Washington State Climate Action Team
Beyond Waste Implementation Working Group

Optimizing the Current Collection System To Reduce Green House Gases

The Next 50%

DISCUSSION DRAFT ONLY

August 5, 2008

Executive Summary of Proposed Actions

The actions called for in this plan will increase the collection of recyclables, organics and waste through mandatory source separation and collection programs for residences; it will also require businesses to provide for recycling as described in local government comprehensive solid waste management plans; and will reduce GHG annually by (ROEL) MMT when fully implemented by 2020.

The goal is to increase the recycling of **paper** (High Grade Paper, Newspaper, Cardboard and Mixed Waste Paper), **metals** (Aluminum Cans and Tin/Steel Cans), **plastics** (PET, L/HDPE), **construction and demolition wastes** and **organics** (Yard Trimmings, Mixed Organics and Food Scraps) in Washington State by 2020.

Highlights

- There will be **staggered implementation dates** for recyclables, organics and waste collection programs.
- The plan will **start in the most urbanized areas** and then progress over time to the less densely populated areas. All services are to be available in all areas with high density zoning by **2020**.
- All public facilities will be required to subscribe to these services, where these services are available.
- **Business and office recycling and solid waste programs will be in place at the time of business permitting**. Permits for building and demolition projects to promote recycling of these materials will be mandatory. There is no requirement to sign up for recycling services at time of permitting; rather a business/office would state how they will participate in recycling as required by local ordinance, regardless of provider.
- **Local government costs will decrease** as disposal and self-haul costs decrease.
- **Financial incentives for private sector service providers** are provided to encourage the upfront private monies that are required, in lieu of public dollars, to fully realize the universal system build out and maintain the current disposal based system during the transition to a recycling based (and funded) system. For regulated haulers WUTC shall work with the regulated private sector providers to develop a "Climate Change Portfolio" of financial incentives.
- Beneficiaries (rate payers) will be primarily responsible for the ultimate costs of the **Universal Collection System.** There will be **disincentives for self-hauling, though it will not be prohibited**. Mandatory Pay and Voluntary Subscription for the three different types of services would be offered i.e., the Pierce County Model.
- **Reporting mechanisms** for both the Washington State Department of Ecology and the Utilities and Transportation Commission will be enacted to **track the progress towards accomplishing the GHG and recycling goals by 2020.**
- **Enforcement mechanisms** will ensure that local government flow controls provisions are followed and the appropriate fees and taxes are paid. This will also increase funds to dedicated accounts i.e., Public Works Trust Account. Increased enforcement will also **ensure real recycling occurs**.

Implementation Dates - Staggered Dates by Service Type and Geographical Area

Urban and high density west

Garbage by 2010, recycling and yard wastes by 2012 and all other organics by 2015

Rural and medium density west

Garbage by 2012, recycling and all organics by 2015

Urban and high density east

Garbage by 2012, recycling and yard wastes by 2015, and all other organics by 2020

Rural and medium density east

Garbage by 2012, recycling and yard wastes by 2015, and all other organics by 2020

Small towns of less than 500 and low density rural

As determined by local government

Mechanism

Amend state statutes (70.95., 81.77, 36.58, 35 & 35A) as necessary to implement the plan through minimum service level ordinances, local government solid waste management plans and local health ordinances.

TARGET GHG Reductions by 2020

- Paper (2.7 MMTCO2E potentially available)
- Food Waste (.8 MMTCO2E potentially available)
- Metals (At least 1.3 MMTCO2E potentially available)
- Construction and Demolition Waste
- Plastics (.1MMTCO2E from plastic bottles alone)

This action will also reduce contaminant mixing with recyclable materials (contaminants reduce the recyclability of the targeted materials above).

What is the potential for increasing recycling and reduction of green house gas emissions (tons)?

	Present Recycling Rate	Recycling Goal	GHG Reductions
High Grade Paper	44%	60%	298,473
Newspaper	56%	80%	360,163
Cardboard	61%	80%	1,465,542
Mixed Waste Paper	28%	60%	780,934

	Present Recycling Rate	Recycling Goal	GHG Reductions
Aluminum Cans	33%	60%	173,095
Tin/Steel Cans	14%	50%	17,233
Mixed Organics	50%	90%	???????
Food Scraps	17%	80%	65,232
Yard Trimmings	56%	80%	(7,618)
PET	32%	50%	9,300
L/HDPE	20%	50%	8,622