

WASHINGTON STATE RECYCLING DEVELOPMENT CENTER ADVISORY BOARD CHARTER

Background

For ~~many years~~decades, Washington State has relied on China to ~~take much of the recyclable~~recycle the majority of the paper and plastic waste~~plastics~~ generated by residents and businesses. Over the years, China has implemented ongoing policies that have threatened the systemic viability and resiliency of Washington State recycling programs. In 2008, recycling markets were severely impacted by the closure of paper mills in preparation for the Olympic games. In 2013, China implemented the “Operation Green Fence” enforcement program to police ~~reduce~~contamination. In ~~January~~2018, China implemented ~~the~~their “National Sword” policy that banned the import of certain plastic and paper materials and set a stringent contaminant limit for recyclables (0.5 percent by weight). Shortly thereafter, imports of mixed paper were banned and import quotas were drastically reduced. In 2020 ~~Lastly, China has announced a complete ban on all imported scrap material in 2021. These changes have~~ is-disrupted global recycling systems, including Washington’s, by eliminating ~~a key~~the largest market for these materials. Recently, other international markets, such as Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam, have followed with similar bans or strict contamination limits.

Alternative export and domestic markets for mixed paper and mixed plastics are extremely limited. With limited markets, ~~costs to collect~~collection, sorting, and ~~process~~processing costs have increased to improve quality and reduce contamination. In response, communities across Washington are ~~changing their recycling programs by suspending recycling programs,~~ removing items from programs, ~~or suspending entire recycling programs, and/or paying increased fee’s to recycle.~~ disposing of recyclables. In response to these systemic challenges, Washington needs to redesign the recycling framework to preserve and improve the environmental and social benefits of sustainable recycling ~~find new markets for recyclable materials to sustain the state’s recycling programs. Redesigning the recycling framework will include the research, study, and recommendation of effective recycling policies~~ that will establish and/or improve domestic markets, improve the recyclability of materials, reduce contamination of collected and processed materials, and strengthen the processing infrastructure required to support sustainable recycling.

Recycling Development Center

In 2019, state law¹ established the Recycling Development Center (Center) ~~at the~~within Washington State’s Department of Ecology to help address the loss of overseas recycling markets. The Center’s purpose~~goal~~ is to further the development of domestic processing and markets for recyclable materials~~recycled commodities~~. The Center’s activities ~~are~~will be guided by this advisory board, the Goals and Metrics document, and the annual work plan.

~~The Center will develop an annual work plan. Reports will be submitted to the legislature in December of even numbered years. The work plan and legislative report will document Center efforts to: Recommend actions to develop recycling markets, focusing first on mixed waste paper and plastics.~~

¹ Chapter 70.370 Revised Code of Washington, <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70.370&full=true>

Identify significant materials in the waste stream with potential for use as an industrial or commercial feedstock. Recommend actions to develop markets for these materials.

Recommend state policies that may affect influence markets for recyclable materials, including cost and benefit analyses, impacts on solid waste utility ratepayers, prices of consumer goods, and postconsumer material recycling.

Work with manufacturers of packaging and materials to increase product recyclability, use of recycled content, and product reuse.

Conduct studies on market development for recyclable materials (examples, applied research, technology transfer, life cycle analysis, and pilot demonstration projects).

Obtain and share recyclable material data.

Fund development or revitalization of recycling markets.

Provide business and marketing assistance to public and private sector entities.

- ~~Partner with Oregon and British Columbia to establish a regional recycling development council to support efforts that cross state and provincial borders.~~
- ~~Track Center activity impacts on state recycling rates or rates of utilization of postconsumer materials in manufactured products.~~

Ecology, Commerce, and UTC responsibilities

Ecology is responsible for the work of the Center in partnership with material recovery facility operators, public and private sector recycling and solid waste industries, packaging manufacturers and retailers, local governments, environmental organizations, interested colleges and universities, and state agencies.

The Washington Department of Commerce (Commerce) supports the Center by providing business, marketing, and technical assistance for to the public and private sector.

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) will attend board meetings, track Center activities, and provide input related to impacts on ratepayers. The UTC representative is a non-voting member of the advisory board.

