

ROUND TABLE MEETING SUMMARY

A SUSTAINABLE VISION FOR WASHINGTON'S SOLID WASTE SYSTEM

MEETING 2 April 2, 2001

S P O K A N E - E A S T E R N R E G I O N

What is the Round Table Meeting Series?

The "Sustainable Vision for Washington State's Solid Waste System" round table meeting series (March-June 2001) brings community, business, and government together to identify coordinated approaches to solid waste issues. Diverse perspectives have been raised during these meetings. The outcomes of the meeting series are recommendations from each of the four regions for use in determining the priority issues and action alternatives that will be included in the state solid waste plan revision. Issues, goals, and strategies, in common within regions and across the state, will be noted in these recommendations, along with those that are unique to a region. All interested residents throughout the state are encouraged to join these regional dialogues during the remaining May and June meetings regardless of whether or not you participated in earlier meetings.

SUMMARY OF MEETING 2

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The purpose of Meeting 2 was for participants to identify milestones (interim goals with deadlines) for the issues identified in Meeting 1. The milestones will serve as landmarks that help measure progress toward a more effective and a more sustainable solid waste system, both in the long-term and the short-term.

Cullen Stephenson, Manager of Ecology's Solid Waste & Financial Assistance Program spoke briefly about the project. He emphasized that management at Ecology is firmly behind and strongly supportive of this effort. He also ensured participants that Ecology would consider the outcomes of the meeting series very seriously, and while it may not be possible for every single idea suggested by participants to be included in the plan, most of the ideas will be included.

PROCESS TO DATE

Cheryl Strange, project manager for the state plan explained that Ecology began working on a revision to the State Solid Waste Plan with the State Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) and a number of stakeholders in early 2000. Work groups developed issue papers, which serve as the foundation for the Round Table discussions. The full text of the issue papers can be found in the document entitled "Issues Identification: Issues for Consideration and Discussion" # 01-07-001 on the project website at:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/swplan>.

The Round Table Meeting Series, March-June 2001, is the public review and input process for this stage of the state solid waste plan revision. This is the time to identify what is needed to create a state solid waste plan that will have support from the diverse communities who will be asked to participate in implementation activities. The plan recommendations are not written at this time; there is no drafted language to review and comment on. The regional recommendations drafted at the regional round tables will provide a foundation

for the next phase of developing action alternatives for consideration, which will follow the round tables in summer of 2001. Public review and input on the plan options and recommendations will be held in late fall of 2001 or winter of 2001-2, the draft plan will be developed in spring of 2002, and the final plan is scheduled for summer 2002.

SMALL GROUP EXERCISES

A sustainable solid waste system will not be created overnight. Participants were asked to identify the steps they would like to see taken in their region that would help the region and/or the state to move forward toward a more sustainable system. These steps, or "milestones," are interim goals with deadlines.

Participants worked in small groups, or breakouts, in two separate exercises. In the first one, participants identified milestones on a timeline that are needed to reach for the long-term vision. In the second exercise while using the same timeline, participants came up with ideas of what needs to happen to support the existing solid waste system while moving toward a more sustainable system. Finally, all participants reviewed the work of the other breakout groups to see the diversity of perspectives within the region.

The small groups provided the opportunity to explore the issues from a variety of perspectives. Participants were asked to choose one of the following breakout groups to work in: Government; Solid Waste Industry; Business; Environment; and Community and Civic Groups. These breakout groups were not considered to represent voices for each of these groupings; rather, the groupings were made for the purposes of providing participants the opportunity to express various perspectives on solid waste issues.

The breakout group timelines from each of the small groups have been merged. The milestones were organized into topic groupings by the neutral meeting facilitators, not the participants. The facilitators will request feedback on these groupings in Meeting 3. The milestones identified in the meeting are contained in the table below.

NEXT STEPS

In May, round table meeting participants will focus on "How to Get to Where We Want to Go" in the region. Attendees will review the LONG RANGE VISION and CURRENT SYSTEM NEEDS milestones that were created in the April meeting. Attendees will work in small groups to identify proposed actions to reach the interim goals. Then, a full group discussion will be facilitated on how the diverse perspectives will be included in the regional recommendation to the state solid waste plan revision.

