

Recycling Development Center Advisory Board Meeting July 13, 2020



The Advisory Board for the Washington Recycling Development Center (Center) met online on July 13, 2020, with additional interested parties.

The web meeting was hosted by staff from the Departments of Ecology and Commerce. Laurie Davies, Ecology's Solid Waste Management program manager, and Brian Young, Commerce's Clean Technology sector lead, both attended and provided an agency update. Interested parties joined remotely and were offered an opportunity to provide comment.

- *Notes amended on July 20, 2020, added a list of links to websites for other US recycling development efforts (highlighted in yellow).*

Advisory Board members in attendance:

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

Advisory Board member not in attendance:

Allen Langdon Return-it

Meeting Agenda:

Topic – discussion lead

- Welcome and roll call - Ecology
- Open Public Meetings Act - Ecology
- Charter review – Board members
- Goals and Metrics review - Board members
- Updates - Ecology, Commerce, and Board members
- Work Plan review – Ecology and Board members
- Public comment opportunity - Attendees
- Wrap-up and next steps - Ecology

Meeting goals and materials

The goals of the meeting were to update the board on the Open Public Meetings Act, review the board charter, review the goals and metrics, share updates from the board and agencies, and review the work plan.

Materials for this meeting include: [agenda](#), [slides](#), [charter](#), [goals/metrics](#), and [work plan](#). These materials are available on the [Board EZview Website](#).

Open Public Meetings Act

Ecology provided an overview of the [Open Public Meetings Act](#) (OPMA) to the board. This advisory board will comply with the requirements of the OPMA. All deliberations of the advisory board will occur in meetings open to the public. Due to the requirements of the OPMA, the SharePoint site hosted by Ecology has been disabled and will not be used by the board for drafting working documents, as that site is not visible to the public.

Charter review

Board chair Scott Morgan facilitated a discussion of the board [Charter](#). The board edited portions of the draft charter, decided to meet every other month for 2 to 3 hours, and set up a subcommittee to revise the charter background section. The charter subcommittee includes Karl Englund, Derek Ruckman, and Deb Geiger. If needed, Ecology will facilitate subcommittee meetings. The subcommittee will bring charter revisions to the next board meeting for review and board acceptance.

Goals and Metrics review

Board member Heather Trim facilitated review of the [Goals and Metrics](#) document. The board edited portions of the goals and metrics and voted on **one metric** (shown below) with a majority vote for 50%. A board majority approved the Goals and Metrics document. Those roll call votes are summarized Table 1.

- Metric vote: 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 increases by **50% or 75%** in five years.”

Table 1 – Board member voting

Board Member	Representing	Metric of 50% or 75%	Goals and Metrics
Corinne Drennan	Pacific NW National Laboratory	75%	Pass
Karl Englund	Washington State University	50%	Approve
Kyla Fisher	AMERIPEN	50%	Approve
Deb Geiger	Spokane County Solid Waste	50%	Approve
Margo Gillaspay	Skagit County Public Works	75%	Approve
Nina Goodrich	Sustainable Packaging Coalition	50%	Approve
Sego Jackson	Seattle Public Utilities	75%	Approve
Allen Langdon	Return-it	Not present	Not present
Scott Morgan	Evergreen State College	50%	Approve
Mike Range	Waste Management	50%	Approve
Derek Ruckman	Recology	75%	Approve
Tim Shestek	American Chemistry Council	50%	Approve
Jay Simmons	North Pacific Paper Company	50%	Approve
Heather Trim	Zero Waste Washington	75%	Approve

Updates

Ecology updated the board on several Center-related issues:

- Impacts to Ecology resources that affect the Center: contract freeze, hiring freeze, agency furlough days, and staff leaving the agency. Ecology is currently unable to hire contractors or additional staff to support the Center.
- Ecology projects that are underway that support Center work: waste characterization study for 2020-21, plastics study work has an October 2020 due date, food waste reduction plan is moving forward, and the state-wide contamination, reduction and outreach plan is scheduled to be posted in July.
- Other Ecology efforts: the proposal to repeal Chapter 70.95F RCW – Labelling of Plastics – is not going forward. Ecology is requesting to fully fund the Center during the 2021-23 biennium.

Commerce reported similar impacts on Center support due to contracting freeze, hiring freeze, and agency furloughs. Commerce’s Research Division’s research into glass recycling is underway, will be shared with the board at an upcoming meeting, and has a due date of October. Commerce continues to see a healthy stream of

companies inquiring about opportunities to locate recycling related businesses in WA, although the pandemic has slowed the inquiries. Requests are still being handled by Commerce in coordination with the Center.

Board members each provided a quick update, most updates were not specific to the work of the Center. A few items that were Center-related:

- Share of an analysis of chemical companies and plastic waste.
<https://members.luxresearchinc.com/research/insight/34722>
- Request for Ecology's Plastic Study consultant issue a new notification to the stakeholder listserv to clearly outline the reports that are available for public comment, the dates when comments will be accepted, and the best process for submitting comments.
- Link to the Polypropylene recycling effort from The Recycling Partnership:
<https://recyclingpartnership.org/press-release-the-recycling-partnership-launches-polypropylene-recycling-coalition-to-improve-and-increase-americas-recovery-of-plastic-packaging-and-strengthen-the-circular-economy/>

Work Plan

Ecology provided the board with an update on the Center work plan development. The first draft was presented at the April board meeting, board member comments were submitted to Ecology by April 29, Ecology incorporated board member comments, and shared the revised work plan at this board meeting. Changes to the April work plan included:

- Accepted most board member comments and edits.
 - A copy of the [work plan](#) including all board member edits and comments is available on the website.
- Removed the Solid Waste Data section of the first draft plan. This data summary will be updated and brought back to the board at a later date.
- Reorganized the agency work portion of the plan to reflect immediate, short term, and long term work.

