

Responsible Recycling Task Force

Meeting #6 – September 19, 2018



Agenda

- **10:00 – 10:10:** Welcome & Introduction
(Julie Colehour)
- **10:10 – 10:40:** Legislation for Recycling and Recycling Markets
(Representative Norma Smith)
- **10:40 – 11:10:** Plastic Packaging Stewardship
(Sego Jackson)
- **11:10 – 11:25:** Local and Statewide Reusable Bag Ordinances
(Heather Trim)
- **11:25 – 11:55:** Recommendations Review
(Julie Colehour)
- **11:55 – 12:00:** 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.

Revisit Previous Meetings



- August 24 meeting minutes approved
- Approve 7/18 recommendation – *sent 9/12 via email*
 - *Local governments and their service providers should prioritize that sorting and processing take place domestically, in the United States and Canada, to ensure that the materials generated for use as feedstock in new products are clean and suitable for remanufacture. If there are no sorting and/or processing facilities located domestically, the next priority should be in countries that are members of the [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development \(OECD\)](#) that have worker health and safety and environmental regulations comparable to those in the US and Canada.*
 - **Definitions:**
 - **Sorting:** taking mixed recyclable materials and separating them into specific commodities that can be sent to a processor. For the commingled recycling system, sorting takes place at a Materials Recovery Facility.
 - **Processing/Processor:** transforming a material into a new material or feedstock. For example, a paper bale is turned into pulp for sale to the paper manufacturer or a plastic PET bale is turned into plastic pellets or flakes for sale to the plastic product manufacturers.
 - **Domestic:** the United States or Canada.

Legislation for Recycling and Recycling Markets

Representative Norma Smith

Washington House of Representatives, 10th Legislative District



Plastic Packaging Stewardship: Fixing Recycling and Reducing Plastic Pollution

*Responsible Recycling Task Force Meeting
September 19, 2018*



Imagine if...

- Payments are made to municipalities, haulers and MRFs for collecting and sorting plastic packaging – and ratepayers are relieved of costs
- Plastic Recycling Facility, Secondary MRF, chemical recycling facility of plastics in region
- Financing to have 3-7 plastics sorted and processed before export
- A robust drop-off collection program for bags and film, and they get recycled



What if...

- Plastic containers and bags had minimum post-consumer recycled content, creating market pull?
- There were financial incentives for better design, and disincentives for bad design?
- Funding was provided to prevent and clean-up plastic litter, beach litter, marine debris and contamination in compost?
- All plastic packaging was effectively managed?



The Responsible Management of Plastic Packaging Act of 2019

Introduction to draft policy concept for Washington State in the 2019 Legislative Session.

**Plastic Packaging Stewardship:
Fixing Recycling and Reducing Plastic Pollution**



We Can Have a Sustainable Plastic Management System In WA

All plastic packaging covered.

Financed by plastic packaging manufacturers.

Existing services remain. Payments made to municipalities, solid waste collection companies and material recovery facilities for services they provide.

Ratepayers no longer pay the costs of handling plastic packaging.



Why Plastic Packaging?

- Environmental impacts
- Strong awareness
- Exporting is problematic
- Problems at facilities
- Plastics contaminating paper commodities
- Demands to reduce collection
- Rapid shift to plastic packaging
- Plastic packagers want their packaging recycled



Washington Refuse & Recycling Association

- The WRRRA suggests the following list of materials to **INCLUDE** in commingled recycled programs:
 - Paper
 - Metal
 - #1-2 Plastic Bottles



Washington Refuse & Recycling Association

- The WRRRA suggests the following list of materials to **EXCLUDE** in commingled recycled programs:
 - #3-#7 Plastic Items
 - Plastic Bags & Plastic Film of all kinds
 - Flower pots
 - Paper Milk & Paper Juice Cartons
 - Aseptic Packaging
 - Shredded Paper
 - Glass
 - Hazardous & Medical Waste of any Type
 - Diapers
 - Fabric (Textiles) of any type
 - Wire, Rope, Chain, Garden Hoses & Christmas Lights
 - Wood
 - Trash – Put the Garbage in the Garbage Bin



Why a Stewardship Approach?