In addition, the draft vision will be reviewed and participant comments thus far will be compiled on how a sustainable approach to solid waste looks in the region. You are encouraged to attend and to share your perspectives on a sustainable future for solid waste in your region.

EAST MILESTONES LISTED BY TOPIC

The following table contains all Milestones from Meeting 2. Milestones are grouped by topic. If the topic is related to an Issue Paper, the source is noted. There is a brief summary statement at the beginning of each topic group, following by the Milestones themselves. Each Milestone indicates the initial of the sector breakout group in which it was created it (see key below) and the year it was placed on the timeline. The initials for the sector breakout groups stand for the following:

- (B) = Business
- (C) = Community & Civic Groups
- (E) = Environment
- (G) = Government
- (SW) = Solid Waste Industry

ACTUAL / COMPLETE COSTS OF SOLID WASTE (Issue Paper 10)

“True cost,” means accounting for all of the costs of solid waste decisions. Within the next ten years program incentives will be in place so that the cost of waste disposal of products begins to be included in the price of products. In addition, “planned obsolescence” will be reduced. And a significant number of public agencies and businesses will adopt “true cost” and life cycle assessments into practice.

- Cost of waste disposal of products included in price (E) 2003
- Incineration programs already exist, but don't work. An program incentive that utilizes costs of waste disposal internalized into product costs or use of true cost accounting and/or life cycle assessments adopted by business and public agencies. (SW) 2003
- Reduce planned obsolescence through use of true cost accounting and/or life cycle assessments by business and public agencies (SW) 2006
- Disposal cost included in price of product (G) 2006 & 2021
- 100 % of business and public agencies adopt true cost and life cycle assessment into practices (E) 2011

PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP (Issue Paper 7)

Within the next ten years reused/ recycled materials will increasingly provide the needed resources for product production. Closed loop production and other product stewardship practices will be used for 50 percent of products, involving 50-70 percent of the business sector. Within the next sixty years re-used/ recycled materials will provide 50 -70 percent of resources for product production and remain in the production or organics cycle.

- Reused/ recycled materials provide 70 % of resources for product production (E) 2006
- Reused/ recycled materials provide 60 % of resources for product production (E) 2006 & 2021
- Closed loop production and other product stewardship practices for 50 % of products (G) 2011
- Closed loop production and other product stewardship practices are implemented by 70 % of business sector (E) 2011
- Continue to support reduction of environmental impacts resulting from product innovation, closed loop production, and other product stewardship (SW) 2011
- Closed loop production implemented by 50 % of businesses (E) 2011
- 50 - 75% of materials are being re-used and remain in the production or organics cycle (E) 2011 & 2021
- Reused/ recycled materials provide 50% of resources for product production (G) 2031 & 2061
- 100 % of materials are being reused and remain in production or organics cycle (E) 2041

CHANGING BEHAVIORS AND ATTITUDES

Within the next ten years consistent educational programming and advertisement will inform the general public, school age to adult, of the social, economic, and environmental value of recycling, and making less waste. Consumers will utilize product or manufacturer sustainable performance measures in their purchasing decisions. And consumer and public officials will understand how waste management issues are related to growth and consumer habits.

- Educational outreach focused at achieving 100 % of Washington consumers making purchasing decisions primarily based on product or manufacturer sustainable performance measures (SW) 2001
- Institute school age and adult education programs (G) 2001
- All decisions based on individual wellness (E) 2001
- There is a constant advertising and education to the general public on the social, economic, and environmental value of recycling and making less waste. (E) 2003
- Educate voters/recyclers. Need to form lobby (G) 2006
- Environmental education should become a class as familiar as math or English at all grade levels (E) 2006
- Change public perceptions on value of waste management (G) 2006
- 50 % of Washington consumers make purchasing decisions based on guidelines provided by Washington State Consumer Guide to Sustainable Performance Measures (E) 2006
- Public officials have mentality that growth isn't good. Growth = more people, business + waste in any community. Money shouldn't matter. (E) 2006
- Change target of plan/regulations from industry to consumers (E) 2011
- Every high school senior takes one-year mandatory environmental science course (in Washington State). (E) 2011
- 75 % of Washington consumers make purchase decisions based on sustainable performance measures (E) 2021
- We need to move to a state of education where people don't consume material goods and value simplicity and individual wellness above making money, consumption and living while making waste. Down with the American way (E) 2021
- Consumption, purchasing material goods, and making waste is a socially unacceptable behavior, similar to smoking now. (E) 2041

WASTE DISPOSAL REDUCTION (Issue Paper 5)

Within the next ten years the waste exchange and re-utilization opportunities that currently exist will be utilized to achieve a 40 percent increase in solid waste diverted. Within the ten year period, waste disposal will go down by 75 percent. In addition, new systems will be explored, including "discard malls" with space leased to provide sector tenants (similar to the system in airports).

