

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
**** MEETING SUMMARY ****
January 23, 2019

Troy Lautenbach, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. and introductions were made. He asked for a motion to approve the November 7th, 2018 meeting notes. There was a motion to adopt them. The motion was seconded and the notes were approved.

Budget/Legislative Update - Laurie Davies, Contact: 360-407-6103; laurie.davies@ecy.wa.gov

Budget

The litter tax diversion sunset of \$15.5 million will be carried forward in Ecology's budget. We requested an additional \$6 million to do additional work including agency request legislation.

We ended up with \$24 million from the Waste Reduction, Recycling and Litter Control Account (WRRLCA) in the Governor's budget to do waste recycling and fund the Community Litter Cleanup Program (CLCP) competitive portion at 25%.

Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance (LSWFA) funding is much more promising than it could have been. We requested \$28.2 million and were funded at \$20 million. There will be a lot of discussion between now and April.

Legislation

Ecology is tracking and discussing 16 bills.

Sustainable recycling (agency request) - HB 1543, SB 5545: Dropped yesterday (1/22), so it is off and running. It changes the distribution of the litter tax moving 10% of the funding from litter pick up to waste reduction and recycling. This will help fund the Recycling Development Center that is created in the proposed legislation. The remainder will help fund several recycling programs that have not been fully funded over the past 8 years. The Recycling Development Center will research waste streams that are difficult to find markets for, find the best technology, and provide seed money to Washington businesses instead of paying to send materials across the country. There is a similar program with a not-for-profit in the Southeast region of the country. Businesses pay into it, and the organization brings businesses into those states. The second part of the bill includes a Recycling Contamination Reduction Outreach Plan. The plan can be updated with an amendment to the existing plan, or local governments can adopt the state plan. There is a two-year plan to put this in place.

Reducing food waste - HB 1114: Hearing in the House last week. The bill changed from last year to line up with Pacific Coast Collaborative. It sets a goal for 50% reduction in food waste by 2030 and would fund edible food and reuse of inedible food.

Single use plastic bags - HB 1205, SB 5323: House hearing was on Monday (1/21) and Senate hearing is tomorrow (1/24). We can't support anything that is not in the Governor's budget.

Heather Trim added that the grocers were interested in a statewide education campaign. Funding would come from the litter tax. The bill has a null and void clause and won't pass without funding.

Plastic packaging - HB 1204, SB 5397: The bill concerns extended producer responsibility. It also has a fairly hefty fiscal impact to the agency and we will testify, but can't support.

Littering restitution - HB 1088: Applies to any type of criminal litter dumping, and increases community service to 40 hours. Heather Trim added that there is currently no community service requirement. Six other states require 8-24 hours. Heather testified that 40 hours is a lot. If the bill moves forward, it will likely decrease to fewer hours.

Litter control - SB 5093: Bill would give 40% of 50% funding to the Department of Transportation (DOT) for litter pickup. The focus is on large items in medians and items found when lanes are shut down. Ecology is very concerned. The bill gives money to DOT which is taken from CLCP funds to local governments for tools and trucks. DOT already receives funding for this work, which is required, so it's not clear why this bill is being proposed. Ecology is not in favor of litter tax funding being diverted from the intended purpose of supporting the Ecology Youth Corps. Testifying tomorrow (1/23).

Composting - HB 1167, SB 5476: This is the same bill as last year's to set up the requirement, and proposes composting should be exempt from lawsuits.

Biochar – HJM 4000, SJM 8005: Supports continued research, development, production, and application of biochar from forests and agricultural lands. There are referendums in support.

Right to repair - HB 1342: Requires major manufacturers to provide codes and parts to small repair shops.

***Other Solid Waste Legislation – Heather Trim, Contact: 206-351-2898;
Heather@zerowastewashington.org***

Paint stewardship: This is similar to previous bills, but is better. It should drop today (1/23).

Food service ware: Will drop in next day or so. Initial effort for straws, utensils, and condiments on demand with long dates out for compost alternatives.

Labeling bill: Will drop today (1/23). Bill would require labeling standards for compostable items for clear identification to the consumer.

Single use straws - SB 5077: Hearing scheduled tomorrow (1/23).

***Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance (LSWFA) Grants Information – Tami Ramsey,
Contact: 360-407-6223, tami.ramsey@ecy.wa.gov***

We are in the 7th quarter of the 8 quarter stretch. Most recipients have spent out (likely due to budget reduction). We are closing agreements and preparing for the 2019-21 biennium. The Governor's budget had \$20 million, and the application period depends on the final Capital Budget. If all goes well, we anticipate the application period between April 16th and May 1st, with a closing date of May 30th to redistribute unrequested funds.

