

Energy & Waste Watcher November 2006

Electronic resource conservation and recycling newsletter for state agency resource coordinators



Declining Recycling Rate

In early October DEQ hosted a forum to discuss Oregon's declining rigid plastic container recycling rate. In general, the law requires that all rigid plastic containers used to package items sold in Oregon must meet at least one of the following requirements: (1) Containers must be made of plastic which is recycled at a rate of at least 25%; (2) Must be made using at least 25% post-consumer recycled content; and (3) Made to be reused at least five times.

If the average recycling rate for all rigid plastic containers in the State exceeds 25%, the requirements of the law are considered to be met.

Since the law was implemented, the recycling rate has exceeded 25%, but preliminary results show that the aggregate recycling rate for 2007 will be below the required 25%. If this happens, container manufacturers will have one year to demonstrate compliance with the law, for example, documenting that their containers are made from at least 25% post-consumer recycled content.

Increased sales of containers with low recycling rates such as water bottles and sport drinks are thought to have contributed to the declining recycling rate.

For more information, see:

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wmc/pubs/docs/sw/RPCInfoMeeting2006.pdf>



Burn Calories Not Fossil Fuels

Biking for an hour at 10 miles per hour (which requires about the same physical effort as a brisk walk) can eat up 408 calories in a 160-pound person. If that person commutes to work via bike at least four days a week (eight miles, round-trip), they can save 54 gallons of gas annually and approximately 1,140 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions.

The Green Guide, November 2006

Recycling Awareness Week November 11 – 18, 2006

The First Recycling Awareness Week in Oregon was in 1986.

Close to 70% of potentially recyclable scrap paper in Oregon each year is collected for recycling.

ORS 459A outlines the State of Oregon agency recycling program. All state agencies are required to comply with the procedures for the separation and collection of solid waste that can be recycled or reused. This includes recycling office paper, cardboard, newsprint, beverage containers, glass, plastics, batteries and toner cartridges.



Alternative Energy Development

This past spring, Governor Kulongoski announced all state agencies will use 100% renewable electricity by 2010.

"I believe the state must lead by example in its consumption of energy," the Governor said. "It is not only good fiscal policy for the taxpayers, but it's also sound policy that will contribute to protecting our environment and promote economic development in Oregon's sustainable industries."

Renewable electricity comes from wind and solar generators, biomass, geothermal sources, or other types of generation that does not rely on non-renewable fuels such as coal or natural gas.

The Governor recently announced the State's support of an offshore ocean wave energy project near Reedsport, headed by Ocean Power Technologies (OPT). OPT has received a preliminary permit from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to develop the project.

For details, see the Governor's Press Releases at:

http://governor.oregon.gov/GOV/p2006/press_031006.shtml

http://governor.oregon.gov/GOV/p2006/press_100206.shtml

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