Responsible Recycling Task Force

Meeting #5 – August 24, 2018
Agenda

• **9:00 – 9:30:** Welcome & Introduction
  (Julie Colehour)

• **9:30 – 10:15:** Recycle BC Overview & Framework
  (Tamara Burns)

• **10:15 – 10:55:** National and Private Sector Sustainable Packaging Efforts
  (Nina Goodrich)

• **10:55 – 11:00:** Wrap Up & Next Steps
  (Julie Colehour)
Task Force Goals

• **Short Term Goal:** To help identify near-, mid- and long-term actions in response to reduction in export markets for mixed recyclable materials due to China National Sword policies.

• **Longer Term Goal:** To help establish commitment across the region to responsible recycling and domestic sorting/processing of curbside recyclables.

• **Outcomes:** Prepare a report with actionable items and recommendations for future action by all; if possible, develop interim tools for communications and other topics that are more immediately available.

• **Role of Task Force:** Not to make decisions, rather to learn about the problem, understand activities that are being implemented elsewhere and opportunities for change. They will provide guidance on next steps that will be brought back to county advisory committees and decision makers.
## Recommendations Review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>RRTF Recommendation</th>
<th>Responsible Recycling Framework Relevance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>#1: Task Force Kick-off (4/30/18)</strong></td>
<td>The region should make a commitment to responsible recycling and domestic sorting/processing of curbside recyclables.</td>
<td>Overall Responsible Recycling Framework</td>
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<td><strong>#2: What’s in the bin? (6/1/18)</strong></td>
<td>All regional curbside programs should remove plastic bags and shredded paper from the blue bin.</td>
<td>Quality vs. quantity</td>
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<td><strong>#3: Contracts, Waivers &amp; Surcharges (6/18/18)</strong></td>
<td>The region should have a coordinated and consistent approach to waivers.</td>
<td>Regional policy alignment Recycling is not free</td>
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<td><strong>#4: Domestic Processing Infrastructure (7/18/18)</strong></td>
<td>Domestic sorting and processing should be the priority in order to create market ready bales.</td>
<td>Domestic processing and markets</td>
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Updates from previous meetings

• July 18 Meeting Minutes approved

• Communications Consortium update
  • Draft toolkit delivered August 15
  • Includes social media posts and images for Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
Recycle BC Overview and Framework

Tamara Burns
VP Supply Chain, Recycle BC
WHO WE ARE

Recycle BC is a not-for-profit organization responsible for residential packaging and paper recycling throughout British Columbia.

Recycle BC ensures household materials are collected, sorted and responsibly recycled.

Our program is funded by over 1,200 businesses that include retailers, manufacturers and restaurants that supply packaging and printed paper to BC residents, shifting costs away from homeowners.
EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR)

- EPR is the obligation that businesses have to reduce the environmental impact of their products and packaging.
- Producer responsibility spans the entire product management lifecycle, physical and financial, for products and packaging supplied into the marketplace.
- Shifts responsibility upstream, away from municipalities and regional waste authorities to the companies that put the products in the market.
Recycle BC operates within the framework of the Province of BC’s Environmental Management Act and the Recycling Regulation.

The materials we collect are directed by the Regulation and we operate under our Stewardship Plan, approved by the Ministry of Environment.
RECYCLE BC’S STEWARDSHIP PLAN

On behalf of producers, Recycle BC:
  o Provides collection services
  o Processes material
  o Markets material to end-markets
RECYCLE BC 2017 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

234,847 tonnes reported by stewards

174,942 tonnes collected*

75% recovery rate*

38.3 kg recovered per capita

*174,942 tonnes collected and 75% recovery rate reflect the exclusion of tonnes collected by Recycle BC on behalf of other stewardship programs and reported in their annual reports.
RECYCLE BC 2017 ACCESS

98% of households with access to depots

1,846,097 households serviced (includes curbside, multi-family and depot collection)

156 communities benefitting/participating in program (curbside and multi-family)

3,475,000 population served by curbside and multi-family collection
RECYCLE BC COLLECTION STREAMS

Curbside collection
Collection from households that set out material individually for pick-up

Multi-family collection
Collection from a central location in residences with five or more units

