

Recycling Development Center Advisory Board Meeting September 3, 2020



The Washington Recycling Development Center (Center) Advisory Board met online on September 3, 2020, interested parties attended and offered comments. The web meeting was hosted by Department of Ecology staff.

All Advisory Board members attended:

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Corinne Drennan	Pacific NW National Laboratory	Allen Langdon	Return-it (<i>joined at 10 am</i>)
Karl Englund, board cochair	Washington State University	Scott Morgan, board chair	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

Meeting Agenda:

Topic – discussion lead

- Welcome and roll call - Ecology, Board
- Charter approval - Board
- Center updates - Ecology, Commerce, and Board
- Other updates - Ecology and Board (data discussion)
- Public comment opportunity - Attendees
- Future Board topics - Board

Meeting goals and materials

The goals of the meeting were to:

- Approve the board charter.
- Update the board on Center and other Ecology work.
- Discuss Center outreach ideas and data needs.
- Identify future meeting topics.

Materials for this meeting are available on the [Board EZview Website](#).

Roll call and updates

Board members each provided a quick update, most updates were not specific to the work of the Center:

- Nina Goodrich offered invitations to any board member or attendee at upcoming Sustainable Packaging Coalition member events <https://sustainablepackaging.org/events/>. Contact Nina to attend at no charge nina.goodrich@greenblue.org
- Heather Trim: Zero Waste Washington is hosting a “hackathon” in September, October, and November. They are looking for mentor, judge, and sponsor volunteers – for more information: <https://sites.google.com/zerowastewashington.org/hackathon>
- Other links shared by board members:
 - www.nytimes.com/2020/08/30/climate/oil-kenya-africa-plastics-trade.html
 - www.americanchemistry.com/Media/PressReleasesTranscripts/ACC-news-releases/Chemicals-and-Plastics-Industry-Corrects-Record-on-Its-Position-Regarding-US-Kenya-Trade-Negotiations.html
 - www.houstonchronicle.com/local/education/campus-chronicles/article/rice-university-100M-donation-welch-foundation-tx-15537168.php

Charter approval

Katherine Walton (Ecology) facilitated review and approval of the board [Charter](#). The charter was revised by the subcommittee: Karl Englund, Derek Ruckman, and Deb Geiger. Board members agreed to add other international restrictions to the Charter introduction (to be added by Corinne Drennan) and approved this Charter. All board members approved by roll call, excluding Allen Langdon who join the webinar at 10 am.

Center Update

Ecology (Tina Schaefer) and Commerce (Brian Young) updated board members ([slides](#) 8-11):

- Short summary of Center work accomplished in 2020 (slide 9). Briefly refreshed the board on work plan focus for 2020-21 (slide 10). Reported back to the board on two questions from July:
 - What are other market development efforts in the US: There are several state agencies that conduct market development efforts: [California](#), [South Carolina](#), [Michigan](#), [Minnesota](#), and recently Texas and Colorado started programs. There are also several non-profit market development efforts: [Northeast Recycling Council](#), [South East Recycling Development Council](#), [Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center Corporation](#).
 - How do the work plan activities support our statutory directive and the board approved goals and metrics. The last page of the July work plan includes a cross-walk table that compares these 15 activities with the law, goals and metrics
- Shared the Center outreach and data efforts for 2020-21 (slide 11) to reach out to the solid waste and recycling community, locally and nationally to share our key messages and ask for input and data. Board members offered input on the outreach/data effort:
 - Recommend deeper discussions on specific commodities at future board meetings, to prioritize commodities and determine questions and data needs. What are the top 3 most difficult materials to recycle and why. Make the outreach more focused on specific commodities. What is not being collected from the waste stream and why. Can we move back to multi stream collection?
 - Reach out to manufacturers and the entire supply chain to get a balanced perspective: what are the strengths and weaknesses along the supply chain, what is and is not working, what are the issues, where are the gaps, what do they want. Who are the manufacturers in Washington? Where can we pilot technologies and ideas?
 - Need to share what the Center offers, what do we do, create a one-pager or info graphic.
 - Look at other recycling development efforts, what have they done, who else is collecting data.
 - The board created an **Outreach and Data Subcommittee** to support this work: Derek Ruckman, Nina Goodrich, Heather Trim, Jay Simmons, Allen Langdon, and Corinne Drennan. Ecology will schedule one subcommittee discussion before the October board meeting and report back.
- Commerce continues to work with entities interested in bringing recycling operation to Washington, there are four projects in process. Still short staffed to offer much outreach to industry for the Center. The Glass market study update will be shared at the October board meeting.

