

## **WA Commingled Improvements Project: Southwest Region Workgroup**

### ***Focus on Key Issues & Solutions***

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April 6, 2010 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Ecology HQ, Lacey: Room RS – 16 (past cafeteria)

**Coffee and donuts provided**

#### **Meeting Objectives**

1. Review objectives, method, and goals from our first meeting (April 2009 – see reverse)
2. Agree on summary question (i.e. *Is it 'worth' it to collect this material in a commingled singlestream system*) response for each material
3. Identify areas of common ground from the results of “Your Ideal Program” exercise
4. Agree on key issues/problems of the current system based on our findings to date (from the initial list generated at the last meeting – see reverse)
5. Prioritize top 3-5 key issues and identify possible solutions for each sector of the commingled system
6. Determine next steps to work towards solutions

#### **Agenda**

- 9:00 – 9:05 Welcome and Introductions – *Shannon McClelland*
- 9:05 – 9:10 Review of Agenda and Meeting Objectives – *Shannon*
- 9:10 – 9:45 Review and agree on summary question (i.e. *Is it 'worth' it to collect this material in a commingled singlestream system*) response for each material – *All*
- 9:45 – 10:00 Review areas of common ground from the results of “Your Ideal Program” exercise – *All*
- 10:00 – 10:10 Review workgroup objectives, method, and goals up to this point – *Shannon*
- 10:10 – 10:20 Review and agree on list of key issues/problems of the current system based on our findings – Are we missing any key issues? – *All*
- 10:20 – 10:30 Dot exercise to vote on priority issues – *All*
- 10:30 – 10:45 Break
- 10:45 – 11:30 Brainstorm possible recommendations/solutions for each sector on identified priority issues – *All*
- 11:30 – 11:40 Dot exercise to vote on priority recommendations/solutions – *All*
- 11:40 – 12:30 Determine next steps to work towards recommendations/solutions – *Shannon*

## **WA Commingled Improvements Project: Southwest Region Workgroup**

### **Workgroup Objective, Method, and Goals** *(identified at the April 2009 meeting)*

**Objective:** Address contamination and material loss in single-family residential commingled curbside recycling programs in the Southwest Region

**Method:** Fact-finding Mission

**Goals:** Seeking the truth in order to:

1. Have full knowledge to inform changes to programs
2. Provide data, plus story (context), to electeds
3. Provide consistency in public education messages (including dangerous items like sharps)
4. Reduce MRF problems in sorting
5. Create feedback loops, both positive and negative, for the system as a whole
6. Identify possible funding mechanisms for increased public education

### **Key Issues** *(identified at the February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting)*

1. Glass – dealing with it as a contaminate and very little is going back to glass
2. What is the overall objective – keeping it out of the landfill or recovery?
3. Plastic film is a huge processing issue
4. MRF Safety – sharps, ammo, explosives
5. Too many plastic options (beyond bottles)
6. How much can you separate and sort – how much do you include in the single cart system (sham recycling issue)?
7. Rates need to cover the cost of what the program accepts
8. Lack of product stewardship for the program materials
9. Lack of consistent message across programs and acceptance lists– visually identifiable outreach
10. Stuff on the no list causes problems (15%)
11. Consumer awareness/level of responsibility and they assume it is recyclable (chasing arrows)
12. Recycling costs – it isn't free
13. Reasonable expectation that if it goes into the cart, it's recycled (sham recycling issue)
14. Access to market (glass)
15. Export market demand and stricter quality controls over time
16. State and federal goals are driving diversion goals
17. Exported contamination isn't counted in state disposal rates, where local market contamination is
18. Political will to make changes – ratepayers (we need to educate)
19. Power in aligning our programs/messages (Portland Metro/OR)