Depot collection
Residents drop off their materials
POST-COLLECTION NETWORK

BRITISH COLUMBIA
Area: 944,735 km²

- 33 Receiving, Consolidation and Transfer Facilities (RCTs)
- 11 Pre-conditioning Facilities (PCFs)
- 1 Container Recovery Facility (CRF)
CURBSIDE CONTAMINATION RATE

- Multi-stream: 4%
- Single Stream: 10%
RESPONSIBLE RECYCLING ELEMENTS
SEGREGATED COLLECTION OF CERTAIN MATERIALS

Glass

Plastic Bags

Foam Packaging
EFFECTIVE SORTING

Receiving, Consolidation and Transfer Facilities
- Receive, store, and bail source separated materials separately

Pre-conditioning Facilities
- Sort single stream material into fibres and mixed containers
- Pre-condition mixed containers

Container Recovery Facility
- State of the art sorting technology
- 10 optical sorters
- 12-14 sorting categories
DOMESTIC PROCESSING AND END MARKETS

- Plastics – BC
- Glass – BC
- Metal – Canada and United States
- Paper – BC and overseas
RECYCLING IS NOT FREE

- 100% EPR-funded program
- Businesses that supply packaging and paper to BC residents fund Recycle BC
WORKING WITH AND ENGAGING PRODUCERS
• Keurig has an aggressive goal of converting all their K-Cup® pods in Canada to a recyclable format by the end of 2018
• Recycle BC worked with Keurig and our post-collection partners, Eterra Environmental and Merlin Plastics, to facilitate testing in the sorting and recycling facilities
• RFID (radio-frequency identification) technology is used to track where their K-Cup® pods end up in the material sorting line
• An average of 92% of empty polypropylene Keurig K-Cup® pods made it to the container lines at Eterra and Merlin
• Pilot project in two BC communities, Vancouver and Coquitlam, to capture used Nespresso pods
• Curbside and multi-family collection of pods
• Residents put used pods in green bag, provided by Nespresso, and then put bag in container recycling bin
PLASTIC SQUEEZE TUBE STUDY

- In partnership with More Recycling and supported by leading manufacturers
- Three-month pilot study in Coquitlam to understand how residents prepare tubes for recycling and what types of tubes they include for recycling
- Residents received a pink bag to place empty squeeze tubes, seal the pink bag and place in their blue box for recycling collection
OTHER FLEXIBLE PLASTIC PACKAGING

- Collection of Other Flexible Plastic Packaging at depots; launched June 2018 at 115 depots, full roll-out January 2019
- Research and development project in partnership with post-collection partner, Green by Nature, and Merlin Plastics
- Seeks to develop technology that will enable the recycling of Flexible Plastic Packaging
- Any material not capable of being recycled will be recovered, processed and marketed as engineered fuel
Making a difference together.
National and Private Sector Sustainable Packaging Efforts

Nina Goodrich
Executive Director, Sustainable Packaging Coalition
Today’s Presentation

• Introduction to SPC

• How the How2Recycle on-pack label is educating Brands and Consumers

• Key considerations for the future of recycling
Total: 250 members

- Brand Owner & Retailer: 26%
- Packaging Converter: 26%
- Material Manufacturer: 22%
- Consultancy: 7%
- Govt.: 6%
- Academic: 6%
- Other: 7%

Total: 109 members

- Brand Owner & Retailer: 67%
- Packaging Converter: 8%
- Material Manufacturer: 12%
- Other: 7%
SOURCING
Certified, recycled and bio-based

MATERIAL HEALTH

OPTIMIZATION
Can be measured multiple ways (weight, damage reduction, shelf-life, carbon, water etc.)

RECOVERY
How2Recycle: Cleaning up what goes in the cart
What is How2Recycle?
How might we motivate & help brands to better understand packaging sustainability and design for recycling?

How might we empower consumers to know how to recycle?
How does How2Recycle define recyclability?
“A product or package should not be marketed as recyclable unless it can be collected, separated, or otherwise recovered from the waste stream through an established recycling program for reuse or use in manufacturing or assembling another item.”

How does it all fit together?
How2Recycle is designed with the consumer in mind.
It’s a smarter label system.

