

# ON THE BEACH

Island County CLCP Newsletter



BATTERIES PG 2-3

## WHAT TO DO WITH DEAD BATTERIES IN WASHINGTON STATE?

There is new legislation proposed that would establish drop-off sites and locations for recycling dead batteries. Read about the Senate bill and what is at stake in Washington State.

CLEANUPS PG 4

## CLEANUP SCHEDULE FOR MARCH-MAY

The cleanup schedule is out for March. We are making our way back to Tuesday cleanups.

If you have any articles or interesting stories to share regarding beach cleanups, please send them in today!

PLASICS PG 4/5

## SOLVING THE PLASTIC PROBLEM TIPS

Learn about the different ways you can keep plastic out of the Salish Sea.

Our March schedule is out and we have a great one. We will be adding Admiralty Cove to our list of beaches to serve, as well as heading there on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

# What to do with dead batteries? Washington lawmakers consider plan to energize recycling

by [Lisa Stiffler](#) on February 16, 2023 at 12:05 pm

(Photo by [John Cameron](#) on [Unsplash](#))

Batteries power all kinds of consumer goods, and their use is rapidly expanding. Seattle plans to [ban gas-powered leaf blowers](#) in favor of clean fuel devices. By 2035, all new cars sold in Washington will be electric.

But batteries, even rechargeable ones, don't last forever. If they're tossed in the trash, they can start fires and leak toxic chemicals into the water and soil. There's also increasing demand for the valuable metals and minerals in batteries, such as lithium and cobalt.



Washington state lawmakers are considering rules for keeping these fuel cells out of landfills. [Senate Bill 5144](#) would require producers of batteries and battery-containing products to fund a state-approved stewardship program for collecting and recycling batteries.

SB 5144 would:

- Require battery producers to participate in the collection of smaller batteries used in consumer electronics by 2027.
- By 2029, the collection system would expand to include medium-format, non-rechargeable batteries weighing between 4.4 to 25 pounds, and rechargeable batteries between 11 to 25 pounds.
- The state's Department of Ecology would need by November to craft preliminary policy recommendations for how to handle electric vehicle batteries.

The measure resonated with Sen. Lisa Wellman (D-Mercer Island), a member of the Senate's Environment, Energy and Technology Committee. At her committee's recent public hearing on the bill, she noted her own challenge with responsibly disposing of dead batteries. The legislation could address a problem many of us face, Wellman said.

"Maybe there is something I can finally do with this bag of batteries," she said.

There is already a voluntary rechargeable battery recycling program in Washington. The [state instructs](#) residents not to put batteries in the trash and to find a drop-off location, which includes transfer stations and retail outlets like Home Depot, Staples and bike shops.



Participating battery manufacturers currently fund [Call2Recycle](#), a nearly 30-year-old nonprofit organization, to manage the collection and logistics of sending the batteries to recycling facilities. The group collected more than 227,000 pounds of batteries in Washington last year. But some producers are “free riders” and don’t contribute to the costs, said Call2Recycle CEO Leo Raudys. And as Wellman demonstrated, the existing program is not sufficiently well-known or promoted.

The new law would add teeth and targets to the effort by:

- requiring all producers of batteries and battery-containing products sold in Washington to participate in the program;
- setting recycling targets of at least 60% for rechargeable batteries and at least 70% for non-rechargeable batteries;
- requiring producers to pay for public education and outreach, and setting goals around promotions;
- establishing requirements that ensure close proximity of drop-off sites for most residents.

These provisions help tackle what Raudys calls one of the hardest things about recycling: the human behavior component. “It’s building awareness and getting people to understand how to recycle,” he said. “You need to make it simple.”

The other big challenge is safely collecting and shipping batteries, particularly as they’re becoming more powerful and there are uncertified manufacturers selling potentially unsafe devices.

“People who do trash hauling and manage waste facilities, they’re continually dealing with fire issues,” Raudys said. His organization, he said, has created a safe solution for shipping.

Batteries collected for recycling are typically sent to facilities where they’re sorted and ground up. More valuable components are reclaimed and reused in manufacturing. There are no battery recycling facilities in the Pacific Northwest. Advocates hope that increased recycling requirements will spur the creation of new sites in underserved areas.

Electric bikes are a growing source of depleted batteries. (GeekWire File Photo / Kurt Schlosser)

Washington state already has disposal stewardship programs for five types of waste: electronics, mercury-containing light bulbs, photovoltaic solar panels, pharmaceuticals and paint.

