



SAUGUS ACTION VOLUNTEERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Holiday 2009

Volume 38, Number 1

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For over 25 years, Saugus Action Volunteers for the Environment has been an instrumental part of the national grassroots environmental movement.



By spearheading local campaigns and participating in statewide initiatives, SAVE is an effective advocate for the protection of our community's health and its natural resources.

Message from the President By Ann Devlin

I was absolutely thrilled to observe so much member participation in SAVE events over the last year. Attendance at the SWAP and Candidate's Night was phenomenal. I hope that this will continue through the new year and that we can all encourage new members to join and participate.

As we head into what is, for most of us, the busiest time of year, please continue to be mindful of our commitment to the environment. Reduce whenever possible by considering buying less and being aware of those items with excessive packaging; reuse wherever possible, especially those gift bags! And recycle, recycle, recycle after the festivities are over.

Please remember to join us at our annual gift wrapping fundraiser (and last event of the year) at Barnes & Noble. This year we will be at the store on Friday the 18th from 5:00 to close and on Saturday the 19th from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Please [sign up](#) to attend if you have not already done so. Again, thank you for all your support.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year!

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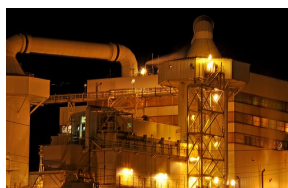
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What You Should Know About Now



Massachusetts HB 3515, SB1480

What it is: A proposal to expand the existing Massachusetts Bottle Bill to cover all beverage containers (including water, juices, tea and flavored tea, and sports drinks but excluding milk beverages, medicines, and infant formula) It would also increase the handling fees to 3.25 cents, to be paid by the beverage distributors. **Why it matters:** While 80% of redeemable containers are recycled, nearly that same amount of bottles without deposits are NOT...meaning they become litter on our streets, trash in our landfills, or waste burned into dangerous toxic pollutants. The bill would also increase the fees that go to stand-alone redemption centers, which are struggling because the amount they receive (less than 2 cents per can or bottle) has not risen since 1991. Current estimates project a yearly collection of an additional 1.2 billion containers and \$20 million in state revenues. **Where it stands:** Currently in the legislative process; the hearing held on October 7, 2009 was successful. Be sure to contact your state reps at 617-722-2000 or <http://www.mass.gov> and tell them to support the Updated Bottle Bill! For more info go to: massbottlebill.org.



2010 Massachusetts DEP Solid Waste Master Plan.

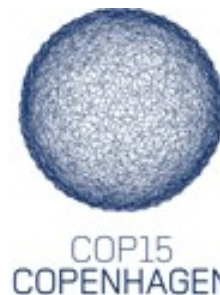
What it is: Every 10 years, this "blueprint" for how the Commonwealth sets its waste management policies has a major impact on issues dealing with public health, open space, local economies, and water quality. **Why it matters:** With recycling rates at a standstill, the state has recently considered lifting the moratorium on incineration (in place since 1989). And with lobbyists for the incinerator industry eagerly pushing for so-called "waste-to-energy" sites, it could result in even lower recycling rates while increasing toxic waste pollution. **Where it stands:** Currently on hold, probably more due to budget restraints than any environmental victory, the Mass DEP appears to not be lifting the moratorium for now. But a recent [Op-Ed piece](#) by a former DEP chair (and current "landfill-in-the-sky" insider) reveals that we cannot let our guard down, as the incinerator industry certainly shows no signs of backing down.

COP15: Climate Conference in Copenhagen.

What it is: The 15th "Conference of the Parties" (or COP) is the highest body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), consisting of environment ministers from about 190 countries who meet once a year in December to discuss the convention's developments.

At least 15,000 people, including from countries with observer status, industry groups and non-government organizations are expected to attend the conference. **Why it matters:** The Kyoto

Protocol, which was negotiated in 1997, specified greenhouse gas emission targets for the developed Annex I countries. It also specified that the first "commitment period" would run from 2008 to 2012. With the agreement set to expire at the end of 2012, it is intended that the COP15 meeting (in Copenhagen from December 7th-18th) will finalize the terms for the next commitment period. **Where it stands:** Being held right now, there are a number of promising signs that point to a comprehensive climate



Monthly Environmental Tip: How to Go Green for the Holidays



"The ribbons! The wrappings! The tags! The tinsel! The trimmings! And the trappings!"