Board responsibilities

The Board will advise the Center during the development of the annual work plan, provide assessment, review and feedback be consulted while on projects, and studies, tasks and policies being considered.~~are underway, and provide review of results as they are compiled and reported.~~ Additional board Board activities and responsibilities may include:

- Establish subcommittees as needed to delve deeper into specific issues. To study specific problems or projects and make recommendations for action.
- Review, advise, and comment on Center work plan, draft output, plans and reports, recommendations and implementation plans.
- Evaluate, analyze, and make recommendations on state policies that may affect markets for recyclable materials.
- Interpret the responsibilities assigned to the Center in the law.
- Prepare~~Suggest~~ the goals and, metrics, and work and priorities for the Center work.
- ~~Partner with the Center on projects and tasks and identify other partners.~~
- Provide information, resources, and recommendations to the Center.
- ~~Review and provide input on policy issues, proposed regulations, projects, and plans.~~

Board decision making

The Board's advice to Ecology does not require members to reach consensus. All viewpoints will be considered as the work plan for the Center is developed and the results of that work is completed. Recommended actions, along with any areas of disagreement, will be presented in any reports and shared with appropriate stakeholders for further implementation.

Board Participation

All board members commit to:

- Participate in each meeting to the best of their abilities to ensure continuity through the process. Avoid substituting or alternating members whenever possible.
- Come prepared for meetings by reading materials before the meeting, thinking through questions, and developing responses and discussion ideas.
- Engage in honest, open-minded, constructive, and good-faith discussions to seek understanding and optimal decisions and outcomes.
- Treat everyone and their opinions with respect.
- Comment constructively and specifically.
- Consult with their constituencies and provide input to the discussions from their perspectives.
- Do not attempt to represent the views of the Center to the public or media, unless clearly agreed upon and delegated to do so.

Board membership

The Board is comprised of 14 members appointed by the Director of Ecology in consultation with the Director of Commerce. [The two county](#) ~~County~~ representatives [were](#) appointed by the Washington State Association of Counties. Board representation as of ~~November~~ [March 2020](#)~~2019~~:

Government – 2 year terms

- Seattle - Sego Jackson, Seattle Public Utilities, Seattle
- Skagit County - Margo Gillaspay, Skagit County Public Works Department, Mt Vernon
- Spokane County - Deb Geiger, Spokane County Solid Waste, Spokane

Research institution – 2 year terms

- Pacific Northwest National Laboratory - Corinne Drennan, Richland
- Washington State University - Dr. Karl Englund, Pullman: [board cochair](#)
- Evergreen State College - Scott Morgan, Olympia: [board chair](#)

Public interest group – 2 year terms

- Zero Waste Washington - Heather Trim, Seattle

Private sector recycling materials system – 2 or 3 year terms

- American Chemistry Council – Tim Shestek, Sacramento, CA – 2 years
- Ameripen - Kyla Fisher, Phoenix, AZ – 2 years
- North Pacific Paper Company - Jay Simmons, Longview – 3 years
- Recology - Derek Ruckman, Seattle – 2 years
- Returnit - Allen Langdon, Encorp Pacific, Burnaby, BC – 2 years
- Sustainable Packaging Coalition - Nina Goodrich, Olympia – 3 years

- Waste Management – [Mike Range, Tacoma](#)–[Mindy Rostami, Kirkland](#) – 3 years

The chair ~~and cochair~~ of the advisory board, ~~Scott Morgan, chair and Karl Englund, cochair, were will be~~ elected from among the members by a simple majority vote. Additional temporary appointments may be made by the chair of the Board, with agreement among the members, where specific expertise is needed. Board members may substitute an alternate to attend meetings on their behalf.

Meeting schedule

The Board ~~initially met will meet beginning in~~ January 2020. ~~The board will meet quarterly or more frequently as needed. Meeting dates are posted on the board website and shared with interested parties by email.~~

https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1962/37596/recycling_development_center_advisory_board.aspx

Ecology will ~~host and~~ facilitate board meetings, handle meeting logistics, and finalize the meeting schedule ~~in consultation with with the board chair and cochair~~. All ~~board~~ meetings will be offered with a call-in or webinar option ~~for~~ interested parties. ~~Board meetings, discussions, and deliberations will occur in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.~~

~~For the first year meetings will occur..... Ecology will facilitate board meetings, handle meeting logistics, and finalize the meeting schedule.. Board meetings will be hosted by Ecology, scheduled to occur All meetings will be offered with a call-in or webinar option. Meetings will be open to all interested parties.~~

Record Keeping

~~Board records, such as documents, discussion drafts, and meeting summaries are public will be posted on the board website for interested parties to review.~~ Ecology will ~~record and~~ post meeting notes and keep the board website updated:

https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1962/37596/recycling_development_center_advisory_board.aspx

Alternative format

To request reasonable accommodation, including materials in a format for the visually impaired or in a language other than English, call Ecology at 360-407-7285. Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341. Or visit Ecology's Accessibility Webpage: <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Accountability-transparency/Accessibility/Request-for-reasonable-accommodation>