- Waste exchange, re-utilization opportunity exists (SW) 2001
- 40 % solid waste diversion (G) 2005
- Establish "discard malls" and lease space to provide sector tenants, the same way airports are usually run (E) 2006
- Waste disposal goes down by 75% (E) 2006
- Waste disposal goes down by 90% (E) 2021
- Waste disposal goes down by 40% (G) 2021

RECYCLING (Issue Paper 11)

Government agency involvement in recycling will increase and utilize proper methods before enforcement of recycling. Within ten years recycling services will be available in 90 percent of the state, and drop off centers will be available within reasonable distances in all rural areas, this will increase to 100 percent in thirty years. Industry will participate in recycling through labeling products to indicate recycling content and environmental impacts. Within thirty years state agency policy will require employees to utilize practices that reduce, reuse, and recycle all materials in the office, and purchasing guidelines will be set for use of maximum recycled

content. In this thirty-year period we will see 75 percent of all solid waste materials reused or recycled into a useful product via some collection and recovery system.

- Government agencies engage in and implement proper recycling practices across agencies. Before government enforces recycling they need to learn how to recycle properly themselves. (SW) 2001
- Recycling services available in 100 % of the state (E) 2003
- Cash incentive for recycling and energy recovery (G) 2003
- Recycling services available in 100 % (Does NOT mean curbside in rural areas - drop off, etc. - in reasonable distance) (G) 2006
- Recycling services are readily available in 90 % of the state (E) 2006
- Start-up recycling businesses get tax breaks for first years of operation (E) 2006
- Require brand owners to include labels on products that show recycling content and key environmental impacts (E) 2006
- Government employees and large businesses need to mandate employee recycling of all materials to reach zero waste AT WORK (E) 2006
- Realistic about how do we truly determine the percentage of recycling content - i.e. we don't make aircraft quality aluminum from pop cans or surgical steel from toasters! Need real markets with proper utilization of them (SW) 2006
- Every state, county, city employee is required to reduce, reuse, and recycle all materials in the office, with the goal of creating zero waste. 100 % of state purchased materials are the maximum recycled content, regardless of initial cost (E) 2011
- 100 % of materials considered waste in 2001 are considered to be resources or products (E) 2011
- Recycling available in 100 % of state (G) 2021
- 75 % of all solid waste materials are reused or recycled into a useful product via some collection and recovery system (easily accessed) (E) 2021
- 100 % of manufacturers use disassembly, ease of recycling and toxin reduction and recycled content product design criteria (E) 2021

RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT (Issue Paper 11)

Within the next ten years market development efforts will be expanded and targeted toward long-term use of recycled materials. Investments will be made in resource conservation and recycling and re-use based businesses. In addition economic development policies and strategies will be developed to support recycling market development.

- Development of markets for long-term use of recycled materials (SW) 2001
- Have the means to be able to ship recyclables at a reasonable rate of return. Real markets exist (SW) 2003
- Invest in resource conservation and recycling and re-use based businesses, expand market development efforts, especially community-based recycling economic development policies and strategies (E) 2006
- Find more markets for waste (G) 2006
- Acquire public property for re-use, recycling, and composting in order to provide a stable land base for eco-industrial parks and re-use and recycling facilities (E) 2006
- Support recycling-based economic development through grants, low-interest loans, loan guarantee

LANDFILLING AND INCINERATION (Issue Paper 9)

Within the next ten years 100 percent of landfills will be assessed, closed as required by regulations, and cleaned up. Waste diversion efforts will prioritize energy generation over landfilling, with certain materials considered banned from landfills. And landfills will be 'mined' for reuse of materials.

