

Materials Management Program

Recycling Modernization Act: Material List Technical Workgroup

Meeting Summary: Meeting #2

April 28, 2022

Zoom

List of Technical Workgroup Members in attendance

- Brian May
- Dan Weston
- Dave Claugus
- Dave Larmouth
- David McCall
- Jerry Powell
- Kate Eagles
- Kim Holmes
- Laura Leebrick
- Liz Bedard
- Rosalynn Greene
- Steve Miller
- Wayne Jackson

DEQ project staff

- Cheryl Grabham
- David Allaway
- Justin Gast
- Peter Canepa
- Peter Spindelov



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Materials Management

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Time	Topic
10:30 a.m.	Welcome, agenda review, introductions Justin Gast welcomed and thanked Technical Workgroup members, reviewed the agenda and asked members who missed the prior meeting to introduce themselves. Cheryl Grabham of DEQ also introduced herself.
10:35 a.m.	Roadmap for future meetings David Allaway provided an overview of the planned roadmap for future meetings. He noted that this and the next meeting (May 31) would focus almost exclusively on matrix-level evaluation of additional materials. That will continue at least into the fourth meeting (July 19). The fourth and subsequent meetings may also discuss topics such as depot issues, precision vs. simplicity in public communication (materials acceptance), and “responsible end markets”. In the fifth and sixth meetings, the group will review and discuss draft results of research by Cascadia Consulting Group and DEQ (economic and environmental evaluation of whole scenarios). In later meetings the workgroup may also discuss potential placement of materials on recycling collection lists, and, if time allows, convenience standards, collection targets and performance standards for PRO-provided depot services. There were no questions from workgroup members.
10:40 a.m.	Follow-up to issues from meeting #1 David Allaway answered several questions that had been posed in the March 23 meeting, and summarized for workgroup members changes made to the materials evaluation matrix. In summary:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEQ is working with Tillamook County, Recology, Marion County, Rogue Disposal & Recycling and Lane County on a survey of depot users. • DEQ has executed a contract with Cascadia Consulting Group for evaluation of material flows and transactional costs of various recycling scenarios (as discussed at the March 23 meeting). • DEQ is currently researching and evaluating options for providing additional clarity for the meaning of “responsible end markets” and hopes to bring this topic back to the technical workgroup for discussion this summer. David invited people to reach out with thoughts or concerns in the interim. • DEQ confirmed that there will be only one uniform statewide collection list, although other local government and PRO obligations could, in theory, differ by area of the state. • DEQ shared preliminary data from Metro showing that in 2021 approximately 50% of mixed paper and about one-third of all plastics processed by Metro-area MRFs were exported to countries other than Canada, and that DEQ adjusted preliminary ratings for these materials downwards given uncertainty and concerns about potential negative impacts at end markets. • Other criteria, evaluation standards, and evaluation ratings were changed (see changes in “Track Changes”) and many more materials were added to the evaluation matrix.
11:00 a.m.	<p>Plastics David Allaway introduced the following guests for this agenda item:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scott Mouw, The Recycling Partnership • Greg Schmidt, NAPCOR (National Association for PET Container Resources) • Andrew Jolin, DirectPack Inc. <p>Justin Gast and David then led the workgroup through discussions on the topics of polypropylene, PET thermoforms (packaging), and nursery containers. There was significant conversation between workgroup members and guests.</p> <p>A few topics generated the most discussion, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong demand for polypropylene from end markets; growing use as brands eschew other resins due to recycling concerns; and the need for secondary sorting of “mixed plastics” bales. • Bale quality of thermoform-only vs. PET bottle+thermoform bales; contamination and yield loss; viability of thermoform-only vs. mixed PET bales; and sorting technology. • Challenges with PS, LDPE and black PET nursery containers; sortation and storage challenges at MRFs; contamination with dirt/soil.
12:00 p.m.	<p>Lunch</p>
12:30 pm.	<p>Paper Justin Gast introduced the following guests for this agenda item:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jay Simmons, NORPAC • Al Linn, WestRock • Brian Hawkinson, AF&PA • Jason Pelz and Jordan Fengel, Tetra Pak • Ashley Elzinga, Foodservice Packaging Institute

