

**Beyond Waste IWG Meeting Summary**  
**Meeting #5: August 26, 2008, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**  
**Seatac City Hall**

**In Attendance**Co-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

Sally Brown, University of Washington (via phone)

Jim Jensen, Environmental Credit Corp.

John Leber, Swanson Bark and Wood Products

Suellen Mele, Washington Citizens for Resource Conservation

Ashley Probart, Association of Washington Cities

Scott Robertson, Yakima Waste Systems (via phone)

Susan Robinson, Waste Management

Lisa Sepanski (for Kevin Kiernan), King County

Jerry Smedes, Basin Disposal, Inc.

Cheryl Smith, CTED

David Stitzhal, Northwest Product Stewardship Council

Suzanne Tresko (for Russ Menke), Spokane Regional Solid Waste System (via phone)

Observers:

Nancy Atwood (via phone)

Rod Boswell, contract lobbyist

Jeannie Bovart, Dept of Ecology

Mark Fuchs, Department of Ecology

Kim Hoff, contract lobbyist

Jeannie Simpson, Dept of ecology (via phone)

Karen Craft, Dept of Ecology (via phone)

Dave Sjoding, WSU

Support:

Elizabeth McManus, Ross & Associates Environmental Consulting, Ltd.

Lydia Dobrovolny, Ross & Associates Environmental Consulting, Ltd.

Roel Hammerschlag, Stockholm Environment Institute

**Absent:**

Tim Croll, Seattle Public Utilities

David Dougherty, Dougherty Group

Gene Eckhardt, WA UTC (via phone)

Tracey Farrell, Association of Washington Cities

Lisa Friend (for Robyn du Pre), ReStore

Jeff Gage, Swanson Bark and Wood Products  
Tiffany Hatch, Goodwill Industries  
Preston Horne-Brine, Washington State Recycling Association  
Ken Johnson, Weyerhaeuser  
Bart Kale, Nucor Steel  
Brad Lovaas, Washington Refuse & Recycling Association  
Chris Martin, CleanScapes  
David Quigg, Grays Harbor Paper  
Charlie Scott, Principal, Cascadia Consulting Group  
Tom Walter, Washington Organics Recycling Council

### **Background Documents (available [online](#))**

- Agenda
- State Model Product Stewardship Framework
- Draft 2009 Action Template: Collection
- Draft Product Stewardship Framework
- Draft language on the collection proposal
- Draft overview/context document for the IWG's recommendations
- Draft Action Template: Environmentally Responsible Purchasing
- Draft Action Template: Removing Organics from the Waste Stream

### **Discussion Items and Key Issues**

#### **Environmentally Responsible Purchasing (ERP)**

The ERP subgroup's proposal to the CAT is to form a working group to develop a formal, deliberate strategy to the legislature in 2010 that will revise state purchasing laws to rally around environmentally responsible practices. IWG members provided the following comments:

- The subgroup should consider adding language that addresses reducing the *amount* of materials purchased by government.
- The subgroup should consider the product stewardship aspect of purchasing, including leasing contracts, in its proposal.

#### **Collection**

The collection subgroup's proposal would expand the collection tax to apply to the collection of organics and recycled materials. The tax revenue would be split evenly between the Public Works trust fund and a materials management fund. Within the materials management fund, 80% would go to local governments in the form of grants, 15% would go to Ecology, and 5% would go to the UTC for enforcement. The IWG discussed the implications of changing the state waste collection tax to include organics and recycled materials. Some IWG members expressed concern about the unintended consequences of changing the funding structure for collection infrastructure, capacity, and growth. On the other hand, the task of the Climate Action Team (and by extension the IWG) includes considering ways in which industries can benefit within a cap and trade system. One of the ways this can happen is to use secondary materials in production processes. Additionally, although the recycling rate in Washington is significant there is still a large amount of materials being disposed of in landfills. IWG members provided the following additional comments:

- Members suggested the group should attempt to estimate the number of new recyclers expected from this proposal.
- Members suggested adding a definition for “residuals” and “organics”.
- Members suggested qualifying the definition for universal collection and universal residential collection since there are certain commercial curbside collections under 8177.
- Members discussed the intent of the proposal, specifically whether or not the proposal is designed to mandate collection or to ensure that collection is universally available.
- Members suggested clarifying the language around the list of materials that would be required under a universal collection scheme to say if it is a minimum list of what would be collected.
- Members discussed the need for a “safety net” in areas where no collection service currently exists.

### **Organics**

The organics subgroup has focused on market development and methods of guaranteeing that material removed from the waste stream is used to its fullest potential. There are several aspects to the recommendation: Divergence of organics for amendments, anaerobic digestion, and composting/land application. For anaerobic digestion, there are three sub-elements: 1) Expanding net metering to 500 kilowatts, 2) Examining feed-in tariff laws to promote renewable energy, and 3) Energy wheeling between utilities. The subgroup is also considering a proposal to amend WASDOT’s purchasing requirements to broaden the definition of organics. Finally, the subgroup’s proposal includes encouraging the use of composting and organics in the agricultural sector. IWG members provided the following comments:

- Members discussed the mechanism by which WASDOT’s purchasing requirements would be changed. The change would occur through an executive order or a legislative action.
- Members expressed some concern that adequate regulations for biosolids and other residuals would be lacking, and suggested adding language to the proposal with references to safety and quality assurance.
- Members suggested seeking further information about possible funding sources to encourage the use of composting and organics in the agricultural sector.

### **Product Stewardship**

The product stewardship subgroup reviewed its draft legislative framework summary (refer to text of document [here](#)). IWG members provided the following comments:

- The GHG reduction estimates are based on specific products that would be included under the legislation.
- Oregon, California, and other states are considering similar proposals; members suggested sharing examples of other states’ approaches with the CAT.
- Aerosol containers and used pesticide containers should be considered under the proposal due to their high carbon impact.
- Members reiterated the need to consider the potential for market development when choosing products to include in the legislation.
- Members noted the potential mixed message from requiring producers to set-up take-back systems while simultaneously expanding comprehensive system for haulers.

### **Sequencing and Packaging**

IWG members discussed the need to identify a mechanism for carrying all of its recommendations to the CAT, regardless of their timeliness. The templates that the CAT has provided to the IWG so far have not captured everything in terms of sequencing, so if there is a sense of sequencing that the IWG is

beginning to collectively develop, that should be captured somehow. One possible approach is to take the relevant recommendations from the 2007 CAT and begin drafting updates based on this year's body of work. The result would be a snapshot/report card of progress in the Beyond Waste arena.

**Public Comment Period**

There were no comments from members of the public.

**Next Steps and Agreements:**

The subgroups will revise their proposals based upon feedback received. Detailed next steps for each subgroup are listed below:

- Collection
  - Subgroup will meet to further refine the proposal to 1) Discuss commercial collection 2) Discuss residential collection 3) Discuss potential tax implications.
- Organics
  - Dave Sjoding and Sally Brown will collaborate on language for the anaerobic digester section of the proposal.
  - Sally Brown will forward summary information on federal and state biosolids regulations.
  - Subgroup will include language to on safety and quality assurance for biosolids.
  - Subgroup will research funding options for encouraging composting in the agricultural sector.
- Product Stewardship
  - Subgroup will conduct further research to get a sense of which producers would be interested in participating.
  - Subgroup will revise language based on members' feedback

**Next Meeting**

The next scheduled Beyond Waste IWG meeting will be Tuesday, October 7 at the REI Flagship Store in Seattle.