

# Recycling Market Development Center Advisory Board Meeting January 8, 2025



- Washington's Recycling Market Development Center (Center) Advisory Board met on January 8, 2025.
- Department of Ecology (Ecology) staff hosted the board meeting remotely on Zoom.

## Advisory Board members:

Matt Thurston: REI Co-op  
Karl England: Washington State University  
Allen Langdon: Circular Materials  
Sara Holzkecht: Bellevue College  
Preston Peck: City of Tacoma  
Jocelyn Quarrell: BOLD Reuse  
Jiff Zillich: Waste Management - absent

Katie Fleming: San Juan County  
Tim Shestek: American Chemistry Council  
Jay Simmons: NORPAC  
Jon Smieja: GreenBiz - absent  
Heather Trim: Zero Waste Washington  
Carly Mick: University of Oregon

## Agenda

- Ecology, Department of Commerce (Commerce) and Advisory Board updates
- New board member Katie Fleming welcome
- Ecology Solid Waste Management Program presentations

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

## Ecology, Commerce, Board updates

**Ecology update – Kara Steward, Tina Schaefer, Megan Davis** (presentation slides 5 through 10):

- Finalized the RMDC [report to the legislature](#)<sup>3</sup> for 2023-2024 (slide 6 and 7).
- Provided an overview of the RMDC budget status (slides 7 & 8).
- [NextCycle Washington](#)<sup>4</sup> circular accelerator cohort 3 announced, 16 teams, the accelerator academy is happening at Ecology later in January. The culminating pitch event for this group of teams will be at the Washington State Recycling Association meeting in May in Airway Heights. (slides 8 and 9)
- Highlight of the upcoming webinar series that will focus on issues around textiles, facility tours, and work on state contracts (slide 10)

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias\\_\\_1962/37596/recycling\\_development\\_center\\_advisory\\_board.aspx](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37596/recycling_development_center_advisory_board.aspx)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/\\_1962/Documents/rdcab/2024-01-08-BoardMeetingSlides.pdf](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/rdcab/2024-01-08-BoardMeetingSlides.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2407026.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.nextcyclewashington.com/>

**Commerce update – Kirk Esmond** (presentation slides 11 through 15):

- Kirk Esmond was recently promoted to a new position at Commerce.
- The Commerce budget request for additional Industrial Symbiosis funding did not get into the Governor's budget.
- Current funding of \$3.1 million is allocated to 11 industrial symbiosis teams, those grants must be completed by June 30, 2025.

**Board members** shared the following updates with links to online resources. Welcomed Katie Fleming from San Juan County to the board. Board members were asked to suggest topics for future board meetings.

- Allen Langdon, Circular Materials services expanded to 5 Canadian jurisdictions and 200 employees. Interest in textiles and extended producer responsibility (EPR) in the US.
- Carly Mick, research focus is mitigation of textile waste, partnering with Rose City Waste for information gathering. Interest in AI impact on recycling.
- Heather Trim, legislative session starts next week – find more information on the [Zero Waste Washington website](#)<sup>5</sup>. Interested in presenting on farm plastic waste.
- Jay Simmons, California plastic bag ban is in place, paper bag demand is up. E-commerce is moving away from plastic void fill to paper fill, converting some NORPAC machinery to packaging. Interest in textiles or fiber to insulation.
- Jocelyn Quarrel, new Bold Reuse program launched at University of Washington American Airlines Arena, partnership with Pepsi. Using an EPA SBIR grant to build inventory system. Grant from Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to launch a closed loop food service ware packaging system pilot. Interest in AI systems to reduce contamination in recycling and reuse.
- Karl Englund, currently working on a Washington State Department of Agriculture research project on agricultural plastic. Interest in materials exchange networks.
- Katie Fleming, working on organics and glass recycling in a small, island county. Interested in glass, organics, and agricultural plastics.
- Matt Thurston, working on packaging EPR in Oregon and California, textiles EPR in California, interest in single use propane canister bill in California. REI has been reducing plastic and cardboard in the product packaging which makes it hard to continue to meet waste diversion targets. Interested in textiles.
- Preston Peck, working on an EPA outreach grant and working on solutions for glass recycling. Prairie Robotics is putting smart camera technology on their collection trucks to focus on reducing contamination. Recently worked to find a new market for glass collection, moving glass containers to Glass to Glass in Portland based on an economic and environmental analysis. Interested in Glass Packaging Institute and hazardous waste markets.
- Sara Holzkecht, repurposing vinyl banners and supersacks into reusable totes, installed compost burritos to help with stormwater runoff and capture of 6PPD-q. Interest in donation or 'buy nothing' types of services.
- Tim Shestek, focused on compliance for EPR bills, films and flexibles. Interest in sharing best practices and what's going on in other states.

