# Text AI-generated content may be incorrect.Recycling Market Development Center Advisory Board Meeting July 9, 2025

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

## Advisory Board members:

Allen Langdon: Circular Materials

Heather Trim: Zero Waste Washington

Jay Simmons: NORPAC

Katie Fleming: San Juan County

Matt Thurston: REI Co-op

Preston Peck: City of Tacoma

Sara Holzknecht: Bellevue College

Jocelyn Quarrell: BOLD Reuse

Chris Loid: Benton County

Tim Shestek: American Chemistry Council

Absent:

Carly Mick: University of Oregon

Jiff Zillich: Waste Management

Karl England: Washington State University

## Agenda

* Ecology, Department of Commerce (Commerce) and Advisory Board updates
* Welcome new board member Christopher Loid
* Presentations on reuse projects funded by the RMDC

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]](#footnote-2)

Refer to the [meeting slides[[2]](#footnote-3)](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/rdcab/2025-07-09-RMDCBoardMeetingSlides.pdf) where noted.

## Commerce, Ecology, Board updates

**Commerce – Presented by Kirk Esmond & Leslie Perkins (slides 5–11)**

* New team member: Kyle Gitchell introduced as Circular Economy Development Director, replacing Kirk Esmond, who now serves as Innovation & Industry Partnerships Director.
* Industrial Symbiosis Grant Program (FY2025):
  + $3.25M awarded to 11 projects across 11 counties, with $6.5M in total leveraged (grants + match funds).
  + Projects span clean energy, construction, agriculture, and biotech; key themes include waste diversion, material reuse, and product innovation.
  + Notable projects: Composite blocks from waste, diaper waste to biochar, seafood waste to biopolymers, and more.
  + Strong link to NextCycle Washington alumni (4 of 11 recipients).

**Ecology – Updates from Tina Schaefer & Megan Davis**

[**NextCycle Washington**](https://www.nextcyclewashington.com/2025-pitch-showcase) **Pitch Showcase (slides 12–13):**

* Held alongside the Washington State Recycling Association conference in Airway Heights.
* Featured 14 teams, with 6 winners (3 Best Pitch + 3 People’s Choice) receiving $33,000 total.
* Best pitch winning projects included:
  + Organics team: BioFiber Industries
  + Innovation team: Diaper Stork
  + Reuse team: FanWagn

[**Textile Webinar Series**](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37596/recycling_development_center_advisory_board.aspx) **Recap (slides 13–22):**

* Four-part series titled Unraveling the Textile Industry for a Regenerative Washington
* Topics included level setting, business transformation, innovation, and policy/community building
* Participation: 953 registered; 505 attended across all webinars

**Key takeaways**:

* Major pre-consumer textile waste problem
* Need for infrastructure, funding, and shared networks
* Potential for EPR policy and statewide coalition building

**Next Steps**:

* Ongoing projects: Textile mapping, circular procurement pilots, Spring 2026 Textile Symposium.

**The board members** shared the following updates.

* Chris – Launching long-awaited household hazardous waste facility (opening August 20, 2025) after a 15-year gap.
* Allen – Reusing 500,000+ curbside recycling carts from Toronto, with new stickers applied for clarity and brand alignment. Preparing to launch new programs in Yukon (Nov) and Nova Scotia (Dec). Engaging in flexible plastics recycling research and development, with planned technology selection in 2026, would be happy to come back and present their plastics roadmap. Advocating for data-driven extended producer responsibility (EPR) target-setting in Ontario.
* Heather – Prepping bills for next year.
* Jocelyn - Seattle is their busiest wash hub, West Seattle Summerfest used 80,000 pieces of reusable food ware. Under the Oregon EPR law they anticipate using grant money to be expanded and support more reusables.
* Katie – San Juan County solid waste management plan updates to expand. Boat wrap looking at other "think before you shrink" campaigns. Exempted from new organics management law requirements (due to population size) but want to participate, looking into solutions for small scale composting.
* Matt – Achieved long standing target to divert 90% of waste from REI from going to the landfill. REI focused on tricky items - products that are damaged and can't be resold, laminates, etc. Ramping up participation in EPR in various states, items sent in direct mail in Oregon for example. How to Recycle label is going through an update, making sure they match the new methodology.
* Preston – Request for proposal out for recycling processing contract this summer for the first time in 20 years. Beyond the Bin events coming.
* Sara – Compost "burrito" project, bio urban retention to collect 6PPD-q, continuing partnership with RECooped repurposes supersack material into their community supported agriculture bags. Donation room "Buy Nothing" room for move-in/move-out, looking to expand to a buy nothing type campus-wide program. Reuse program for graduation gowns. Taken down old energy inefficient greenhouse, 36 tons of concrete kept on site to repurpose into new garden beds.
* Tim – Identifying pathways to compliance for state EPR, developing a blueprint with The Recycling Partnership.

