

## **Beyond Waste Implementation Work Group Status (July 7, 2008)**

The workgroup consists of 26 members and three co-chairs. We first met on June 16, 2008. The group was grounded on the issues and good discussion resulted with a listing strategies to pursue.

We agreed to break into eight small task groups. The task groups are conferencing between meetings to flesh out strategies and will come back to the IWG on July 9 with their best ideas. A spreadsheet was developed showing potential GHG emissions reductions if recycling and reduction were pursued. The spreadsheet was distributed to IWG members to consider during task group deliberations.

We anticipate the July 9 meeting to be most productive in selecting strategies to advance and further develop. In ensuring meetings the IWG will winnow down the list of strategies to the "elegant few" to develop and advance to the full Climate Action Team in September.

Listed below are the eight task areas and preliminary strategies proposed at the June 16 meeting. This list of brainstormed strategies is only the beginning. Additional strategies are being developed.

The primary criteria being used to determine if a strategy will receive further development include:

- Tons of GHG potentially avoided by the action;
- Achievability/Readiness to proceed;
- Ancillary impacts such as job creation or economic development; and
- Ability to create synergistic benefits by building public acceptance

Task area 1: Optimize the collection and processing infrastructure needed to more effectively capture recyclable materials with the highest carbon footprint generated from industrial, commercial, agricultural and residential sources.

Task area 1 brainstorming:

- Ecology takes responsibility for permitting solid waste and recycling facilities
- Statewide ban on paper disposal
- Anaerobic digestion
- Fast pyrolysis
- Focus on agricultural sector
- Focus on construction and demolition materials, for example, California has a C&D ordinance
- Require G-certified haulers to recycle or issue G-certificates to those who do
- Level permit playing field generally and especially around renewable energy technologies
- Expand collection and provide better education to population centers
- Improve labeling of recyclables
- Legislate that local solid waste plans have requirements for waste reduction and recycling "with teeth" such as recycling goals set by locality
- Appropriate container size - right size for residential and commercial
- Consider/encourage/support point of sale collection systems for example for eWaste
- Level the playing field on the commercial side
- Verify Ecology's recycling numbers -- have better information on recycling
- Help with permitting to get facilities/processes built closer to waste generation centers

Task area 2: Expand, recruit or develop in-state businesses that use recyclable materials in their manufacturing processes (including investment, financing and incentives).

Task area 2 brainstorming:

- Optimize the collection of recyclable materials at residential/commercial sites to facilitate viable reuse.
- B&O tax break for manufacturers who use recycled goods.
- If there is a cap and trade system, provide a credit for businesses already achieving a world-class standard for efficiency or who get to a world-class standard as an incentive to achieve these efficiencies
- Streamlined and consistent regulations to facilitate permitting facilities and processes
- Provide information and technical assistance to highlight that many of the best strategies for GHG emissions reductions benefits also have other benefits, e.g., lean manufacturing

Task area 3: Remove organics from the disposal stream so that they can be beneficially used for healthy soils, bioenergy production and new products and encourage demand for these products.

Task area 3 brainstorming

- State-wide disposal ban on food waste by 2018
- Anaerobic digestion
- Ban disposal of organics
- Incentives for use of products (power from co-generation, soil amendments for example)
- No more grass lawns - native landscaping
- Focus on the Agricultural sector
- Look at nitrogen
- Tip tax for organics

Task area 4: Create product stewardship framework legislation applicable to consumer and non-consumer products focusing on the full product life-cycle including cradle-to-cradle design, material and energy content, manufacturing and end of life recycling/reuse.

Task area 4 brainstorming

- Develop minimal baseline regulations to incentivize industry to innovate around product stewardship ideas
- Upstream work, such as the Lowell Center example from MA (research for green product design)
- Framework legislation, possibilities include paint, fluorescent lights, pharmaceuticals

Task area 5: Determine actions to expand byproduct synergy, zero waste business practices, design for the environment and other emerging commercial activities and encourage consumer demand for these activities.

Task area 5 brainstorming:

- Arm retail industry with economic knowledge to drive change into manufacturing
- Provide information on purchasing power (related to # 6)
- Create a state-wide prize (maybe with a cash award) for the best new zero waste achievement
- Don't reinvent the wheel

Task area 6: Review implementation of existing environmentally preferred purchasing policies and recommend new environmentally preferred purchasing policies to be used by state and local government entities that will result in reduced GHG generation.

Task area 6 brainstorming:

These types of policies are very needed for government and others to encourage purchasing of recycled materials (hopefully recycled materials also are low carbon)

- Need to understand what existing state policies are and if they are working
- Need to create a home for new recycled products (related to #2)
- Import tax based on carbon at production level (for imports into Washington State)

Task area 7: Support and expand consumer and industrial product reuse and related business activities.

Task area 7 brainstorming

- Create a meaningful exploration of product reuse options tied to product stewardship
- Identify, explain, encourage, emerging effective opportunities (e.g., the pallet reuse example)
- Provide an environmental credit for energy saved by re using lumber
- Ban plastic grocery bags

Task area 8: Total waste stream reductions in all sectors.

Task area 8 brainstorming:

- System of financial incentives for "light-weighting" of goods/materials
- Packaging reduction
- Work with retail/grocers to reduce food waste and on light-weighting of packaging
- Ban grass clippings in yard waste
- Charge for recycling (pay as you throw models)
- Water bottle fill stations instead of fountains
- Meaningful discussion in public of source reduction, reframe the issue
- Cultural shift to reinstall thrift as a cultural value
- Work with retailers to reduce packing, go carbon neutral, improve labeling (Great Britain "sell by" clock example)
- Create a "no junk mail list;" may need legislation for this
- Point of purchase education
- Better engage private industry, send better economic signals and incentives
- Engage material scientists in helping to find solutions

Cross-cutting ideas/brainstorming:

- Slick, engaging, good education/advertising that targets from manufacturer to consumer
- Don't reinvent the wheel
- Walk the talk
- Price on carbon -- it will influence decisions
- Improve data on impacts of changes (WARM model that works for our region, e.g.)
- What will state do with state carbon allowance in any cap and trade system -- how will the state allowances work
- Short v. long-term time frame

- Revise/look into methane recycling for landfills, especially for smaller older landfills (not all landfills are the same)
- Require alternative final landfill covers to work as well as standard covers for methane removal (Oregon example)