

Goals for the Recycling Development Center – approved July 13, 2020

Our goals are to:

- **Develop local and regional markets and processing** for Washington’s recyclable products and materials¹ to be transformed or remanufactured into usable or marketable products for use other than landfill disposal or incineration. This work will:
 - Encourage waste prevention and emphasize reuse before materials enter the waste stream; and
 - Initially focus on traditional recyclables, like mixed waste paper and plastics, with potential for use as industrial or commercial feedstocks; and phase into other materials that comprise a significant percentage of the waste stream; and
 - Ensure materials are marketable by looking both upstream (product design for recyclability and reduced toxic content), midstream (reduced contamination of recyclable materials²), and downstream (processing that enables responsible recycling); and
 - Ensure/Encourage that products marketed in Washington incorporate post-consumer recycled content; and
 - Facilitate connections and exchange of information across all sectors of the circular economy - including research, innovation, and policy; and
 - Increase awareness of recycling’s impact and a resulting thriving circular economy.
- **Support equitable economic growth** by attracting outside funding and analyzing, attracting, and supporting existing and new Washington-based businesses that enable reuse of products, packaging and other materials before they enter the waste stream, process recyclable waste materials into valuable commodities and products, use recycled content, and create local jobs, while ensuring that a social justice lens and a triple bottom line approach is applied throughout.
- **Assess and adapt innovative technologies**, such as new Material Recovery Facility (MRF) technologies, sorting processes, or new ways of addressing mixed plastics, and **promote** those that meet criteria acceptable to the board, including pilot-scale efforts.
- **Collaborate** with manufacturers and producers of packaging and other potentially reusable or recyclable materials to **increase the ability of their packaging and products to be reduced, reused or recyclable**.
- **Evaluate, analyze and recommend state policies** that positively affect markets for recyclable materials.
- **Collect recycled materials end use data** from material recovery facility (MRF) operators; public and private sector recycling and solid waste industries; manufacturers and retailers.
- **Work in partnership** with product and packaging producers and other regional partners on a **pilot project** that demonstrates a pathway for a specific material, showing all stages of the supply chain using a circular economy model.

¹ “Recyclable materials” means those solid wastes that are separated for recycling or reuse, such as papers, metals, and glass, that are identified as recyclable material pursuant to a local comprehensive solid waste plan. “Solid waste” or “wastes” means all putrescible and nonputrescible solid and semisolid wastes including, but not limited to, garbage, rubbish, ashes, industrial wastes, swill, sewage sludge, demolition and construction wastes, abandoned vehicles or parts thereof, and recyclable materials.

² Supporting the efforts of the Recycling Steering Committee, Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plan (CROP), and Recycle Right initiative efforts.

DRAFT Metrics of Success for the Recycling Development Center

We will know we made a difference if we have:

- **Increased business use of recycled plastic or paper material** – Worked with 10 new or existing businesses in WA to manufacture products using plastic or paper recyclable materials, in five years.
- **Increased business use of other recycled material and reusable products** – Worked with 10 new or existing businesses in WA to increase use of reusable or recyclable materials, in five years.
- **Increased reusability/recyclability of manufactured products** – Worked with 15 manufacturers (or their associations) to make their products reusable or recyclable (design changes), in five years.
- **Increased purchasing of products with recycled content** – Worked with 10 manufacturers, government agencies, or institutions to implement purchasing preferences for products with recycled content, in five years.
- **Recommended policy changes** – Supported policies to improve recycling – examples: product stewardship for specific products, bottle deposit program, improved labeling for recyclability – in five years.
- **Completed a pilot project or initiative** with packaging or other product producers, within five years, that demonstrates that creating sustainable markets is possible or has fostered/enhanced/built markets for mixed waste papers or plastics or has created a template for how to create more sustainable markets for this material.
- **Collaborated** with other recycling development centers, regional partners and other stakeholders so that our successes are amplified rather than duplicative or competitive.
- **Increased total amount of material recycled locally/regionally (relative to the percentage exported)** – Percentage of recyclable materials that are primary/secondary processed and responsibly recycled into new transformed or remanufactured into usable or marketable products within the state or region increased by 50%, in five years.
- **Injected economic growth and innovative technologies** into Washington and the region's recycling and processing capacity by increasing capital investment (by 50%) and job creation rate (by 50%), in five years.
- **Reduced the amount of recyclable material** going to the landfill by at least 50% in five years, relative to 2015, as measured by the *State Waste Characterization* reports, including reductions created both by increased recycling and decreased waste generation (e.g., reusable packaging) strategies.
- **Reduced pulp and paper mill residuals** using recycled products as raw material by 50% in five years.