Other Ecology Updates

Ecology provided the board with other project updates (refer to the meeting [slides](#) for more information). Then the board discussed data needs (*italic text reflects answers provided for the questions*):

- **Plastic Study** ([slides](#) 13-22) – Alli Kingfisher alli.kingfisher@ecy.wa.gov or waplasticpkgstudy@cascadiaconsulting.com – find the plastic study reports on this [website](#).
 - Will comments on the plastic study reports be incorporated into the Cascadia report? – *Probably not, comments will be listed in an attachment but not incorporated.*

- **Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plan (CROP)** ([slides 23 – 51](#)) – Peter Guttchen peter.guttchen@ecy.wa.gov – CROP resources can be found in the [Recycling Contamination Reduction Resource Library](#)
- **Ecology's Solid Waste Data** ([slides 54 -74](#)) – Gretchen Newman gretchen.newman@ecy.wa.gov
 - Explain the cardboard recycled and disposed slide (*slide 72*), is that based on waste characterization data? Do you do annual waste studies or extrapolate? – *The disposed recyclables is based on waste characterization studies. Those studies are not conducted annually. Disposed recyclables data is extrapolated from the most recent study.*
 - Can we use software to do QA/QC and double-counting adjustments of Ecology data? – *Ecology has considered different approaches and can consider others as resources and time allow.*
 - The information about the percentage of commercial recycling versus total is important.
- **Board discussion of data:**
 - Can we add Center data needs to Ecology's list of data and data needs? Which ones need to get into statute? – *Ecology has a data inventory and list of data gaps along with a data strategy. All the new legislative initiatives have added to our data needs.*
 - Is there consistency of data across the region, from state to state? – *EPA is standardizing some data across the country through their State Measurement Program, but all states collect data differently.*
 - The Outreach and Data Subcommittee will work on this topic and report back to the full Board on October 14.

Public comment opportunity

Questions or comments from interested parties:

Michelle Ross: Asked about adding a public representative to the board. – *The board agreed to discuss this at the October meeting.*

Dave Claugus, Pioneer Recycling: Expressed concerns about the extended producer responsibility (EPR) recommendation for all packaging in the plastic packaging study.

Kathy Lambert, King County Councilmember: (from the chat box, due to audio difficulties)

- Asked about biosolids recycling and toxics. – *Biosolids are not in the scope of the Center's statutory direction.*
- Do you track recyclables that are sent to be recycled but are sent to the landfill? – *Ecology's data does track residuals from recycling facilities that go to the landfill.*
- Why is municipal solid waste recycling rate not calculated at the state level anymore? – *Ecology would like to emphasize waste reduction, as this is a bigger priority in terms of the hierarchy of waste and our state waste plan, so has chosen to focus more on the waste generation metric. Recent challenges with the recycling system have illustrated that the municipal solid waste (MSW) recycling rate and goals to recycle more can actually lead to more contamination in the system. A statewide recovery rate is available, and local governments will still be able to calculate their MSW recycling rates. An FAQ about the recent metrics changes is available upon request.*
- The info on how small amount of recyclables comes from residential was very powerful. (*slide 69*)

Future board meeting topics

- Conduct deeper dives into specific commodities, two-hour long discussions including data and other information, challenges and opportunities.
- Presentations from other recycling market development center efforts.

- ISRIs (Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries) improved bin initiative.
- Sustainable Packaging Coalition present about film and flexibles. Shared this Michigan study <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/08/200825113621.htm>
- Update on other US state laws, like California or Massachusetts.
- US Plastics Pact - <https://usplasticspact.org>
- More detail on proposals to come to Washington that Commerce is working on.
- More time on metrics with Gretchen.
- UK study on social life cycle assessment. Download the report here: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/d17ea14c-c4c0-11e5-a4b5-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>
- ACC members can present on new technologies, like #3 thru #7 plastics.

To-do items from this meeting

- Post on the Board EZview site: the approved Charter, notes and attendee list.
- Schedule one Outreach and Data Subcommittee meeting before October 14, report back to the full board on October 14.
- October 14 agenda will include more public comment opportunities and a discussion of expanding on the representation on the Board membership.

List of Attendees

Interested parties

Adrian Tan, King County
Amanda Romero, Thurston County
Bruce Stein, Anchor Pac
Dave Bader, EHS
Dave Claugus, Pioneer Recycling
Eli Owens, Clallam County
Jeff Epstein, Carton Council
Kathy Lambert, King County Council
McKenna Morrigan, Cascadia
Michelle Ross
Preston Peck, City of Tacoma
Sharon Conroy, Green Solutions

Commerce staff

Brian Young

Utilities and Transportation

Commission staff

Ann LaRue
Kyle Murphy

Ecology staff

Laurie Davies
Steven Gimpel
Peter Guttchen
Shannon Jones
Alli Kingfisher
Gretchen Newman
Julie Robertson
Tina Schaefer
Kara Steward
Katherine Walton
Dan Weston

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