlings, Jays, Blue-headed vireos, Chickadees, etc.

The Varied Thrush is exactly the same size and shape as our common Robins. However, instead of gray and red, it's thrush is black or brown and orange.

The Bohemian Waxwing has bright red and gold highlights. It's often seen in the Cedar Waxwing - the difference is the patch of white on the Bohemian's wings.

An illusive Snowy Owl, rarely seen this far south, was spotted in Astoria. This particular bird is 33 feet tall and soft as a downy chick, though not as friendly.

COMING SOON~
The Don Thompson Memorial
Sewage Lagoon and Wetland
Bird Sanctuary
... Locally and fondly known as
"THOMPSON'S SWAMP"

FOOD FOR PEOPLE, NOT FOR PROFIT

THE COMMUNITY STORE

1000000000

PAYABLE TO PGE'S BAILOUT

\$1,000,000,000

PHASEOUT PLAN

ONE

BIG MISTAKE

\$1,000,000,000

BILLION DOLLAR BAILOUT

1000000000

Dear Upper Left Edge People!

Finally Trojan is closed, but the case is not closed. Far from it. In fact there are very serious questions pending regarding the safety of Trojan and other nuclear facilities throughout the country with the same equipment flaws.

We want the NRC to answer WHY it grants safety waivers to seriously failing facilities, WHY the dissenting scientists were not listened to in a timely manner in Trojan's case in a matter of such importance and consequence and WHY nuclear industry mismanagement means profit for them and burdens for the people both financially and environmentally. CORPORATIONS AND REGULATORY AGENCIES MUST BE MADE TO BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES.

Now that Trojan is closed, all the villains on the scene want to sweep everything under the rug with more public relations explanations, without further investigation. But long time anti-nuclear activists who know the real history of Trojan very well are calling for Congressional Hearings to investigate the issue - not only for Oregonians, but for all those in the shadows of nuclear facilities who are facing similar problems all over the country.

As more nuclear facilities develop equipment flaws and are closed because of safety and economic reasons, decommissioning policies will have to become more defined. Trojan is case one. How this is handled here will set a precedent. If people everywhere demand Congressional Hearings now this case can influence how these policies may be set nationally.

We are fearful for business as usual from the NRC, DOE, PGE and Westinghouse. The results are disastrous for us and for generations to come.

Please feel free to use, edit, copy and distribute any of the enclosed info to get the word out. We can fight this one and win. We may not have a million dollars like PGE, but we're right.

If anyone wants to get in touch directly with DON'T WASTE OREGON, the moving force behind this endeavor contact them at
PO BOX 40729 Portland OR 97240
(503) 637 3549
FAX (503) 637-3549