

DRAFT Recycling Development Center Work Plan

For discussion by the Center Board members on April 14, 2020.

On January 9, 2020, the Washington State Departments of Ecology and Commerce hosted the first Recycling Development Center (Center) advisory board meeting at Highline College in Des Moines, Washington. In collaboration with interested parties that group created a list of 200 ideas for the Center¹. Those ideas and the requirements in the law were used to prioritize the Center work for calendar years 2020 and 2021 to focus on partnerships, research, business assistance, and technology.

This is excerpted from a draft Center Work Plan. This summary is shared with the advisory board for the April 14, 2020 meeting. The Center work plan will be posted on the [EZview](#) site in April 2020.

Partnerships

- Conduct outreach – Center will reach out to material recovery facility operators; public and private sector recycling and solid waste industries; packaging manufacturers and retailers; local governments; environmental organizations; colleges and universities; and state agencies. These outreach efforts will be used to solicit feedback on Center activities, identify data needs and gaps to help determine work of the Center. Facilitate conversations across recycling industries to get input on potential center projects and share results.
 - Timeline: 2020 and ongoing.
- Develop partnerships – Center will engage with other recycling councils² to identify work that the Center could conduct to assist and improve markets in Washington or the Pacific Northwest. Center will communicate with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, CalRecycle and British Columbia Ministry of Environment staff to discuss opportunities for regional collaboration on recycling market efforts.
 - Timeline: research other existing councils in 2020; plans for harmonizing work and activities by 2021.
- Share information – Results of Center work will be posted online, scheduling and agendas for advisory board meetings will be posted online and shared by email, in-person and webinar attendance will be available for advisory board meetings.
 - Timeline: 2020 and ongoing.

Business assistance³

- Funding opportunities – Develop a list of opportunities for funding and financing to assist recycling markets. This effort will include coordination with the Washington Economic Development economic development boards in Washington.
 - Timeline: 2020 – 2021 and regularly updated.

¹ https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/rdcab/010920NOTES.pdf

² <https://nerc.org/projects/completed-projects/>

³ <http://choosewashingtonstate.com/>

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- Business development – Provide business assistance to new and expanding businesses involved in recycling and use of recovered materials. Share recycling data and assist with regulatory compliance to interested businesses looking to expand into Washington State.
 - Timeline: 2020 and ongoing.
- Market analysis – Conduct analysis of waste stream supply chain and incentive strategies for retention, expansion, and attraction of innovative recycling technology businesses.
 - Timeline: 2020.

Research

- Waste and recycling data⁴ – Center will use Ecology solid waste data reports to map the movement of collected materials (curbside, commercial, industrial, and institutional) to processing operations and identify end markets. Contract for additional research into the waste stream and supply chain, for example, packaging manufacturers, retailers. This analysis will be used to develop materials maps for recyclable commodities, especially materials used as industrial or commercial feedstocks.
 - Timeline: 2020, with updates.
- Policy analysis – Contract for an analysis of existing solid waste and recycling regulations, identify barriers and opportunities under the current system. Include research on policies used in other jurisdictions and an evaluation of their impact on our current system, including cost/benefits, to identify impacts on local and regional recycling markets.
 - Timeline: 2020 or 2021.
- Economic analysis – Contract for a study of economic drivers for recycling, financing options, and business incentives that would be effective in Washington.
 - Timeline: 2021.

Technology

- Facilitate discussions – provide a platform for discussions about new technology to improve recycling feedstocks and end-markets.
 - Timeline: 2020 and ongoing.
- Evaluate new technology – collect information about current technology and innovative businesses. Identify what is ‘proven’ or ‘nonproven’ technology.
 - Timeline: 2020 and 2021, with regular updates.
- Investment analysis – evaluate investment opportunities for existing or new infrastructure to help expand and support new recycling markets.
 - Timeline: 2020 and 2021.

⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Research-Data/Data-resources/Solid-waste-recycling-data>