

Recycling Development Center Advisory Board Meeting April 14, 2020



The Advisory Board for the Washington Recycling Development Center (Center) meets quarterly. On April 14, 2020 the Board held the second quarter meeting for 2020 by webinar with remote attendance by all participants. The webinar was hosted by staff from the Departments of Ecology and Commerce. All advisory board members were in attendance (remotely) at this meeting. Laurie Davies, Ecology’s Solid Waste Management program manager, and Brian Young, Commerce’s Clean Technology sector lead both participated in the discussions. Additional interested parties joined remotely and were offered an opportunity to provide comment. Some audio difficulties were experienced by a limited number of attendees.

Advisory Board members:

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Corinne Drennan	Pacific NW National Laboratory	Allen Langdon	Return-it
Karl Englund	Washington State University	Scott Morgan	Evergreen State College
Kyla Fisher	AMERIPEN	Mike Range	Waste Management
Deb Geiger	Spokane County Solid Waste	Derek Ruckman	Recology
Margo Gillaspay	Skagit County Public Works	Tim Shestek	American Chemistry Council
Nina Goodrich	Sustainable Packaging Coalition	Jay Simmons	North Pacific Paper Company
Sego Jackson	Seattle Public Utilities	Heather Trim	Zero Waste Washington

A set of [PowerPoint slides](#), an [agenda](#), and a [work plan handout](#) were provided for this meeting on the [Board EZview Website](#). The goals of the meeting were to establish board chair and co-chair, discuss the Center charter, hear an update from Ecology and Commerce, and review the draft Center work plan.

Board Check-in

Most board members provided a quick update from their organization, sharing new activities or status under the Covid-19 crisis. Audio connection was unsuccessful for four board members.

Board discussion

The board selected Scott Morgan as Chair and Karl Englund as Co-Chair. The duration and responsibilities of these two positions will be clarified in the charter or at the next Board meeting.

Ecology reviewed the Partner Web SharePoint site for board members who were invited by email to access this site. This resource is accessible to the Board for sharing and drafting working documents.

Ecology discussed the use of ideas from the January 9, 2020 Advisory Board meeting in the development of the draft Center work plan. The board will determine how to manage meeting notes, either in the charter or at the next board meeting.

Ecology/Commerce update

Ecology and Commerce provided updates on legislative activity and Center-related work efforts.

Legislative actions from the 2020 session that may affect Center efforts include:

- [Senate Bill 5323](#) Reducing Plastic Bag Pollution: Retail establishments may not provide a single-use plastic bag beginning January 2021.
- [House Bill 2645](#) Photovoltaic Modules (solar panels): schedule adjustment for the product stewardship program.
- [Included in the budget](#) Alternatives to single use packaging: funded \$75,000 to provide technical assistance and/or grants to 1) women/minority-owned businesses and 2) small businesses that manufacture or process single-use plastic packaging products ([page 323](#))

The work accomplished or underway related to the Center include:

- **Ecology efforts:** Businesses have been reaching out with interest in waste-to-energy and mining solid waste for profitable materials. We have heard from paper, plastic, and glass recycling companies, and plastic amended asphalt companies. Solid waste data and related information is shared as inquiries are received. These inquiries include requests to present to the Board. Those requests will be shared with the board via Chair and Co-Chair. Ecology hired more staff to support the Center: Elaine Taylor, administrative support and Tina Schaefer, senior planner.
- **Commerce efforts:** Companies are contacting Commerce with business plans that are in early stages of development. Commerce is working to add staff resources to handle this work. Research Services Division of Commerce has freed up time and resources to assist with this in the meantime – their work will be shared with the board for input as it develops. Commerce is working as an industry liaison to reach out to the industrial sectors. Commerce is involved in the federal stimulus response to COVID-19.

Center work plan

Ecology and Commerce shared a draft [work plan](#) with the Board and interested parties. Comments and feedback from the board were noted. The Board has a self-imposed deadline of April 29th to provide additional feedback on the draft work plan. The work plan will then be shared on the Board EZview Website in May for all interested parties to view.

Work plan discussion by the Board included following feedback and comments:

- Does the work plan define our goal, why, outcomes, and measures of success, create a detailed map of the overarching process and individual processes (from the January 9 meeting)? Should the Center and Board develop a strategic plan? What is the role of the steering committee? How can we set metrics? Look at other development center efforts to get those goals established and to synchronize goals with other factors that commerce considers.
- What are the goals in how we are tackling new business development? What are the priorities for business? For example, are you trying to improve the recycling process?
- Where does the Center factor into research? Will Ecology conduct all the research? Where can we contract out for more intensive research and information? Partnerships could help with some of these larger research lifts.
- The Board should form subcommittees to work on priorities and recommendations for the work plan: what Ecology should work on, where partnerships are needed, and priorities for funding.
- When it comes to giving funding, how can this board play a role in deciding who gets funding? How can this board work more closely with Commerce?

