

Meeting Notes

Recycling Steering Committee

July 25, 2018

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Please send corrections, edits, or additions to kirsten.miller@ecy.wa.gov

Meeting Objectives

- To welcome and introduce the participants.
- Share information on the intent of the steering committee; establish ground rules and future meetings.
- Begin to define group purpose, problem statement(s) and process.

Attendees:

Association of Washington Cities	Shannon McClelland	Yes
Department of Ecology	Alli Kingfisher	Yes
King County	Lisa Sepanski	Yes
Pioneer Recycling	Dave Claugus	Yes
Recology	Kevin Kelly	Yes
Sunshine Disposal	Steve Wulf	Yes
Sustainable Packaging Coalition	Nina Goodrich	Yes
Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department	Ether Beaumier	Yes
The Utilities and Transportation Commission	Ann LaRue	Yes
Washington Refuse and Recycling Association	Brad Lovaas	Yes
Washington State Recycling Association	Ron Jones	Yes
Waste Management	Kim Kaminski and Matt Stern	Yes
Zero Waste Washington	Heather Trim	Yes
Lincoln County	Rory Wintersteen	Phone
The Recycling Partnership	Dylan de Thomas, Chris Cody	Phone
Ameripen	Andy Hackman	Absent
Clark County	Travis Dutton	Absent
Department of Commerce	Brian Young	Absent
Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network	Danny Joe Stensgar	Absent
Washington State Association of Counties	Paul Jewell	Absent
Whitman County	Mark Storey	Absent

General Notes from the Discussion

The group started by introducing themselves and sharing how their organization is impacted by the Chinese recycling restrictions and what they are doing to address those challenges.

Ecology shared the initial phase of work they are doing:

- Convene monthly information sharing calls
- BMP guidance for local governments
- Tracking impacts to local governments
- Partner with DEQ on regional research
- Public outreach campaign development
- Potential legislation

Ground Rules:

- Allow audience questions and comments at the end of the meeting time permitting.
- Consistent participation.
- Inform your constituency.
- Start and end on time.
- Include copies of presentations in meeting notes.
- Note will be only high-level discussion and decision points.

Defining the Groups Purpose and Structure

The group shared key reasons and thoughts on why we are coming together. A number of comments were made, falling into categories of further defining the problem, finding solutions and increased communication and information sharing:

- **Further defining the problem**
 - The system is broken and this is an opportunity for change.
 - How should jurisdictional heaths districts respond in this outside-the-norm situation?
 - We need to define the real problem and get beyond talking about just collection, sorting and domestic vs export markets.
 - What's the job were trying to get recycling to do? Manufacturing feed stocks.
 - Why do we recycle? What value and benefits does it provide?
 - We need to develop a problem statement and scope. Residential? Business?

- What is contamination? Designed system based on landfill division; we need to design it from the manufacturing end.
- We were addicted to China. Everything from this day forward will be more expensive. We have to get away from “free” recycling
- Defining the problem will help us identify gaps, and help with legislation.
- **Finding solutions**
 - Continue work on BMPs
 - Move beyond weight-based recycling goals and look at lifecycle benefits and over all Sustainable Materials Management
 - Develop a list of materials that most can support.
 - Cities want a consistent list of acceptable materials and messaging
 - A standard list brings us to lowest common denominator. Businesses won’t invest in infrastructure to do more; it won’t meet regional needs.
 - Look beyond master lists and utilize guidelines and principles such as those in the Asterisk program.
 - We need to process materials here, and then ship processed materials to China. We need Commerce in this group, need manufacturers here, paper mills, etc.
- **Increased communication and information sharing**
 - We might not all agree-so represent both sides.
 - Local elected officials are asking.
 - Report and share to national boards.
 - Washington is a progressive state and the direction this state goes will lead others. Our response is critical.
 - Follow the King County Responsible Recycling Task Force by doing a deep dive on specific topics for each meeting
 - Many organizations are working to get more recycling infrastructure, including making this part of national infrastructure bills. Nina and Dylan said they can give updates at future meetings.

Next Steps:

- Approximately monthly meetings starting in September. Ecology is working to hire a facilitator to manage this process.
- Meetings will be take place between 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Next meeting in September or October.