

# Meeting Agenda

Recycling Stakeholders

**October 17, 2018 1:00 – 2:30**

Join on [WebEx](#) or dial: 1-240-454-0887 [Access code: 803 083 165]

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## Meeting Objectives:

- To share information about the impacts of changing recycling markets on stakeholders across Washington

## Agenda

Topic - Presenter	Objective
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions – Alli Kingfisher, Ecology</b> What will we cover?	Shared understanding of the agenda and how to ask questions.
<b>Presentation: Market updates for #3-7 and mixed rigid plastics – Dave Claugus, Pioneer Recycling</b>	Shared understanding on market conditions
<b>Update on King County Responsible Recycling Task Force – Lisa Sepanski, King County</b>	Updated information on actions of one county
<b>Provide update on Ecology's efforts – Alli Kingfisher, Ecology</b> What is Ecology working on? WA Recycling Steering Committee; RFP for education messages; Multi-state collaboration; Proposed Legislation	Shared understanding of statewide efforts
<b>General updates: Provide update on current market conditions and impacts — Open Discussion</b> What are noteworthy updates on markets? Where is material going? Is material being stockpiled or disposed of? What issues and concerns do communities have? Other stakeholder processes?	Shared understanding on market conditions and actions being taken
Adjourn	

### **Presentation: Market updates for #3-7 and mixed rigid plastics**

*Dave Claugus, Pioneer Recycling*

A presentation on how Pioneer is dealing with the change in 3-7

Problem: markets are evaporated in early August

Background:

- #3-7 plastics are not a program item, unlike OCC or mixed paper (OCC and mixed paper are program items) the only program item that is included in #3-7 are the #5 tubs (dairy tubs).
- Majority of #3-7 are not supposed to be in the commingled collection to begin with, but they are still there.

- Opportunity to recycle the #5 by including it in the #3-7 went away (China say they didn't want any more of this material, moved to Vietnam, then to Malaysia, and then they don't want it anymore either)
- Keep in mind: #3-7 is 1 - 2 % of the stream (by weight), a very small part of the stream.
- Further, #5 is the only program item - a small subset
- Mixed rigid plastics
  - All large plastic items are collected manually in the pre-sort (buckets and flower pots)
  - In most cases these are not program material!
  - Pioneer was able to sort out and sell it previously
  - Only .5% of the commingled stream

How Pioneer has dealt with the situation and meet its obligations

- Packing a separate grade of # 5.
  - Sorting out tubs, ketchup bottles, yellow litter buckets to #5, #7 Arizona tea bottles to #5 by hand.
  - Able to pick out 5 to 10 tons a month of that material
  - Having to landfill the remaining material (not program material in the first place).

Found a commercial plastics grade that goes by HDPE Injection

- Material that includes buckets and flower pots, which are program items
- Able to grab some additional material that will meet the standards of the HDPE Injection: Milk crates, laundry baskets, plastic lawn chairs, buckets
- Landfilling the non-program items.

When Malaysia stopped accepting – 3-7 bales it was a very abrupt change.

- Already on floors ready for shipment
- We had the options of getting permission to landfill those bales or figure out a way to reprocess.
- Pioneer chose to reprocess the bales – broke the bales – ran them again to get the #5 out
- Haven't had to ask for a concurrence – able to meet obligation to sort out program items fulfilled in both states

Pioneer has been able to capture the program items, now shipping to domestic or to Canadian markets.

- Mill ready materials.
- Confident that residuals are going to be properly landfilled in the US in Canada (whereas, never sure of that when shipped overseas)

### **Presentation: Update on King County's Responsible Recycling Task Force**

Lisa Sepanski

The Task Force is doing a whirlwind tour of recycling system.

The August meeting featured:

*Nina Goodrich and How-to-Recycle Label*

- Focused on engaging producers of products and processing

- National efforts to sustainable packaging and design (Sustainable packaging coalition)
- How-to-recycle label – designing packaging for recycling so they can be used by end markets and include recyclable content.
- Very specific criteria to get the label.
  - Recyclable by 60% of the community that it is sold into.
- They have made over 280 design recommendations to packaging producers.
- Flexible packaging is here to stay (and promotes lower carbon footprint) and we need to grapple with this.

#### *Recycle BC program*

- Presented on how they engage producers and packagers.
- Requires a producer of printed packaging to help fund the recycling system across all of BC.
- BC is able to standardized all materials and messaging.
- One infrastructure system.
- Sorted and goes into market ready bales, and doesn't have to be sorted further.
- One point of contact in the program, can work with individual manufacturers or brand owners to determine if their product can go into their system, and then can work with them to design packaging to go into system.
- Working with flexible packaging to see what can be done with flexible packaging. There are possibilities with energy recovery.

#### The September meeting:

- Looked at policy approaches in support of responsible recycling. Policies and legislation that might be moving forward in the 2019 leg session include:
  - Rep. Norma Smith wants to introduce improved bill in 2019.
    - Develop markets for recyclable materials and increase domestic recycling in WA State.
    - Education to combat contamination.
    - Gave an overview of her plan in 2019 – introduce another bill – a better version of the 2018 bill.
  - Heather Trim from Zero Waste talked about reusable bag legislation.

#### Upcoming meetings:

##### October:

- Looking at recycling systems that encourage regional markets.
- Oregon beverage cooperatives – has its own system for domestic system for plastic and glass.
- Looking at new technology – Renewology, chemical recycling process for #3-7 plastics, facility is in Utah.
  - Turns plastics back into monomers – made into fuel and other products.

##### November and December:

- Will work on a recommendation report with strategies and suggested implementation structure that will coordinate with King County and city of Seattle.
- Develop short, medium, and long term implementation goals.

## Update on Department of Ecology's work

Alli Kingfisher

- Recycling stakeholders calls every other month – to help share information to stakeholders across the state
- Recycling Steering Committee:
  - Curated group of 22 individuals from across industry from local governments, solid waste haulers, MRFS, packaging industry.
  - Held second meeting on October 10.
  - Still in the state of identifying problems we are trying to solve.
  - Defining short, medium, and long term goals.
  - Strong desire for action from the group.
  - Hired an independent third party facilitator.
  - Goal to determine direction of recycling system in our state.
- Communication about contamination campaign:
  - In final stages for RFP.
  - Will send link to Listserv when it's posted.
- Coordinating between OR DEQ, CAL RECYCLE, and EPA
  - Monthly conversations – how other states are impacted and what actions they are taking.
    - OR has RFP out for targeted research.
    - Working together to comment on each other's RFPs.
- Proposed legislation
  - Asking local governments to put together contamination reduction outreach plans (CROPS) to identify how, enforcement.s
  - Addressing market development – establishment of a recycling development center:
    - Housed at the Ecology – coordinating closely with the Commerce.
    - How we can help drive infrastructure and recycling in WA.

Next Meeting: December 13, 2018 1:00-2:30.