Board members provided the following feedback and comments:

- The board goals and metrics are an appendix to the work plan. Ecology committed to developing a cross-walk of work plan actions and board goals and metrics. This will be discussed at the next board meeting.
- Change the format of the 'work plan' section of the document to reflect all actions of the Center. Separately highlight efforts Ecology and Commerce propose for the focus in the coming year.
- While Ecology is unable to contract, the Center should develop some requests for proposal (RFPs) for the needed studies and partner with others to find funding and implement the contract. Suggestions included looking into funding opportunities from the federal government, The Recycling Partnership, and other organizations.
- Annually, the board will advise the Center on the priorities for the upcoming work plan.
- A board vote on the work plan was suggested to show their support.
- How does the Center's work fit in with extended producer responsibility?
- Request to share links to other market development efforts by states and councils, so board members can research similar efforts (**see links in the next section**).
- Board members were asked to identify their suggested top priorities for this work plan:
 - Data analysis – data not currently captured in the waste stream.
 - Outreach and business assistance.
 - Market development and partnerships.
 - Research and analysis of current markets, where can we make improvements.

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- Data analysis will lead to developing partnerships and market development will follow.
- The center needs connections and credibility and knowledge.
- Research, analysis and market development.
- What problem are we trying to solve? Recycling of #3 thru #7 plastics needs more infrastructure.
- Work with national organizations to get data and funding through networking.

Other recycling development market web links *(added to the notes on July 20, 2020)*

- [California Recycling Market Development Zone Program](#)
- [Indiana Recycling Market Development Program](#)
- [Michigan Market Development Final Report](#)
- [Minnesota Recycling Market Development](#)
- [Northeast Recycling Council](#)
- [Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center](#)
- [South Carolina Solid Waste Management Annual Report](#)
- [Southeast Recycling Development Council](#)

Public comment opportunity

Questions or comments from interested parties:

Mike Waggoner: I'm the founder of Corumat, Inc. We were just awarded \$2.34M from WA Commerce for cleantech research. Is there a way to coordinate pilot projects with the RDC and/or Ecology in the near term? Who would be the right people to reach out to?

Answer: send an email to recdevcenter@ecy.wa.gov

Wrap-up and next steps

- Ecology will post meeting notes on the advisory board EZview website, including a list of attendees.
- The Charter subcommittee will provide charter edits at the next board meeting.
- The board approved Goals and Metrics document will be posted on the advisory board EZview website.
- Next board meeting will be scheduled in late August, date to be determined. Then the board will meet on October 13, 2020. Then the board meets every other month – dates will be scheduled and posted on the advisory board EZview website.
- EZview website update notices will be emailed to all interested parties.
- Agendas for upcoming board meetings will be coordinated with the board chair and cochair.
- Ecology and Commerce will prepare a draft report to the legislature (due in December 2020). This will be on an agenda for board review at an upcoming meeting. This draft report is due at Ecology by November for internal management review.
- Ecology is interested to hear from board members if there are specific topics of interest for webinar discussions (hosted outside of board meetings) or board meetings. Send topic suggestions to Ecology or the board chair/cochair.

To-do items from this meeting

- Charter subcommittee to meet – Ecology can facilitate.
- Ecology will schedule every other month board meetings.
- Ecology will prepare a cross-walk of Goals/Metrics with Work Plan actions.

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- Ecology will prepare a cross-walk of RCW directive with Work Plan actions.
- Ecology will revise the work plan actions section (page 6) to refer to the Goals/Metrics, list all actions, and identify Ecology and Commerce annual commitments.
- Ecology to share links to other recycling market development centers in the U.S. (*added to the notes*)
- All materials will be posted on the advisory board EZview website and shared with interested parties (notice provided in an email update).

List of Attendees

Interested parties Andy Smith, King County Brad Lovaas, Washington Refuse and Recycling Association Bruce Stein, Anchor Packaging Darshan Dhillon, King County Domenic Calabro, EPA Gary Wilburn, WA State Legislature Ketsiri De Bord, King County Michael Waggoner, Corumat Inc. Michelle Mulrony, Klickitat County Michelle Ross, interested citizen Preston Peck, City of Tacoma Rod Whittaker, Washington Refuse and Recycling Association Ruby Irving, Klickitat County Solid Waste Sharon Conroy, Green Solutions Troy Lautenbach, Lautenbach Recycling Wendy Weiker, Republic Services	Commerce staff Becca Duncan Brian Young Peter Moulton Ecology staff Dan Weston Elaine Taylor Gretchen Newman Julie Robertson Kara Steward Katherine Walton Laurie Davies Steven Gimpel Tina Schaefer
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Questions

- Contact the Center staff at: recdevcenter@ecy.wa.gov
- Visit the Advisory Board EZview website at:
https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1962/37596/recycling_development_center_advisory_board.aspx