- Private landfills need to be stopped (SW) 2001
- Follow through and close landfills that don't meet regulations (G) 2001
- Follow through and close landfills that don't meet regulations (G) 2001
- Energy generation has priority over land filling (G) 2003
- Composting/landfill requirements flexible to account for variety of environment (E) 2003
- Enforce current landfill regulations evenly (G) 2003
- Ban recyclable and reusable materials and products from landfills and incinerators (E) 2006
- 100 % of closed/abandon landfills have been identified and assessed (E) 2006
- 100 % of landfills (abandoned/closed) with environmental problems have been cleaned up. (E) 2011
- Dump mining/economic re-use of resources (G) 2021
- 50 % of all old landfills are mined for their wealth of materials, which are re-used into (recycled into) products (E) 2041
- No landfills (G) 2051

FUNDING FOR GOVERNMENT SOLID WASTE PROGRAMS (Issue Paper 4)

Within the next ten years funding for landfill closures and current capital equipment will be shifted from tipping fees and waste generation systems to a more secure source. Flow control issues will also be addressed to increase funding security.

- MONEY! Larger grants with less restrictions on its use (G) 2001
- Flow control (G) 2001
- Secured funding to sustain current capital equipment (G) 2001
- Flow control - responsibility and control (G) 2001
- No new regulations without cash (G) 2001
- Government solid waste program funding is not dependent on waste generation but rather costs are internalized and included in product price (E) 2003
- Garbage tax on products to sustain solid waste recycling and disposal programs (G) 2003
- Cash to local governments (G) 2003
- Put in budget to purchase land for an eco-park (E) 2003
- Government solid waste program funding not dependent of waste generation (G) 2011
- Tipping fees are paying off landfill closures. Reality check! Need funding in order to solve this problem (SW) 2011

WASTE GENERATION

Within the next ten years waste generation will be reduced significantly. Within thirty years a 90 percent reduction level will be reached.

- Waste generation goes down by 75 % (E) 2006
- Waste generation down 20 % (G) 2021
- Waste generation down by 90 % (E) 2021

ELIMINATION OF WASTE (Issue Paper 5)

Within the next ten years the community leadership will provide information on how to achieve zero waste and have a plan for achieving it. Within the next thirty years business and government will implement zero waste infrastructure systems.

- Form a task force to work on a zero waste plan. (E) 2001
- Adopt a zero waste goal and provide leadership, dialogue, and information on how to achieve it (E) 2003
- Grants are made available for business and government to implement zero waste infrastructure systems (E) 2003
- Zero waste facility up and running (E) 2011
- Zero waste = zero materials being buried/stored. New programs implemented in 20 years. Old waste (radioactive/toxic) in 60 (E) 2021
- Zero waste = zero materials being stored or buried. Possible in 50 years! (E) 2041 & 2051
- 100 % zero waste. Waste perfect world (SW) 2061

REDUCTION OF TOXINS IN MANUFACTURED GOODS

Within in the next fifteen years toxins in products and waste will be reduced by 50 percent. And in the next thirty years incentives will promote 75 percent of manufacturers to use recycled or high-recycled content products, which have reduced toxins in their designs.

- Toxins in products and waste are reduced 50 % (SW) 2016
- 100 % of manufacturer use disassembly, ease of recycling, toxin reduction and recycling content in design (E) 2021
- 75 % of manufacturers should have incentive to develop product easily. Recycled or high-recycled content remains in production or organics cycle, along with toxin reduction. (SW) 2031

WASTE PREVENTION (Issue Paper 6)

Within the next ten years waste prevention policies and practices will exist that reduce planned obsolescence and promote the reutilization of a variety of materials, including construction and manufacturing.

- Ban single-use disposable products from public events and festivals (E) 2001
- No tires with less than 80,000 miles capability (7 years) (G) 2006
- Institute building policies that require reuse and recovery of building materials in new construction and in building demolition projects (deconstruction) (E) 2006
- Shields implemented for future rule making (E) 2006
- Monthly refillable bottles and deposit on all beverage containers (E) 2006
- Reduce planned obsolescence through costs of waste disposal of products internalized and included in prices of products. (SW) 2006
- No colored glass. No multiples plastic containers (G) 2011

CONSUMER AND INDUSTRY INCENTIVES

Within the next ten years financial incentives will exist that target both consumers and industry that participate in recycling, conservation, and pollution reduction efforts. In addition, subsidies for virgin material extraction will be eliminated.