Aw, don't be a Grinch! Just follow some simple steps for cutting back on all that holiday waste.



'Tis the season.....to reduce waste and conserve energy.

No, *seriously*. It may sound crazy, seeing as the average American household generates 25% more trash between Thanksgiving and Christmas; at 3-10 bags per family, this leads to more than 1 million tons of additional garbage per WEEK. But even with all of the holiday overbuying, overeating, overdrinking or just plain overdoing it, it is possible—even simple—to cut back on waste production. Just practice the following steps for great habits that you can practice well into the new year:

1. Don't throw it away! We throw out far more unprepared and leftover food than necessary, long before it even can begin to go bad. This is because expiration dates are not always what they seem. While "use by" does refer to bacteria growth & safety, "best before" and "sell by" dates are actually only meant to suggest freshness to the consumer or as a guide for the store to track and stock inventory.
2. Don't buy it new! The possibilities are endless when it comes to gift-wrap; create your own holiday reusable fabric gift bags, wrap gifts in useful items (such as kitchen utensils in an oven mitt or a kitchen towel), put gifts in boxes or tines, (try a hatbox tied with ribbon), have children design their own wrapping paper by decorating reused brown paper grocery bags or shopping bags with drawings, stickers or even stamps. Or get creative with your own wrapping – reuse newspapers, comics, sports pages or old maps for a personalized look. And make gift tags from last year's holiday cards or simply write your greetings on the box to help reduce waste.
3. If you must buy it, choose well: When purchasing wrapping paper, avoid those with metallic colors, as they cannot be recycled. Look for wrapping paper made from recycled materials and make sure to recycle it or save used wrapping to reuse next holiday season.
4. Use real popcorn, shredded paper or newspaper instead of conventional packing "peanuts." If you receive a package with foam "peanuts" you can recycle them at a local drop-off or buy-back recycling center. For a location near you, call 1(800) CLEANUP, a service provided by Earth 911.

Eco-friendly Holiday Quick Tips

Keep your house cool. In addition to saving on your heating bill and reducing your energy use, some foods stored outside the fridge (especially fats like butter and oil) will last longer.

When using ribbon to decorate your gifts, purchase sturdy cloth ribbon that can be reused year after year, as most ribbon cannot be recycled.

Only preheat your oven for 10 minutes before you plan to bake your holiday goodies. That's all the time it needs to heat up. And then *leave the door shut*. You lose about 25 degrees of heat every time you open that door to peek!

Use LED Christmas lights on your tree...not only do these save money and energy, they are built sturdier for withstanding the yearly packing up, unpacking and restringing involved with decorating.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Gift-Wrap Fundraiser

Our annual fundraiser at Barnes & Noble is scheduled for December 18th & 19th and we could still use some help. Sign up for a two hour shift...or just come by for whatever you can. And remember to encourage your friends & family to do their bookstore shopping at this time so that we can wrap their gifts! If you have not already scheduled a time to volunteer, please do [here](#).

Board Meeting:


The next Board Meeting will be held at the Breakheart Visitor's Center on Wednesday, January 13th at 7:30 PM. All SAVE members are invited and encouraged to attend.

COMING IN 2010

New volunteer opportunities with Breakheart Reservation. SAVE members can now be a part of the Breakheart Volunteer Team by partaking in as little as one event or activity a year and without needing to join the Friends of Breakheart. And stay tuned for news about our new website, the new schedule of events...and much more!

MEMBER BULLETIN:

- Don't forget to pay your annual \$5 dues!! We need the support to fund our annual SAVE scholarship.
 - Please sign-up to receive the newsletter by email by filling out this [form](#).
 - We are now on facebook! [Become a fan of our page](#) in order to receive even more info!
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	<p>Enclosed is my check for membership dues for fiscal year 2010 (from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010).</p> <p>Annual Dues are \$5 for the first family member to join, plus \$3 for each additional family member. Student dues are \$1.</p>
Name(s)	E-Mail
Name(s)	E-Mail
Name(s)	E-Mail
Address.....	
Telephone	Cell Phone
Amount enclosed for dues.....	\$ _____
Contribution enclosed for Scholarship/Education Fund (if any).....	\$ _____
Contribution enclosed for Environmental Fund (if any).....	\$ _____
Total Amount enclosed	\$ _____
Please make check payable to SAVE, Saugus, and mail to: SAVE Treasurer, Chuck Bocchino, 41 Great Woods Road, Saugus, MA 01906	

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