

Beyond Waste Implementation Working Group Draft Scope of Work

Goal

To significantly expand source reduction, reuse, recycling and composting and build on what is best and most successful in the current waste management system by developing an implementation plan targeting products and organic materials with the largest GHG reduction potential. This action was identified by CAT/TWG as AW-3.

By recycling metals, paper, plastics and glass, by reducing the use of virgin materials and fossil energy in product manufacturing, and by reducing landfill gas emissions significant reductions in GHG generation can be made. [For example, using estimate of 2002 waste generation and recycling about 6 MMTCO_{2e} would have been avoided if all potentially compostable and recyclable materials that were disposed of in 2002 were recycled.]

It is neither likely nor realistic to assume that all materials will be recycled, due to issues such as contamination, composites, entropy, etc (see table X-13 in TWG AW-3). However, it is realistic to potentially recycle up to **80%** of all consumer related waste materials generated within Washington State by 2020. Recycling, reuse and source reduction create local businesses, local products, and green collar jobs, and can increase bioenergy potential.

Tasks

The Beyond Waste Implementation Working Group will build on existing source separation strategies and the Beyond Waste Plan implementation approaches. The group's charge will be to develop an implementation plan that considers actions that:

- Improve 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;
- Expand, recruit or develop in-state businesses that use recyclable materials in their manufacturing processes (including investment, financing and incentives);
- Remove organics from the disposal stream so that they can be beneficially used for healthy soils, bioenergy production and new products;
- Create product stewardship framework legislation applicable to 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;
- Determine actions to expand byproduct synergy, zero waste business practices, design for the environment and other emerging commercial activities;
- Review implementation of existing environmentally preferred purchasing policies and recommended new environmentally preferred purchasing policies to be used by state and local government entities, that will result in reduced GHG generation; and
- Support and expand consumer product reuse and related business activities.

The Beyond Waste IWG will produce by September 1, 2008:

- Draft text for legislation (e.g., product stewardship framework legislation) or executive action.
- Fiscal notes, if needed.
- Any other materials (e.g., tools to measure and monitor GHG reductions, education and outreach, and product labeling) necessary to implement the recommended actions.

Existing work that the IWG may draw from

- AW-3 – “Significantly Expand Source Reduction, Reuse, Recycling and Composting” proposes goals by household and business waste sources, describes various implementation tools, related policies and programs, provides estimates of GHG savings, and key uncertainties
- Appliance and Lighting Product Recycling and Design, identified in RCI-10
- Ecology’s “Beyond Waste Plan”
- Ecology’s Solid Waste Annual Reports that include waste generation and recycling data
- Available waste composition studies
- Consumer Environmental Index study by Jeff Morris & Associates for Ecology 2007
- <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0704033.pdf--report> from lean mfg pilot project
- Washington State Biomass Inventory

Connectivity to other efforts/legislation

- Green Collar Jobs
- Green building – green and sustainable materials
- Consumer Education Programs, Including Labeling of Embodied Life-cycle Energy and Carbon Content of Products and Buildings (RCI-8)
- More Stringent Appliance/Equipment/Lighting Efficiency Standards (RCI-10)
- Agricultural activities related to bioenergy, use of organic soil amendments to sequester carbon and reduce other fertilizer, water and energy demands.
- Interagency Bioenergy Work Group
- Agriculture Sector Market-Based Workgroup

Co-Leads

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