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- Matt Todd, RRS (at the request of the Foodservice Packaging Institute)
- Sabrina Dixon-Ridges and Scott Byrne, Sonoco

Jay Simmons shared information about a major upgrade underway at the NORPAC Longview mill that will double their utilization of waste paper and allow for greater fiber recovery from polycoated packaging including cartons, cups and freezer boxes. He has observed that these materials are repulping with no visible yield loss of paper. He added that NORPAC could accept more materials if the entire state began collections. However, wet strength remains a challenge. Brian Hawkinson of AF&PA agreed to share information about wet strength utilization (what types of packaging it is used in).

Justin and David Allaway then led the group through a facilitated discussion on all grades and types of paper (see agenda for full list).

The following topics generated the most discussion:

- Public messaging and communication: how do we explain to the public which types of papers to recycle vs. not, for example, kraft envelopes padded with starch vs. bubble wrap.
- Cartons, paper cups, and other polycoat: historic difficulty moving this material; challenges if materials aren't separated and are exported in mixed paper or sent to domestic mills that don't recover the fiber (e.g., WestRock in Washington); concerns with potential plastic leakage; potential to capture paper cups and polycoat together; experience of San Francisco and Seattle; historic public messaging re: no food-contact paper
- Metal/paper "cans": how they flow through a MRF; potential recovery via metal vs. paper end markets; repulpability of paper cans and potential impacts of metal; metal is not wanted by paper mills but mills might accept this material regardless; resulting potential confusion if paper mills accept packaging types not on their accepted material lists.
- Shredded paper: strip vs. cross-cut and impact on fiber quality; estimates of generation quantity; "truth in advertising" as much of this material is lost in the MRF; many communities in Washington state have discontinued acceptance.
- Differences between paperback and hardcover books.

2:45 p.m.	<p>Public input Maya Buelow of Lane County introduced herself and noted that she is a member of the Truth in Labeling Task Force. She observed that educating the public has become more difficult as the material stream has become more complicated. She identified that the Task Force and this workgroup are discussing related topics and expressed hope that the Task Force's recommendations might improve the viability of recycling, for example, through expanded use of QR codes or embedded smart labels.</p>
2:50 p.m.	<p>Next steps David thanked the group for their ongoing participation and asked workgroup members to share additional feedback on the materials discussed at today's meeting in the next few weeks. He noted that DEQ hopes to resolve evaluation of many of these materials in order to make bandwidth for the next batch of materials, and that the next meeting (May 31st) will address both plastics and metals. In advance of that meeting, DEQ will post another expanded version of the preliminary evaluation matrix, as well as</p>

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	additional responses to DEQ's Request for Information. DEQ will also soon send out a doodle poll to schedule the final two meetings (August/September).
2:55 p.m.	Adjourn.



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List of other attendees

Lauren Aguilar	Brennan Georgianni	Carol Patterson
Joel Baxter	Catherine Goodall	Jason Pelz
Colette Bazirgan	Brian Hawkinson	Elizabeth Remley
Trevor Beltz	Nicole Jansenn	Cat Rhoades
Jessica Branom-Zwick	Gary Jones	Susan Robinson
Maya Buelow	Al Linn	Greg Ryan
Tom Brewer	Matt Markee	Greg Schmidt
Tim Brownell	Katy McDowell	Samantha Siegner
Scott Byrne	Devon Morales	Jay Simmons
Sabrina Dixon-Ridges	Scott Mouw	Vinod Singh
Madeline Do	Jeff Newgard	Mike Smaha
Ashley Elzinga	Carolina Paez	Heather Trim
Jordan Fengel	Jaclyn Palermo	Matt Todd
Rui Fernandes	Gary Panknin	

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Alternative formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.