Application guidelines are under construction. Some type of applicant training will be developed to address what is new. Laurie Davies asked if there will be "retraining" for EAGL. Tami said there is new leadership and staff are working on instructions for both recipients and internal staff, including educational materials such as checklists. New forms in EAGL are being developed to increase efficiency and capture outcome data. Heather Trim said the PDC has helpful one minute video modules, and suggested Ecology could do something similar on topics like sign-in and annual reporting. Tami said the program is working on acquiring tools with the ultimate goal of doing videos. Laurie asked when guidelines are going out to recipients for final comment. Tami said the guidelines were sent to the workgroup in the last cycle, and were extended to stakeholders. Her best guess is sometime in early to mid-March.

Recycling Steering Committee and Statewide Recycling Contract Update – Alli Kingfisher, Contact: 509-329-3448, alli.kingfisher@ecy.wa.gov

The Recycling Steering Committee is on its 4th or 5th meeting. The next meeting is tomorrow (1/24), which conflicts with bill hearings. We hope those who are testifying will be able to join the meeting later. The goal is to focus on short term action items, then look at longer term issues. The committee is looking at what belongs in curbside recycling systems. The current approach is tiered (assessing what materials are either absolutely in or out, and what the criteria are for inclusion or exclusion of individual systems due to different variables).

Education and outreach is another important topic, which dovetails with the RFP for a high-level education and outreach campaign aimed at reframing the quality of materials. The committee will be a sounding board for the campaign. The apparent successful bidder is C+C. A draft contract is being sent this morning. They are doing similar work for King County and facilitated a process for their Recycling Responsibility Task Force. We want to ensure more consistency across different regions. The goal is to break down industry barriers and translate terminology to make it understandable to the general public.

Heather Trim asked if there will be more calls in conjunction with the committee meetings. Alli said scheduling is an issue of bandwidth. Heather Church volunteered to set up the calls. Please reach out to her with agenda items: heather.church@ecy.wa.gov, 509-329-3564.

Round Table

Heather Church is assisting Alli with the Recycling Steering Committee, and planning for the WSRA conference in late April. She is also working on a survey to send out to local municipalities that tracks changes made since China Blue Sky. She hopes it will come out in the next week and will be posted on the Ecology website for others to use as a tool.

Paul Jewell is new to the SWAC. He is the Policy Director for the Washington Association of Counties, and the direct contact with the Solid Waste Management Group. The co-chairs are Matt Zybas in Snohomish County and Brenda Blanchfield in Chelan County. Paul was a County Commissioner for 10 years with a well-run solid waste program. He spent most of his summer months visiting the solid waste program in every county. The programs are very interesting and diverse in each region and county. This creates challenges and opportunities to keep learning. The association is very engaged with Ecology and the Governor on agency request legislation. He will send Alli a commingled recycling guidance document prepared by WACSWM, and she will share it with the SWAC. Feel free to reach out to him.

Jan Gee – The Food Industry Association is supporting bills and hopes to be on the same wavelength with bags. They are excited about the food waste bill.

Art Starry – Thurston County Environmental Health is working with a new commissioner on waste and water resource issues. They are also addressing concerns and comments regarding a proposed biosolids application site, and he will attend the public hearing tomorrow night (1/24). They are receiving comments asking Department of Health (DOH) to weigh in on food safety issues related to repackaging food donations to banks. They are also receiving comments from the Hospitality Association about concerns that DOH isn't looking at reusable bags for uncovered take-out food (such as French fries).

Heather Trim – Zero Waste is working on a plastic product stewardship bill. It's a "big deal bill" with mixed support. They don't want to tell the mom who has been recycling her yogurt container for years that she can't anymore, but might be able to in 5 years. The bill sets up a plan to be proposed by manufacturers and approved by Ecology. Manufacturers would pay into their weight of packaging, which would incentivize materials to be recyclable. The bill is modeled after British Columbia and Europe. There is a lot of pressure from the public due to plastic pollution. The bill isn't perfect, but they want a revamp to avoid going back 30 years. A one-pager was passed around. Please talk with her if there are questions.

Steve Skinner will attend the Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance (LSWFA) Workgroup meeting this afternoon. Lewis County Solid Waste wants to see applications come out as soon as possible. The Community Litter Cleanup Program (CLCP) is planning for applications to be out on February 1st. Counties should decide how to manage their spending.

Andy Comstock – Tacoma Pierce County Health is busy tracking legislative activities and operations continue on.

Bryan McKinnon will meet with DOH on January 28th to discuss secure medicine return. Kitsap Public Health is providing information that benefits the process of a statewide program. On a side note, there was a recent tornado in the area.