- Consumers who compost, conserve water, buy recycled, etc. should have reduced property taxes. (E) 2003
- Legislated corporation accountability laws make corporations responsible for packaging and recycling products. (E) 2003
- Business license fees increase in proportion to environmental pollution, (E) 2003
- Consumers who demonstrate significant recycling at home should not have mandatory weekly disposal fees on monthly bills. (E) 2003
- Institutionalize pay-as-you-throw trash fees (E) 2006
- Manufacturers with take back programs receive tax break or bonus for each product reused (E) 2006
- All subsidies for virgin material extraction are eliminated as an incentive to reduce, reuse, and recycle (includes mining, logging, fishing, etc.). (E) 2006
- Pass local ordinances banning use and/or sale of certain types of materials that cannot be re-used, repaired, recycled or composted. (E) 2011
- Risk associated with beneficial use activity relieved. (E) 2011
- Whatever is done need to be able to keep business alive in order to resell because this is my retirement (SW) 2011

LOCAL COORDINATION (Issue Paper 2)

Within the next year municipal partnerships will be created to maximize jurisdictional cooperation, save money, and increase responsiveness. Rules to make those partnerships exist will be simplified so that when plans are updated an amendment is adopted. In addition, county SWACS will set up citizen communities all over the state to involve the public in planning and implementation.

- A fast track of municipal partnerships exists to maximize jurisdictional cooperation to save money and increase responsiveness. Rules to make those partnerships exist are simplified. Next time plans are update the amendment is adopted. Don't wait to do something right (SW) 2001
- The solid waste system will set up citizen communities all over the state (each county) under SWACs to create the vision and implement (E) 2001
- Communities form study groups to look at plans that are working and use those plans to build sustainable communities (E) 2001

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Within the next ten years incentives will exist that promote research and development efforts to address the expansion of the infrastructure so it is capable of taking current waste products and making them into usable products. In addition, market research will be conducted to explore grants or tax breaks for these types of businesses in the short-run.

- Research and identify the waste reduction and reutilization of bottle necks and incentives to develop and engage in market research (SW) 2001
- We need to expand the infrastructure capable on taking current waste products and making them into usable products. Grants or tax breaks for these types of businesses by 2006 (E) 2006
- Scientific re-use. More research and development (G) 2006

ROLES AND AUTHORITIES (Issue Paper 2)

Within the next year appropriate rules and regulations to be in place for all items listed under solid waste, with different rules for different areas. Regions will be defined appropriately. In addition, there will be legislative authority and autonomy to solve local problems.

- Stop subsidizing polluting businesses (E) 2001
- Enforcing burn barrel issues. Ecology responding to these areas (SW) 2001
- Governor appoints blue ribbon task force to produce white paper on true cost of trash/garbage (E) 2001
- Demand environmentally enlightened legislators. Make sustainability a major issue during elections (E) 2001
- Ban throw-away (single use products) - razors, eating utensils, pencils, pens, paper, and plastic grocery bags (E) 2001
- Initiated citizen communities draft legislation to promote sustainability (E) 2001
- Economic hardship for businesses should not affect rules that must be implemented to reach zero waste (economics should never play a role in environmental protection) (E) 2001
- Pass legislation to mandate funds to be used at local government levels. No restrictions (G) 2001
- Funds need to shift from building roads for more cars to an environmental infrastructure (E) 2003
- "Cradle to grave" legislation is set in place to reduce/eliminate packaging and built in obsolescence (E) 2003
- Stop subsidies for virgin materials extraction, processing, and manufacturing (E) 2003
- Rules and regulations exist that address the appropriate problems. Need different rules for different areas - for all items listed under solid waste. Regions defined maybe too large (SW) 2003
- Legislative authority (autonomy) to solve local problems (G) 2006
- Virgin, raw materials are taxed, with taxes going toward research and development on alternatives to raw materials (E) 2006
- Nation-wide legislation to produce only clear glass (G) 2006
- Taxes for more harmful, no-recyclable products should increase and that revenue should go toward business education (E) 2011
- Income tax returns should be greater for people without children (more people need more stuff and produce more waste) (E) 2011
- There is a lack of leadership and vision by powerful business, industry, and elected officials, to move forward channeling funding towards these ends (E) 2011



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