- Existing stewardship programs have expanded plastics
- Issues have not been created and cannot be solved by govts, facilities, service providers.
- Need more financial resources - provided by manufacturers.
- Stewardship programs can implement solutions otherwise unavailable.



What is Stewardship Approach?

Similar to British Columbia system (Recycle BC)
where:

- 1,200 packaging producers fund program (for all packaging)
- Producers pay a non-profit stewardship organization to implement program
- Local programs and services utilized
- Recovery rate went from 50-53% to 77-80%



What is Stewardship Approach?

Policy proposal for Washington:

- Plastic packaging manufacturers are responsible for financing plastics that are sold into WA
- Membership in non-profit stewardship organization is required
- Packagers pay into the organization to cover their obligations
- High “management” percentages required



What Are Their Obligations?

- Finance the responsible management of plastic packaging cradle-to-cradle/grave
- Provide for wide-spread, convenient and equitable collection of their packaging.
- Ensure responsible management.
- Utilize existing service providers.
- Meet recycled content requirements.
- Finance stewardship organization to meet their requirements.



Stewardship Organization Roles

- Non-profit organization made up of plastic packaging members
- Roles:
 - Develops and implements plan/program.
 - Serves as interface with Ecology and provides reports.
 - Ecology reviews and approves plan and reports.
 - Determines and reports amount of plastic packaging its members sell into state.
 - Provides consumer-facing website.
 - Provides resources for innovation to drive collection, such as deposit/return and buy-back mechanisms.
 - Consults with advisory committee.



Additional Stewardship Organization Roles

- Provides funding for:
 - Market development, MRF equipment upgrades.
 - Preventing and cleaning up plastic litter, aquatic litter and contamination in compost.
 - Provides sufficient funding for education and outreach, minimum of \$1 per capita per year.
- Provides consumer-facing website.
- Provides incentives for good design, disincentives for problematic design.



Additional Elements

- Covers all plastic packaging and multi-material packaging
- Exempts certain plastic packaging with very high recycled content
- Exempts small producers:
 - \$1 million in annual sales, or
 - Less than 1 ton plastic packaging in WA



Plastic Packaging Hierarchy

- Prevention and Waste Reduction
- Reuse
- Mechanical Recycling
- Chemical Recycling
- Energy Recovery, Incineration or Landfill



Plastic Packaging Hierarchy

- Stewardship organization determines the following:
 - Baseline of current practices
 - Assigns appropriate management method per packaging type
- Plastic packaging lifecycle considered
- Capture rate goal



Plastic Bottle Capture Rate Example

- Plastic bottles designated for recycling:
 - Minimum capture rate for recycling = 80%
 - Other 20% needs to be in another management system: garbage (not litter, not paper contamination, etc.)
 - This equals 100% capture rate within hierarchy.



Recycled Content Requirements

Minimum Requirement

Rigid Plastic Containers – 25% post-consumer plastic.

Bags of most types, some other “film” packaging – 25% post-consumer plastic.

Solid waste collection containers – 10% post-consumer packaging plastic.

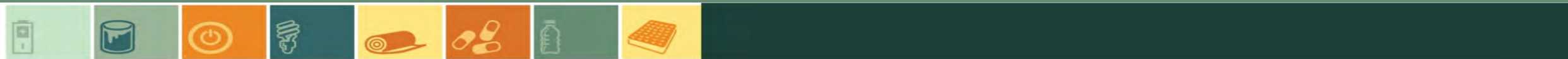
(exemption for existing contracts)

Administration and Report

- Stewardship program to provide members recycled content trade mechanism.
- Stewardship program administers and reports member compliance to Ecology.
- Reduces Ecology’s administrative costs of oversight.



