



# October Texas Bottle Bill Newsletter

10-31-2011

## PICTURES OF THE MONTH



*Far too many Texas roadways are littered with beverage containers.*

*For example (above) a once peaceful stretch of west Texas highway, and (below) an otherwise scenic street in an east Texas neighborhood show the dilemma.*



*Trash cans at public events are often clogged with containers that SHOULD have been recycled but were not.*



## DEAR FRIEND

Greetings from the *Texas Bottle Bill* team! We've been very busy lately. We've been traveling around the state and everywhere we go we see signs of "why we need a bottle bill." What are YOU seeing? Send us a picture or just drop us a "hello" on Facebook. In the mean time, we hope you enjoy this update!

## IN THE NEWS

- In Oregon, they broke ground on a new recycling facility. See [Plastic Dreams Realized](#).
- In New Braunfels newspaper has received numerous Letters to the Editor regarding the containers littering their river. See [Herald-Zeitung.com/letters](#).
- The **Container Recycling Institute's** Weekly Report offered a look at Montana schools participating in a recycling challenge for a chance to win cash and prizes for the school. Learn more at <http://www.wasterecyclingnews.com/email.html?id=1319729032>.

## THE PLACES WE GO

**Sept 21—Far West Texas Conference of Judges and Commissioners** in Study Butte (Big Bend) Over 50 West Texas counties were represented at the conference! Resolutions were given to all attendees at the conference.

Special thanks go out to **Pecos County Judge Joe Shuster** for introducing and passing a resolution to support deposit legislation in the 2013 legislature. Pecos County is in far west Texas. The population is more than 15,000 and Fort Stockton is the County seat. Pecos County is one of the many west Texas counties where distance and lack of recycling facilities will be helped by this legislation. Side note: Congratulations to Judge Shuster for his election as President of the Far West Texas County Judge & Commissioner Association.

**Sept 29—**Invited to be the first of a series of Zero Waste Speakers by the University of Houston Downtown Eco-club. Viewed the "Story of Stuff" and discussed ways we can cut back to prevent waste. Everyone agreed now is the time, and here is the place!

**Oct 2—Met in Austin with industry representatives** regarding tweaks to create an even better "Bottle Bill." Working together with industry ensures a successful approach to the issue.

**Oct 2-5—**Spoke with many officials and attendees at the **89th Annual County Judge & Commissioners Conference** in Odessa. Garnet Colman, sponsor of our 2011 bill, was guest speaker. We delivered our resolution for 2013 to Judges and Commissioners from over 75 counties. We enjoyed overwhelming support and appreciation.

**Oct 3—**Attended **STAR Summit on Recycling, Sustainability & Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** in Austin. Great strides are being made nationwide to expand EPR. We heard from some of the top experts while attending the Summit. Deposit legislation would fill the bill!

- Scott Cassel ExD of the Product Stewardship Institute
- Susan Collins ExD Container Recycling Institute
- Peter Spendelow Natural Resource Specialist Oregon Environmental Quality Dept
- Beth Smitt N. America Director of Recycling Alcoa



[A simple picture was not enough for this group of enthusiasts! Click this black box \(above\) to see a fun video demonstrating what a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can do!](#)

**KEEP IN TOUCH**



[www.TexasBottleBill.com](http://www.TexasBottleBill.com)

**THE PLACES WE GO, *continued***

**Oct 4**—Attended "Transition Houston" meeting to hear Shawn McFarland presentation on recycling in Texas and gain their perspective on recycling laws.

**Oct 11**—Texas Municipal League 99th Annual Conference  
Over 2000 attendees from Texas cities and towns all gathered at the George R Brown Center in Houston. Close to 200 of those came by our booth, stopped, learned and took resolutions back to their councils. We asked them to request our issue be presented to the TML board as a legislative agenda for 2013! THAT would make a difference for the session!

**WORKING TO SUPPORT YOU BETTER**

**Oct 1**—Debuted major update to our online presence. See it now [www.TexasBottleBill.com](http://www.TexasBottleBill.com).

**Oct 28**—Launched new **FACEBOOK** and **TWITTER** options

For everyone that enjoys the speed and convenience of Twitter and Facebook, visit our social media sites! We have a brand new Facebook page (stop by and leave us a note, and be sure to "like" us) and we are growing our Twitter presence as well. Keep in touch!

- <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Texas-Bottle-Bill/192195254190484>
- <http://twitter.com/texasbottlebill>

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

**Call or visit your County Commissioners.** Ask them to support the Texas Bottle Bill. (Find your Commissioners' at [www.texascounties4u.org](http://www.texascounties4u.org).) **Contact your favorite beverage company** and tell them deposits will NOT stop you from enjoying their products. Advise them that you would return the containers for refunds to do your part for recycling!

Anheuser-Busch Inc.\*  
800-Dial-Bud (800-342-5283)  
[http://contactus.anheuser-busch.com/contactus/ab/contact\\_us.asp](http://contactus.anheuser-busch.com/contactus/ab/contact_us.asp)

MillerCoors LLC\*  
800-645-5376  
<http://www.millercoors.com/contact-us.aspx>

*\* Naturally, these are only two of many bottlers that you may choose to reach out to express your concerns about their containers.*

**COMING SOON!**

**November 8 is Election Day!** As we all know, voting is a privilege; it allows us to place in office those that best represent our views. Lets' all vote next Tuesday! Learn more at <http://www.lwvtexas.org/index.php>.

**November 15 is American Recycle Day!** Plan now to recognize the day by contacting your legislators. Tell them, "you want refundable deposits on beverage containers in 2013." It is through your email, phone calls or visits that this legislation will pass. Learn more at [AmericaRecyclesDay.org](http://AmericaRecyclesDay.org).

Thanks for your continuing support,  
The Texas Bottle Bill Team

**"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead**

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