- **RECYCLABILITY ICON**: Indicates the recyclability of the packaging component.
- **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS**: Tells consumer how to prepare component for recycling.
- **PACKAGING MATERIAL**: Identifies the material type of packaging component.
- **PACKAGING COMPONENT**: The specific part of the package referenced by the label.
- **Discard Lid & Rinse Tray**
- **Check Locally**
- **HOW2RECYCLE WEBSITE**: Provides information on the label & additional recycling information.
- **Example for frozen food package**

*Not recycled in all communities*
How does How2Recycle help recyclers?
How2Recycle helps reduce contamination.
Store Drop-Off
Not Yet Recycled
Top 18 Things You Should NOT Recycle Curbside

Nope.
Don't try to recycle food.*

Nope.
Don't recycle multi-layer flexible packaging.

Nope.
Don't recycle light bulbs.*

Nope.
Don't try to recycle diapers.

Nope.
Don't recycle hazardous materials.

Nope.
Don't recycle batteries.*

Nope.
Don't recycle bowling balls.

Nope.
Don't recycle hangers.

Nope.
Don't recycle plastic bags and wraps in your curbside cart.

Nope.
Don't recycle propane tanks.*

Nope.
Don't recycle electronics.*

Nope.
Don't recycle window panes or drinking glasses.

Nope.
Don't bag your recyclables.*

Nope.
Don't recycle clothes.*

Nope.
Don't recycle rag rugs.

Nope.
Don't try to recycle wood.*

Nope.
Don't recycle wood pallets.

Nope.
Don't recycle glass bottles.

Nope.
Don't recycle curling irons.

Nope.
Don't recycle rubber bands.

Nope.
Don't recycle cardboard boxes.

Nope.
Don't recycle newspapers.
67% of people assume that packaging ISN’T recyclable if they don’t see a claim on the package.

Carton Council, 2016
Behavior change
82% Of people learn from How2Recycle.

Survey at how2recycle.info, 2018. Report available for download at brandfolder.com/how2recycle
How does How2Recycle determine recyclability for specific packages?
How2Recycle is also helping improve packaging design.

Brands want to know how to measure and improve.
Since last October, How2Recycle has made over 8600 specific design recommendations to its members to improve packaging recyclability.
Key considerations for the future of recycling
What is wrong with a “back to basics” program

• The traditional mix no longer exists and will continue to change - we need to look to the future mix

• The food industry is rapidly converting to flexible packaging

• Dual corporate goals of recyclability and low carbon footprint
Recycling is not **free**

Cost of Collection and Processing
- MRF processing costs have increased to over $90/ton
- High contamination and low commodity prices do not cover processing costs

Material reprocessing is also not free and the resulting product often has a difficult time competing with virgin materials
What is circularity for plastics?

- Mechanical Recycling
- Chemical Recycling

- Bottle
- Film
- Intermediates
- Fuels
- Decking
- Fabric
Procter & Gamble, PureCycle Introduce Virgin-like Recycled Plastic

PureCycle Technologies will buy scraps and use P&G’s technology to purify them to a virgin-like quality and to make pellets for any user.

Ariene Karidis | Aug 16, 2018

Utah-based Renewlogy offers solution to plastic waste problem

By Jed Boal, KSL TV
Published: April 1, 2018 10:09 am
Thank you

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@GreenBlueOrg  GreenBlue  GreenBlue
Wrap Up & Next Steps

• Action items, recommendations & take-aways

• Next meeting: “Recycling Systems” and Policy Approaches
  Date: September 19, 10:00am – 12:00pm
  Location: WSRA Conference Room, 635 Andover Pkwy, Tukwila WA
  Parking: Free parking in outside parking lot and surrounding areas
  Room: Suite 105

• November & December meetings added:
  • November 15 @ Bothell City Hall (10 – 12pm)
  • December 14 @ King Street Center
## Future Meeting Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics Covered</th>
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<td>April 30</td>
<td>Task Force Introduction; Responsible Recycling Framework</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>What’s in the Bin?</td>
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<td>June 18</td>
<td>Contracts, Waivers, Surcharges</td>
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<td>July 18</td>
<td>Domestic Processing Infrastructure: Fiber &amp; Plastics</td>
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<td>August 24</td>
<td>Working with Producers</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 19</td>
<td>“Recycling Systems” and Policy Approaches</td>
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<td>• Policy and Legislation</td>
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<td>October 26</td>
<td>Possible focus on Markets &amp; Follow Ups</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>Review Recommendations &amp; Next Steps</td>
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<td>December 14</td>
<td>Final Outcome Document Review</td>
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