

Recycling Steering Committee

Meeting Notes

May 16, 2019

Time: 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Location: Recology's CleanScapes Facility 7 S. Idaho St. Seattle, WA 98134-1118

C+C marketing campaign Updates

Action items

- Alli will:
 - Give a brief presentation on the C+C research data from the campaign survey results and update group on the campaign at the next meeting.

Members expressed concern over future campaign messaging regarding plastic bags staying out of the bins. Members felt that it may be confusing, especially with the bag ban bill attempts. Possibly look to other contamination issues more than the bags? Need to touch base with main MRFs and others if campaign moves forward with bags not in the recycling stream. Members specified that it is not an issue of not having it happen, but more of a matter of timing.

Legislative Updates

Action items

- Members expressed desire to play role in how the waste characterization study is conducted.
- Future agenda item: Laurie will develop a document detailing how she envisions the RSC coordinating and working with other recycling groups (i.e. Statewide SWAC, WACSWM, Policy Advisory group for Recycling Development Center, etc.). She will present this at a future meeting when available.

Members concluded that the Recycling Development Center will only be one tool in the toolbox for our changing our recycling systems moving forward. Ecology's role will be to help facilitate relationships and conversations between the different resources and groups currently in existence. It is important to remember that these various committees serve different purposes; plastic packaging committee, Development Center policy group, Statewide SWAC, RSC (also national groups- SPC, Recycling partnership, SWANA, ISRI, etc.) and they will also need to work together and figure out how they interact and work off of one another. Committee agreed that the RSC should stay together to fuel policy changes and supply information and data. RSC is more than just an information sharing group.

UW Student Presentation on Recycling Development Center

Action items

- Heather C. will send out presentation and contact information to RSC.

Recology Line-Sort Activity

Members actively participated in line-sort at various sections of the sorting line.

Action items

- Dylan and Kevin will set up a Google docs page where members can collect and distribute photos from the day's line-sort activity. Heather C. will distribute the link to access this page. Please no photos of workers' faces.

Ecology Metrics Changes/ Updates

Action items

- Heather C. will send out presentation to RSC.

Members expressed desire for RSC to play a role in recommendations for these changes going forward.

Concerns were expressed about data changing because Ecology would no longer receive data for food waste.

Responsible Recycling Task Force Recommendations Document Presentation

Action items

- Heather C. will send out presentation to RSC.

Discussion of Moving Forward

Possible topics for moving forward

- Address disconnect between asking the public to recycle while encouraging a reduction in waste generation.
- Should we promote to the public "recycle your 3-7s", should we look at new technologies (chemical, pyrolysis, etc.)?
- Map out the timeline and creation of the recommendations document so as the group morphs, we can maintain focus on the needs of the group and the expectations of the deliverables.
- Look at the entire system and identify where the signals are wrong. Then identify and implement policies to correct these signals.
- Create 5 to 10 topic areas that we can bucket as discussions or we can wait for OR to do their research.
- Itemized recycling costs- Showing the true costs of recycling to the public?
- What do we want to do to move forward? What is our timeline?

Now that the RSC has accomplished the original tasks that the group put in place, members want to stay and further policy discussions and think tank possibilities. Now that the legislative session has ended, how will the RSC decide how conversations are integrated to policy and actions for what is going to happen in the near future? The mission is going to be much more around how to drive policy regarding this legislation. This is a group that can inform policy board, stakeholder involvement in food waste, other boards, etc.

Wrap up/Next Steps

Action items

- Next meeting will focus on current paper and plastics markets and discussion of solidifying short-, mid-, and long-term actions from RSC to generate recommendations report and possible future goals/actions.
- Next meeting is June 19th at the NORPAC paper mill facility in Longview WA.