Questions?





WA Reusable Bag Ordinances

Responsible Recycling Task Force

Heather Trim

Zero Waste Washington

September 19, 2018

Zero Waste Washington

Works to make *trash* obsolete

Three strategies:

- Help pass laws
- Conduct research
- Do pilot projects



Seven Focus Areas



E-Waste



Excess packaging



Reuse/Repair



Recycling



Innovation



Plastic pollution

The plastics problem



300%

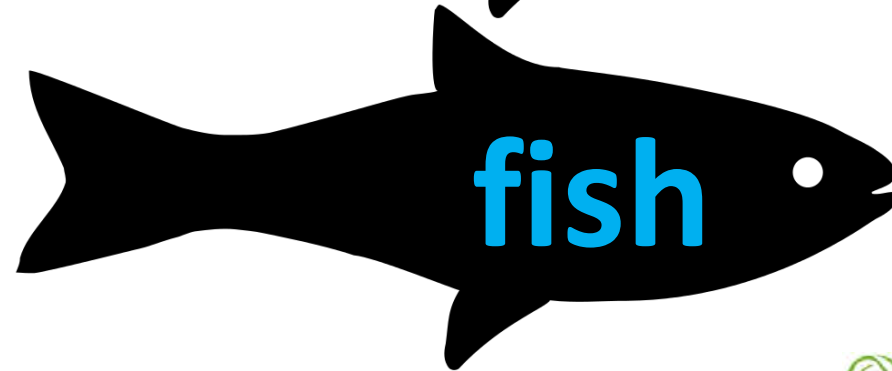
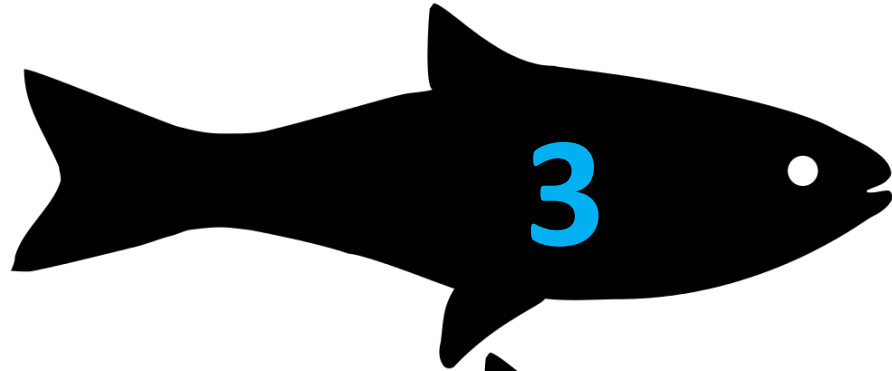
of plastics is used for packaging

By 2025:

