# Recycling Development Center Advisory Washington Recycling Development Center logoBoard Meeting

# October 11, 2023

* The Washington Recycling Development Center (Center) Advisory Board met on October 11, 2023.
* Department of Ecology (Ecology) staff hosted the board meeting remotely on Zoom.

## Advisory Board members:

Natalie Caulkins: Republic Services

Karl England: Washington State University

Kris Major: City of Spokane

Scott Morgan: Evergreen State College

Jay Simmons: NORPAC

Jon Smieja: GreenBiz

Heather Trim: Zero Waste Washington

Not present: Corinne Drennan: Pacific NW National Laboratory, Kyla Fisher: AMERIPEN, Allen Langdon: Circular Materials, Chris Piercy: Kitsap County, Mike Range: Waste Management, Tim Shestek: American Chemistry Council.

## Agenda

* Board, Ecology, and Department of Commerce (Commerce) updates
* Presentations
* Advisory board brainstorming

Meeting agenda and other materials are available on the [Advisory Board website](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37596/recycling_development_center_advisory_board.aspx)[[1]](#endnote-2)

Refer to the [meeting slides](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/rdcab/2023-10-11-Slides.pptx)[[2]](#endnote-3) where noted.

## Board, Commerce, Ecology updates

**Board members** shared the following updates.

* **Natalie Caulkins (Republic Services)- Kaylie Wallen is the new recycling coordinator for Republic Services and joined the call.**
* **Karl England (Washington State University)- research is mostly around recycling; US Department of Agriculture and agricultural plastic films.**
* **Kris Major (City of Spokane)- focusing on proper handling of battery disposal, in the last month had two fires at Spokane disposal facilities related to batteries.**
* **Scott Morgan (The Evergreen State College)- charging electric cars on campus now, not thinking about battery disposal issues yet.**
* **Jon Smieja (Green Biz)- ramping up for next year's Circularity conference in Chicago.**
* **Jay Simmons (NORPAC)- market in state of flux, new territory for packaging on hybrid machine, lots of customer visits.**

**Commerce update – Kirk Esmond (presentation slides 9 through 16)**:

* **Industrial symbiosis - Four industrial symbiosis grant projects wrapping up in season one, four new industrial symbiosis grant projects will be announced this week.**

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov/news/commerce-funds-four-more-innovative-projects-seeking-to-repurpose-industrial-and-agricultural-waste/>

* **Circular Economy Acceleration budget request submitted to the Governor’s office. The request includes funding for industrial symbiosis grants, eco-industrial parks, and a market development program (like NextCycle Washington).**
* **Discussed potential investments from Denmark for industrial symbiosis and the Systemic Approach to Clean Industry (SACI).**

**Ecology update – Kara Steward (presentation slides 17 through 21)**:

* **UW Evans school study wrapped up market development analysis with five recommended actions for the RDC,** [UW Evans school report Developing Priorities in Recycling Markets](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/rdcab/RDC-EvansSchool-DevelopingPrioritiesInRecyclingMarkets-2307024.pdf)
* **Ecology’s recycling contamination study coming out in December**
* **Ecology’s Litter study is published**[2022 Washington Statewide Litter Study](https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2307038.html#:~:text=This%20study%20assesses%20current%20litter%20levels%2C%20accumulation%20rates%2C,to%20evaluate%20programs%2C%20legislation%2C%20and%20litter%20prevention%20efforts.)
* **NextCycle Washington (NCWA) reports are out – links to those reports are below:**
	+ [Year End Report](https://www.nextcyclewashington.com/s/NCWA-Year-End-Report.pdf)
	+ [Gap Analysis](http://www.nextcyclewashington.com/resources1/nextcycle-washington-gap-analysis)
	+ [Circular funding resource guide](http://www.nextcyclewashington.com/resources1/nextcycle-washington-circular-funding-resource-guide)
	+ [Resilience Maps](http://www.equityanalyticsgroup.com/resilience-networks)
* **Our new website includes links to these and other resources, plus much more on NextCycle Washington, check it out!** [Recycling Development Center - Washington State Department of Ecology](https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/strategic-policy-and-planning/recycling-development-center#research)

## Presentation, Chery Sullivan, Ecology

Refer to the [meeting slides](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/rdcab/2023-10-11-Slides.pptx) for the content from this presentation.

* Provided an update on the status of implementation of the 2022 Organics Management Law– presentation slides 23 through 31.

## Board brainstorm by material

Kara Steward summarized the work completed by the RDC team over the past year – including a short video highlighting facility tours and outreach efforts, see slides 34 through 36.