Rod Whittaker – WA Refuse & Recycling Association will introduce a bill to reduce contamination in recyclables. They take inspiration from Oregon to develop a life cycle analysis. The bill should drop next week.

Jody Snyder – The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) did a good webinar on life cycle analysis. A slide from the webinar on how much waste is recyclable is included with the minutes. She said this is an exciting time and it will be interesting to see where we end up at the end of session.

Rich McConaghy – The City of Vancouver is approving a processing fee of about \$69 a ton. They hope it will happen in the next month. On a side note, there is a measles outbreak.

James Rivard – MRW facilities in Chelan and Benton Counties are being constructed. The Michelsen Packaging Company announced they are no longer accepting items that are not paper related. They used to accept aluminum and plastics.

John Chelminiak – The Waste Management Corporate Sustainability Report is posted at sustainability.wm.com/.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

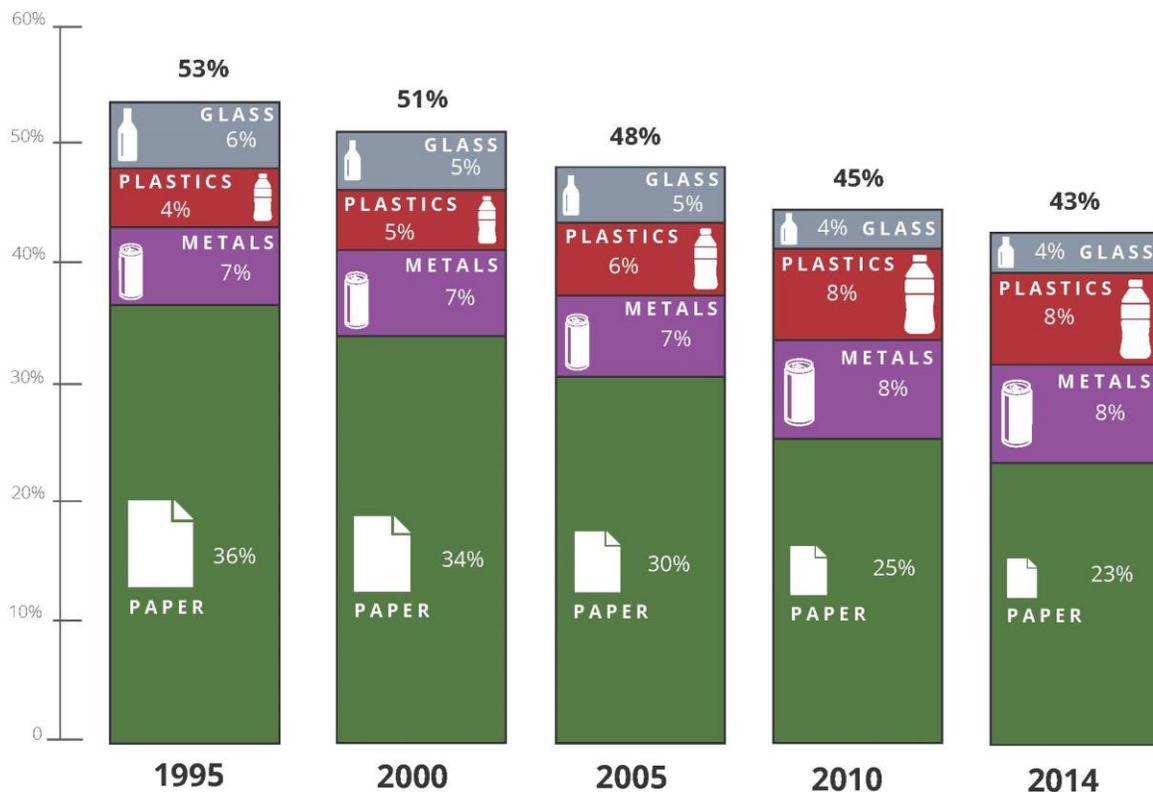
Submitted by: Beth Gill

How Much of Our Waste is Actually Recyclable?*

Since 1995, the amount of commodity recyclables in the waste stream has fallen 10 points from 53% to 43%.

A recent EREF analysis examined the waste management policies set by state/local agencies, such as recycling and diversion goals. EREF found that states across the U.S. have recycling goals ranging from 10% - 50%.

If every item that was capable of being recycled actually was recycled, could these goals be achieved? This concept, applicable to diversion in general, is known as the theoretical maximum recovery.



Why the decrease and what does this mean to the waste industry? The decrease of recyclable material in our waste stream can likely be attributed to many factors, including light-weighting and the reduced demand for paper due to the emergence of online news distribution.

If this trend continues, even if all recyclable material is recycled, many state goals may not be achievable.

**Waste composition data pulled from the U.S. EPA's Facts and Figures reports and is based on weight.*



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