---

<sup>5</sup> <https://zerowastewashington.org/legislative-work/>

Presentations

Refer to the [meeting slides](#)<sup>6</sup> for the content from the following presentations.

- Jade Monroe, Solid Waste Program Ecology, presentation on the Used Food Well Washington efforts, including food waste prevention week, and partnership with the Pacific Coast Collaborative, Slides 21 through 32.
- Amber Smith Jade Monroe, Solid Waste Program Ecology, presentation on the We Keep Washington Litter Free campaign, Slides 33 through 50.
- Shannon Jones, Solid Waste Program Ecology, presentation on the status of the Postconsumer Recycled Content program, Slides 51 to 64.

Meeting to-do items

- [Next board meeting is April 9<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 11:30 am](#)<sup>7</sup> – currently planned to be all remote attendance via Zoom.
- Facility tours to be determined.

For more information:

- Contact Center staff by [email](#)<sup>8</sup>
- Sign up for our [email list](#)<sup>9</sup>
- Visit the Center [Advisory Board website](#)<sup>10</sup>

List of Attendees (excluding board members)

Interested Parties & Presenters	State Agency Staff
Adrian Tan, King County	Amber Smith, Ecology
Alex Reynolds, City of Tacoma	Audrey Taber, Ecology
Ashley Kirby, Chelan County	Caleb Carlson, Ecology
Carla Johnson, Republic Services	Carolyn Bowie, Ecology
Carolyn Moulton, Lautenbach Recycling	Chery Sullivan, Ecology
David Stitzhal, Full Circle Environmental	Jade Monroe, Ecology
Diane Landry, Sustainable Bainbridge	Julie Robertson, Ecology
Fanny Silverio Gonzalez, King County	Kara Steward, Ecology
Hannah Beddoe, Snohomish County	Katie Jerauld, Ecology
Hannah Scholes, King County	Kirk Esmond, Commerce

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/\\_1962/Documents/rdcab/2024-01-08-BoardMeetingSlides.pdf](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/rdcab/2024-01-08-BoardMeetingSlides.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> [https://waecy-wa-gov.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkc-iurzwiE90EPb\\_Yd1QNVjk93ZOA-kwP](https://waecy-wa-gov.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkc-iurzwiE90EPb_Yd1QNVjk93ZOA-kwP)

<sup>8</sup> [recdevcenter@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:recdevcenter@ecy.wa.gov)

<sup>9</sup> [https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=WAECY\\_112](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic_id=WAECY_112)

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias\\_\\_1962/37596/recycling\\_development\\_center\\_advisory\\_board.aspx](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	Leslie Perkins, Commerce
Karma Suchan, Yakima County	Megan Davis, Ecology
Kas Church, Skagit County	Mia Altieri, Ecology
Keith Quinata, King County	Michelle Mulrony, Ecology
Kristen Allard, City of Vancouver	Mya Keyzers, Ecology
Kristoffer Perry, Chelan County	Shannon Jones, Ecology
Lauren Ugliuzza, Amazon	Tina Schaefer, Ecology
Lucy Pierce, GreenBlue	
Megan Bertolacci, Snohomish County	
Nina Olivier, King County	
Ricky Vahl, Waste Connections	
Sami Ki, Household & Commercial Products Association	
Shauna Guld, Snohomish County	