

Beyond Waste IWG Meeting Summary
Meeting #1: June 16, 2008, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
SeaTac City Hall

In AttendanceCo-Leads:

Sego Jackson, Snohomish County

Jay Shepard, Department of Ecology

Jody Snyder, Pierce County Recycling, Composting and Disposal LLC, dba LRI

Workgroup Members:

Jerry Bartlett, Cedar Grove Compost

Dr. Sally Brown, University of Washington

David Dougherty, Dougherty Group

Gene Eckhardt, WA UTC (by phone)

Tracy Farrell, City of Shelton

Ken Johnson, Weyerhaeuser

Kevin Kiernan, King County Solid Waste

Bart Kale, Nucor Steel

Bill Lamphere (alternate for Tom Walter, Washington Organics Recycling Council)

John Leber, Swanson Bark and Wood Products

Brad Lovaas, Washington Refuse & Recycling Association

Suellen Mele, Washington Citizens for Resource Conservation

Russ Menke, Spokane Regional Solid Waste System

Scott Robertson, Yakima Waste Systems (Basin Disposal)

Susan Robinson, Waste Management

Charlie Scott, Principal, Cascadia Consulting Group

Cheryl Smith, CTED

David Stitzhal, Northwest Product Stewardship Council

Absent:

Tim Croll, Seattle Public Utilities

Robyn duPre, ReSources/ReStore

Tiffany Hatch, Seattle Goodwill Industries

Preston Horne-Brine, Washington State Recycling Association

Jim Jensen, Environmental Credit Corp.

Chris Martin, CleanScapes

David Quigg, Grays Harbor Paper

Support:

Elizabeth McManus, facilitator, Ross & Associates Environmental Consulting, Ltd.

Roel Hammerschlag, technical analyst, Stockholm Environment Institute – US

Lydia Dobrovolny, process support, Ross & Associates Environmental Consulting, Ltd.

Mark Fuchs, process support, Ecology

David Sjoding, process support, WSU

Background Documents (available online at www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/2008CAT_iwg_bw.htm)

- Agenda
- Beyond Waste IWG Draft Scope of Work
- IWG Roles and Responsibilities
- CAT Recommendation AW-3
- EPA WARM Model presentation (Sara Hartwell)
- Solid Waste and Climate Change presentation (Dave Alloway)
- Current Solid Waste and Recycling Infrastructure presentation (Laurie Davies)
- Current Waste Generation Rates and Recycling Numbers presentation (Gretchen Newman)

Discussion Items and Key Issues

1. Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions
 - 1.1. The Beyond Waste Co-Chairs welcomed members, and thanked them for participating on the IWG. Members of the IWG and support staff introduced themselves.
 - 1.2. Janice Adair (Ecology) thanked members on behalf of the Climate Action Team for contributing their time and talent to this effort. The CAT will be interested in proposals from this IWGs that the State can implement to mitigate carbon impacts associated with the waste stream.
2. Members reviewed and discussed the Beyond Waste IWG scope and proposed tasks.
 - 2.1. Seago Jackson (co-lead) provided an overview of AW-3, the mitigation policy recommendation to significantly expand source reduction, reuse, recycling and composting that was developed as part of the 2007 Climate Advisory Team process. The scope for the Beyond Waste IWG has been built off AW-3. AW-3 set two goals: 1) reduce the total amount of household and business waste by 15% and recycle at least 50% of the waste remaining, and 2) capture for composting (anaerobic digestion, etc.) over 90 percent of compostable organics. AW-3 is designed to build on existing programs and approaches, and take advantage of newer market and business-based activities to reduce household, business, industrial, agricultural and construction-related waste streams.
 - 2.2. Jody Snyder (co-lead) reviewed the draft scope and seven tasks for the Beyond Waste IWG. Members discussed the scope and approved it with the following revisions:
 - The description in task areas 3 and 5 will be expanded to include the notion of encouraging demand for new products and emerging activities.
 - In order to expand the strategies to cover the entire waste stream, the term “non-consumer” will be added to “consumer products” under task area 4, and the term “industrial” will be added to “consumer product reuse” under task area 7.
 - A source reduction strategy was added as task area 8: “Total waste stream reductions in all sectors.”
 - 2.3. Members discussed the importance of considering life-cycle implications of recommendations, and looking to other municipalities and industries for proven ideas that can serve as models for Washington’s effort.
3. Elizabeth McManus (facilitator) reviewed the IWG member roles, expectations, and ground rules, the meeting schedule, and resources available to members. Recommendations for action in 2009 are due in early September, and will be accompanied by a sense of what is required for implementation. All meeting materials are available on the Washington Climate Change website (www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/2008CAT_iwg_bw.htm). Members can receive updates on other climate change efforts in Washington through the listserv maintained by Ecology. A SharePoint site will also be set-up for the Beyond Waste IWG to facilitate collaboration and document creation.

4. Four speakers presented background and contextual information for consideration by the Beyond Waste members. Presentations are posted on the Climate Change website.
5. The Beyond Waste IWG members brainstormed potential actions and strategies for each of the eight task areas:
 - 5.1. 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
 - 5.2. 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
 - 5.3. 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
- 5.4. 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, florescent lights, pharmaceuticals
- 5.5. 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
- 5.6. 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 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)
- 5.7. 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
- 5.8. 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

5.9. 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)

Next Steps and Agreements:

1. Members volunteered to lead and participate in task subgroups in order to further discuss and identify the most important ideas and strategies for each task. Subgroups will report on findings at the next Beyond Waste IWG meeting on July 9. Elizabeth McManus will send a list of task assignments, group leaders and volunteers for each task area.
2. Elizabeth McManus will solicit members on their availability for meetings in August, September and October.
3. Elizabeth McManus will distribute information on webinars that EPA Regions 9 and 10 will host this summer about the connections between climate and waste prevention, recovery and disposal.

Public Comment

Dennis Burke, of Environmental Energy, asked the Beyond Waste IWG to consider the GHG emission impacts of composting. He stated that nitrous oxide is released during the process of composting and results in a net increase in greenhouse gas emissions.

Next Meeting

The next Beyond Waste IWG meeting will be a teleconference on July 9, from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.