

Recycling Market Development Center Advisory Board Meeting April 9, 2025



- Washington's Recycling Market Development Center (Center) Advisory Board met on April 9, 2025.
- Department of Ecology (Ecology) staff hosted the board meeting remotely on Zoom.

Advisory Board members:

Allen Langdon: Circular Materials
Carly Mick: University of Oregon
Heather Trim: Zero Waste Washington
Jay Simmons: NORPAC
Jiff Zillich: Waste Management
Karl England: Washington State University
Katie Fleming: San Juan County
Matt Thurston: REI Co-op

Preston Peck: City of Tacoma
Sara Holzknecht: Bellevue College

Absent:

Chris Loid: Benton County
Jocelyn Quarrell: BOLD Reuse
Tim Shestek: American Chemistry Council
Jon Smieja: GreenBiz

Agenda

- Ecology, Department of Commerce (Commerce) and Advisory Board updates
- Welcome new board member Christopher Loid
- Presentations on textiles from Board members

Meeting agenda and other materials are available on the [Advisory Board website](#)¹
Refer to the [meeting slides](#)² where noted.

Commerce, Ecology, Board updates

Commerce update – Kirk Esmond (presentation slides 6 through 9):

- Commerce continues to participate in the international industrial symbiosis alliance with Brazil and Denmark
- Waiting for the Washington budget to be finalized for the next biennium funding for industrial symbiosis.
- Currently funding 11 industrial symbiosis grants with \$3.1 million, including Climate Commitment Act funding. Since 2021, Commerce has invested \$5 million in industrial symbiosis projects.

¹ https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37596/recycling_development_center_advisory_board.aspx

² https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/rdcab/2025-04-09-BoardMeeting.pdf

Ecology update – Juile Robertson, Tina Schaefer, Megan Davis (presentation slides 10 through 20):

- Summary of bills that have passed the 2025 legislature that impact Ecology's Solid Waste management program. (slide 10)
- Status report on [NextCycle Washington's](#)³ third cohort of project teams, the [pitch event](#)⁴ is scheduled for May 19th at the Northern Quest Casino Resort in Airway Heights, in conjunction with the Washington State Recycling Association's [2025 conference](#)⁵. (slides 11-12)
- Summary of RMDC textile efforts including the May webinar series, the application for a Commerce grant, and other upcoming projects. (slides 13-20)

Board members shared the following updates with links to online resources. Welcomed Chris Loid, from Grant County to the board (he was unable to attend due to illness). (slides 22 and 23)

- Carly – planning to attend the [International Contemporary Furniture Fair](#)⁶ in Portland in May to showcase product design work.
- Heather – other legislative activities: a refrigerant gas bill, a PFAS (per and poly fluoroalkyl substances) in biosolids bill. [ZeroWaste Washington](#)⁷ is kicking off a new construction and demolition project (Ecology grant funded).
- Jay – NORPAC is experiencing impacts from the federal tariffs on graphics paper and packaging imports from Asia and South America. Participating in the Oregon packaging EPR program. Creating new products for customers moving away from plastics.
- Jeff – WM has a new MRF (material recovery facility) in Oregon, they are tracking recovery and recycling at facilities in both Oregon and Washington.
- Karl – currently looking at design for deconstruction and recycling for plastics.
- Katie – dealing with issues around plastic film boat wrap.
- Matt – the Sumner REI distribution center is a true zero waste facility where they recycle pallet wrap and film plastics.
- Preston – EPA admin rules changes impacts to EPA grants that Tacoma received, waste reduction beyond the bin collection events (focused on reuse in the Tacoma community), focus on reuse (not just recycling); also providing comment on Ecology's battery EPR rule
- Sara – Earth month clothing swap on campus, we've collected, laundered, and made used clothing available for students, [ReCooped PNW](#)⁸ out of Everett to make bags from vinyl banners and car litter bags
- Allen – launched Alberta program, will soon add Yukon and Nova Scotia. Under packaging EPR, the PROs are the coordinators between producers and government on refill/reuse mandates. Going to a European conference to learn more about what's possible and what's more difficult

³ <https://www.nextcyclewashington.com/>

⁴ <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-nextcycle-washington-pitch-showcase-tickets-1225210851639>

⁵ <https://wsra.net/conference/>

⁶ <https://icff.com/fair/dates/>

⁷ <https://zerowastewashington.org/>

⁸ <https://www.recoopedpnw.com/our-story>

Presentations

Refer to the [meeting slides⁹](#) for the content from the following presentations.

- Dave Huber and Raymond Randall, WM, Circularity in Textile Recycling (slides 28 to 34)
- Matt Thurston, REI, Recommerce at REI (slides 36 to 44)
- Carly Mick, UO, Director of Sports Product Design (slides 46 to 63)

Meeting to-do items

- The next board meeting is [July 9th from 9 am to 11:30 am¹⁰](#) – currently planned to be all remote attendance via Zoom. Topic: Design for recyclability
- Facility tours coming up:
 - Ridwell and Ragmine, April tour cancelled, will be rescheduled
 - Looptworks to be determined in June or July
- NextCycle Washington [pitch showcase¹¹](#) at Airway Heights on May 19th

For more information:

- Contact Center staff by [email¹²](#)
- Sign up for our [email list¹³](#)
- Visit the Center [Advisory Board website¹⁴](#)

List of Attendees (excluding board members)

| Interested Parties & Presenters | State Agency Staff |
|--|--------------------------|
| Alex Reynolds, Tacoma | Audrey Taber, Ecology |
| Amrit Bhuie | Caleb Carlson, Ecology |
| Anne Dimond, Seattle Creative Studio | Carolyn Bowie, Ecology |
| Ashley Kirby, Chelan | Carolyn Moulton, Ecology |
| Chelsey Evans, Most Viable Future | Dan Weston, Ecology |
| Dave Huber, WM | Julie Robertson, Ecology |
| David Stitzhal, Full Circle Environmental | Kara Steward, Ecology |
| Dean Williams, Tacoma-Pierce County Health | Katie Jerauld, Ecology |
| Diane Landry, Sustainable Bainbridge | Kirk Esmond, Commerce |
| Fanny Silverio Gonzalez, King County | Leslie Perkins, Commerce |
| Hannah Scholes, King County | Megan Davis, Ecology |
| Hannah Whobrey, UW | Mia Altieri, Ecology |

⁹ https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/rdcab/2025-04-09-BoardMeetingSlides.pdf

¹⁰ https://waecy-wa-gov.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkc-iurzwiE90EPb_Yd1QNVjk93ZOA-kwP

¹¹ <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-nextcycle-washington-pitch-showcase-tickets-1225210851639>

¹² recdevcenter@ecy.wa.gov

¹³ https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic_id=WAECY_112

¹⁴ http://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37596/recycling_development_center_advisory_board.aspx

| Interested Parties & Presenters | State Agency Staff |
|---|--|
| Kami Bruner, Repair Reuse Karen Hultgren, Pierce County Kris Perry, Chelan Mindy Gillcrist, Goodwill Raymond Randall, WM Sami Ki, Household & Consumer Products Association Susan Heffron, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency | Michelle Mulroney, Ecology Mya Keyzers, Ecology Tina Schaefer, Ecology |