Mya Keyzers shared the latest update on the RDC Prioritization Tool – see slides 38 and 40 for the images of that tool and some supporting data provided for the board brainstorming. The tool can be downloaded from the Advisory Board website at this link:

* <https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/rdcab/EZpage-CenterProjectPrioritizationToolSept2023.xlsx>

Scott Morgan, board chair, hosted a board member brainstorming effort focused on work the Recycling Development Center could undertake in 2024. A summary is provided below. Ecology will reach out to the board members not in attendance for their input into this list of data and ideas for 2024.

**Data:**

* An analysis that combines the two graphs from the tool (slide 40).
* Can we combine the two data sets – what we recover and we don't recover?
* Want to see what the potential of materials, input disposed data into the [EPA WARM model](https://www.epa.gov/warm).
* What can be included in this chart is the quantity of available materials to be recovered. For example, waste plastics are only recovered at a rate of less than 20%. There is higher potential to recycle more waste plastics.
* Recycled vs landfill, how effective is the current market working, use recovery rates?
* What are going to landfills right now that don't have an end market? Barriers as to why.

 **Ideas**

* Have Commerce and the RDC develop more data sheets on what the state can offer (including volumes of waste and RDC support).
* Encourage the RDC keep an eye out for the OR and CA needs assessments that are part of their forthcoming extended producer responsibility programs, how can you leverage that to grow interest in WA recycling as a hub.
* Dialogue with existing industries—what are their pain points with recycling and what do they need.
* Armed with all that data do you then consider an invest in WA event that is designed to attract existing business to the state?
* Gaps in data that we just don't understand - supply chain, dirty materials, - a lot of unknowns. Use our data to figure out we have this big supply, why aren't we actually using it? Get rid of the myths and get to facts.
* Clarifying the nature of the market for the end user.
* Focus on convening, we have the opportunity to build networks and bring them together. Experts are doing the work, we can bring them together.
* Situational awareness- time of change be a resource to help navigate it.

## Meeting to-do items

* Give us feedback and take the [post meeting survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W69XXYP)!
* Next board meeting is on [January 10, 2024](https://waecy-wa-gov.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvdOmgrj4sHtNBm9gbrpBSuzltLzT8s3yx)[[3]](#endnote-4) – more details about the meeting format to come.
* Provide Center project ideas to Mya Keyzers for analysis by the prioritization subcommittee.

## For more information:

* Contact Center staff by email[[4]](#endnote-5)
* Sign up for our [email list](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic_id=WAECY_112)[[5]](#endnote-6)
* Visit the Center [Advisory Board website](http://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37596/recycling_development_center_advisory_board.aspx)[[6]](#endnote-7)

## List of Attendees (excluding board members)

| ****Interested Parties**** | State Agency Staff |
| --- | --- |
| **Adrian Tan, King County****Andy Booth, Grant County****Ashley Kirby, City of Chelan****Carla Johnson, Republic Services****Carol Lanigan****Carolyn Moulton, Lautenbach Recycling****El Rose****Fanny Silverio Gonzalez, King County****Garcia Analisa, King County****Haifang Wen, Washington State University****Hannah Scholes, King County****Henry Allen, Spokane Valley****Holly Yanai, Divert Inc.** **Lindsey Stovall, American Chemistry****Lisa Heltemes, Nippon Dynawave****Lucy Pierce, Green Blue****McKenna Morrigan, City of Seattle****Sam Dart, Grant County****Suzanne Noble, Ellensburg Glass Recycling Cooperative****Tom Crowson,** Advanced Lewis County Recycling**Wendy Weiker, Republic Services** | Caleb Carlson, Ecology**Chery Sullivan, Ecology**Diana Wadley, Ecology**Julie Robertson, Ecology**Kara Steward, EcologyKirk Esmond, CommerceMya Keyzers, Ecology**Paula Wesch, Ecology** Tina Schaefer, Ecology  |

1. [Department of Ecology - Committees, Boards, and Workgroups (wa.gov)](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37596/recycling_development_center_advisory_board.aspx) [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
2. <https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/rdcab/2023-10-11-Slides.pptx> [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
3. <https://waecy-wa-gov.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvdOmgrj4sHtNBm9gbrpBSuzltLzT8s3yx> [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
4. mailto: recdevcenter@ecy.wa.gov [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
5. <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic_id=WAECY_112> [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
6. <https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37596/recycling_development_center_advisory_board.aspx> [↑](#endnote-ref-7)