## Presentations

Refer to the [meeting slides](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/rdcab/2025-07-09-RMDCBoardMeetingSlides.pdf)[[3]](#footnote-4) for the content from the following presentations.

* Sydney Porter – The Good Business Network of Washington and Heather Trim – Zero Waste Washington, PreCycle Materials Exchange (slides 28–52)
* Kami Bruner – Repair x Reuse WA and Laura Novich – Hyloh, Reuse Impact Calculator (slides 53–73)
* Josh Epstein – Seattle REconomy and Liz Start – Start Consulting, ReUse Commons Feasibility Study (slides 74–84)

## Meeting to-do items

* The next board meeting is [October 9th from 9 am to 11:30 am](https://waecy-wa-gov.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZArfumgpzIiGt00REtHWNFdl06O3mMy4_kk)[[4]](#footnote-5)
* NextCycle Washington Cohort 4 recruitment to begin Fall 2025.

## For more information:

* Contact Center staff by [email](mailto:recdevcenter@ecy.wa.gov)[[5]](#footnote-6)
* Sign up for our [email list](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic_id=WAECY_112)[[6]](#footnote-7)
* Visit the Center [Advisory Board website](http://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37596/recycling_development_center_advisory_board.aspx)[[7]](#footnote-8)

## List of Attendees (excluding board members)

| ****Interested Parties & Presenters**** | State Agency Staff |
| --- | --- |
| Adrian Tan, King County Alan Goode, CPMFG Carla Johnson, Republic Services Casey Mellnik, King County David Lewis, [Affiliation unknown] Elizabeth Start, Start Sustainability Elsa Meinig, [Affiliation unknown] Estee Segal, Metro (Oregon) Fanny Silverio Gonzalez, King County Hannah Scholes, King County Jane Comeault, City of Portland Joanna Dyer, Metro (Oregon) Josh Epstein, Seattle REconomy Karen Hultgren, Pierce County Laura Novich, Hyloh Leslie Perkins, WA Department of Commerce Luis Sandoval, Metro (Oregon) Michael Waggoner, Corumat Mike Todd, City of Mill Creek Rachel Chu, Metro (Oregon) Sydney Porter, Seattle Good Business Network | **Ecology**:  Caleb Carlson Carolyn Bowie Dan Weston Katie Jerauld Kara Steward Megan Davis Mya Keyzers Tina Schaefer  **Commerce**:  Kirk Esmond Kyle Gitchell  Leslie Perkins |

These notes were developed with assistance from AI ChatGPT.

1. https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias\_\_1962/37596/recycling\_development\_center\_advisory\_board.aspx [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/\_1962/Documents/rdcab/2025-07-09-RMDCBoardMeetingSlides.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/\_1962/Documents/rdcab/2025-07-09-RMDCBoardMeetingSlides.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. https://waecy-wa-gov.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZArfumgpzIiGt00REtHWNFdl06O3mMy4\_kk [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. recdevcenter@ecy.wa.gov [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic\_id=WAECY\_112 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. http://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias\_\_1962/37596/recycling\_development\_center\_advisory\_board.aspx [↑](#footnote-ref-8)