Nine states and Washington, D.C., have [recycling programs funded by battery producers](#). California passed its rules in September.



This is the fourth time lawmakers in Washington state have considered battery stewardship legislation.

“What’s interesting about Washington is they’re expanding into bigger battery categories,” Raudys said. “That’s a first.”

Two state business organizations and The Rechargeable Battery Association testified against the original bill at the January hearing. Their criticism included concerns about the legislation’s complexity, and requests to slim down oversight of the battery producers and allow them to charge a fee to consumers to cover costs.

Cities, solid waste utilities and enviro-leaning groups came out in support of the measure.

“It’s a comprehensive bill and we are generally very pleased about everything that is in there,” said Heather Trim, executive director of the nonprofit group [Zero Waste Washington](#).

The Senate committee passed a modified version of the bill, which is scheduled for a hearing with a second committee on Feb. 18. It would then go to the full Senate. Courtesy of GeekWire  
<https://www.geekwire.com/2023/washington-state-lawmakers-want-to-make-recycling-dead-batteries-easier>

**COMMUNITY LITTER CLEANUP PROGRAM,  
C.L.C.P.  
MARCH-MAY SCHEDULE**

<b>MARCH 7, 2023</b> FORT CASEY STATE PARK 2:00-4:00	<b>APRIL 25, 2023</b> JOSEPH WHIDBEY STATE PARK 1:00-3:00
<b>MARCH 14, 2023</b> WINDJAMMER CITY PARK 2:00-4:00	<b>MAY 2, 2023</b> FORT CASEY STATE PARK 10:00-12:00
<b>MARCH 21, 2023</b> KEYSTONE SPIT WEST 10:00-12:00	<b>MAY 9, 2023</b> KEYSTONE SPIT WEST 1:00-3:00
<b>MARCH 28, 2023</b> EBEY’S LANDING 1:00-3:00	<b>MAY 16, 2023</b> EBEY’S LANDING 10:00-12:00
<b>APRIL 4, 2023</b> KEYSTONE SPIT EAST 10:00-12:00	<b>MAY 23, 2023</b> WINDJAMMER CITY PARK 1:00-3:00
<b>APRIL 11, 2023</b> WINDJAMMER CITY PARK 1:00-3:00	<b>MAY 30, 2023</b> KEYSTONE SPIT EAST 10:00-12:00
<b>APRIL 18, 2023</b> ADMIRALS COVE BEACH CLUB 10:00-12:00	<b>JUNE 6, 2023</b> ADMIRALS COVE BEACH CLUB 12:00-2:00

## Finding Solutions for Plastic

How can we work together to solve the plastic problem in our seas?

1. Remember that there is no “away” because plastics degrade but don’t disappear
  - a. Buy sustainable products without plastic packaging and try to reuse
2. Ban the Bag!
  - a. Americans throw away over 100 billion plastic bags every year. Try reusable bags
3. Smart shopping.
  - a. Buy only what you need and try second-hand stores
4. Refuse Disposables
  - a. Try not to purchase single-use disposable items
5. Find good alternatives
  - a. Wrap your lunches in reusable cloth, and never buy items containing microbeads
6. Beach Cleanups
  - a. Removing plastic from our beaches is not only removing an eyesore, but it is also helping the environment and ecosystems.
7. Straws
  - a. Refuse straws that are not reusable or recyclable.
8. BYOC (Bring your own cup)
  - a. Try to always bring a reusable cup or mug with you when you travel or go to work.

Courtesy of NAMEPA (North American Marine Environment Protection Association)

<https://namepa.net/education>



### WEEKLY BEACH CLEAN-UPS

These clean-ups are a fun, free, and easy way to give back to you community by keeping pollution from damaging marine organisms in and around Island County. It is easy to participate!



### Purple Card Program

Our Purple Card Program helps those who have marine debris or have cleaned up marine debris and need to dispose of it. There is no charge for disposal of beach litter, all that is required is to sign up! Please see or contact Kacie Dominici for more details or answers to any questions you may have. If you are a member, please don't forget to fill out the [BEACH TRACKER](#) form so that we can keep track of litter disposed and hours volunteered. Thanks again!

CLCP News is news for everyone! If you have an article or story related to beach cleanups or marine debris you would like to share, please send it in today!