- In the [RCW](#) there was a phrase about prioritizing work to mixed paper and plastics. This might help us with some initial prioritization.
- Many board members have a good understanding of what the most difficult materials and priority issues are and don't necessarily need to further analyze this. Perhaps something that might help us get started would be to poll members and see where the opportunity areas are and to re-think the framework as it applies to more specific ideas. Look at the material that comes into our transfer stations every day. There is a lot of low hanging fruit with basics like plastic bottles, cardboard, paper, etc. that we should make priority.

Public comment opportunity

Questions or comments from interested parties:

K. Merritt shared: offers waste to renewable natural gas. Asking for support of a tipping fee for waste-to-energy projects. Synergy Eco Hub Solutions, Inc.'s proposal is a 14,000 TPD sized plant on 600 acres with highway, rail, power, water, and gas pipeline west of the Cascades and near the source of waste, output includes hydrocarbon and olefin feedstock for plastics.

- Asked for a regional conversation with governors and prime minister.
- Asked for waste-to-energy to be considered a 'renewable energy resource' not an alternative energy source. Regulations in WA prevent the promotion of new conversion technology to prevent incineration. Examples: municipal solid waste, auto shredder residue, plastics, industrial waste, creosote power poles and railroad ties, and forest waste products are all excluded from renewable energy resources.
- Asked for research data on how much methane is generated from municipal solid waste at the landfill that results in leakage and is not captured or flared.

P. Schmidt-Pathmann shared:

- <https://waste-management-world.com/a/cewep-waste-incineration-safely-destroys-viruses-at-high-temperature>
- "Disposables will dominate for a while" – think about phasing out untreated waste in landfills. Shift toward a more sustainable approach.
- The true cost are not included in the price of landfilling. Look at other country approaches.

M. Ross asked: What effect could the California, Oregon and Washington Western States Pact have for recycling economics and desire for a true circular economy?

- https://www.myoregon.gov/2020/04/13/california-oregon-washington-announce-western-states-pact/?fbclid=IwAR25Fmqmm5zTsqrXrBQaM-NOZ_JXyfnuuOGDOBR_hna2EN88zKaWbf8IYjs

D. Calabro (EPA Region 10) shared: EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guideline are open for public comment until July 6th, for the first time since 2007: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/04/07/2020-07193/existing-comprehensive-procurement-guideline-designations-and-recovered-materials-advisory-notice> The 61 items in 8 product categories are designated as ones that are or can be made with recovered materials and EPA recommends both practices for procurement of such items and minimum recycled-content percentages in a series of Recovered Materials Advisory Notices (RMANS).

A. Soule (City of Sequim) shared: The public and local governments appreciate your important and urgent work very much. Research takes time, but please set some goals that ARE reachable in months rather than years. Business development is most urgent given the economic recovery. Ideas that could be put in place to take advantage of coming stimulus.

A. Smith (King County Solid Waste) shared: King County has a market development program working on recycled content, research on plastic and paper as well as a regional market assessment. Will coordinate with the Center and other jurisdictions.

Wrap, next steps

- Board members to submit comments on the draft work plan by April 29th. Access the Center Partner Web SharePoint page.
- Ecology will post meeting notes and attendee list on the on Board EZview Website.
- After incorporating Board comments, the Center Work Plan will be posted on the Board EZview Website.
- Next Board meetings:
 - NORPAC in Longview, WA on July 13th
 - Spokane, WA on October 14th
 - Webinar attendance will be offered for interested parties whether or not live, in-person events are able to be held.

List of Attendees

Interested parties

Andy Smith, King County
Ann Soule, City of Sequim
Anna Boiko-Weyrauch, KUOW
Brad Lovaas, Washington Refuse and Recycling Association
David Stitzhal, Full Circle Environmental
Domenic Calabro, EPA
Eli Owens, Clallam County
Emily Coleman, King County
Henry Allen, Spokane Valley
James Merritt, Synergy Eco Hub Solutions, Inc.
John MacGillivray, City of Kirkland Solid Waste
Josh Christy, City of Tacoma
Maria Teresa Gamez, City of Tacoma
Meggan Uecker, Clallam County Public Works
Michelle Mulrony, Klickitat County Solid Waste
Michelle Ross, interested citizen
Pete Moe, The Exchange, Orcas Island
Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann, Zero Landfill Initiative
Preston Peck, City of Tacoma
Randy Clark, Lynden Door
Rod Whittaker, Washington Refuse and Recycling Association
Ruby Irving-Hewey, Klickitat County Solid Waste
Sue Sander, Zero Landfill Initiative
Troy Lautenbach, Lautenbach Recycling

Commerce staff

Alice Zillah
Becca Duncan
Brian Young
Peter Moulton
Tammi Vellinga

Ecology staff

Alli Kingfisher
Chipper Hervieux
Dan Weston
Gretchen Newman
Heather Church
Janine Bogar
Julie Robertson
Kara Steward
Katherine Walton
Lacy Kooiman
Laurie Davies
Peter Guttchen
Shannon Jones
Steven Gimpel
Tina Schaefer
Elaine Taylor