in our oceans



for

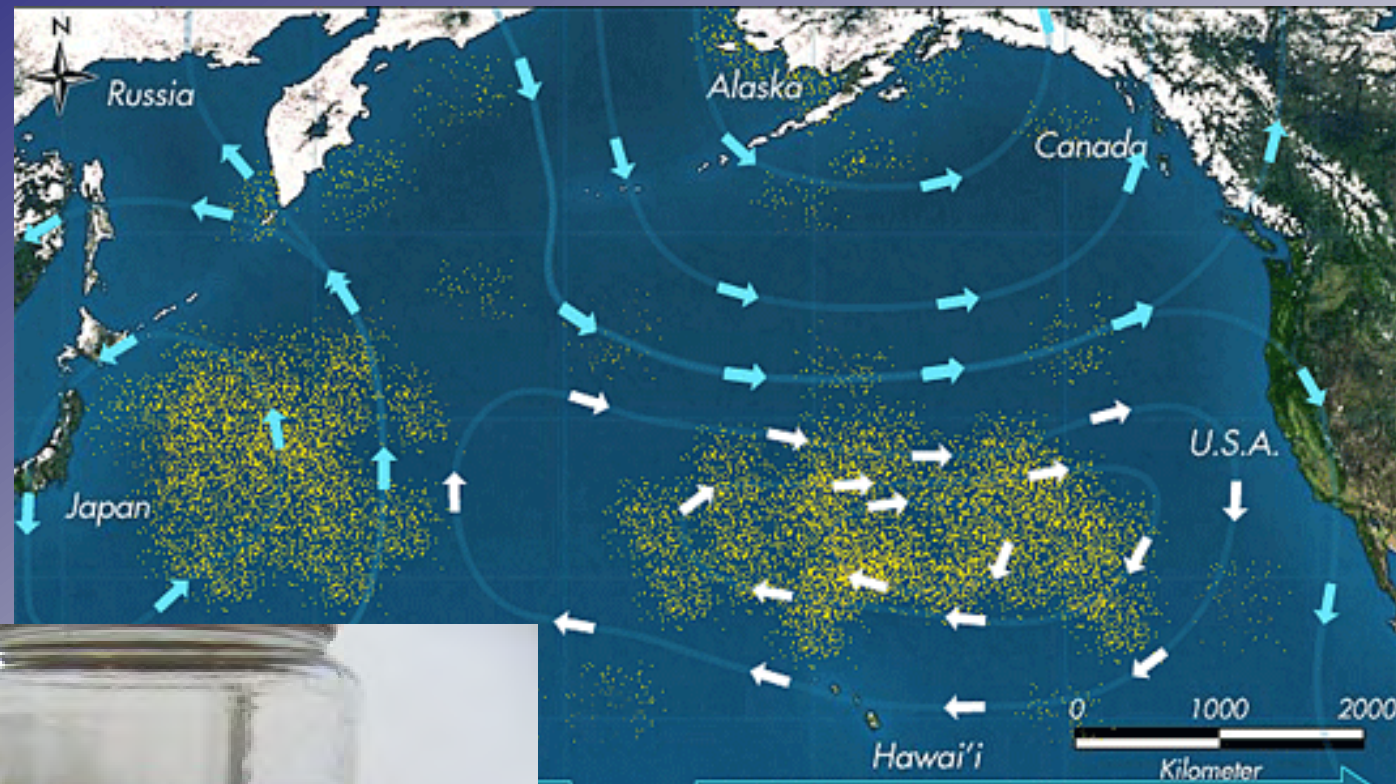


Plastics don't decompose
*Instead, they break down into
smaller and smaller bits*



Algalita Marine Research Foundation

North Pacific Gyre Trash Patch



And end up in the
world's ocean
accumulating in
the gyres!

Plastic in the Food Chain

- Microplastics are found in every depth of the water column all around the world, even Antarctica!
- Plastic marine debris affects over 600 species
- Toxins from plastic bioaccumulate



https://www.flickr.com/photos/andrea_pauline/4491635804/in/photostream/



https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfws_hq/8080507529



© Alexis Rosenfeld / Science Photo Library

<http://149.168.1.195/~habe/turtlegame.htm>



Dangers Of
Plastic Bags - CNN.com/technology November 16, 2007

Pilot whale found dead in Thailand had 80 plastic bags in its stomach





www.facebook.com/dmcrth





Timothy Quinn (May 18, 2010: An Environmental Overview of the Puget Sound Ecosystem



“...a surprising amount of human debris: including more than 20 plastic bags, small towels, surgical gloves, sweat pants, plastic pieces, duct tape, and....”

Community



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Commercial compost





Bags gum up recycling machines



<https://www.dnainfo.com/chicago/20161219/lincoln-square/plastic-bag-recycling-blue-cart-waste-management>

Costs



<http://www.littleelm.org/1265/Stormwater-Management>

China National Sword/Blue Skies

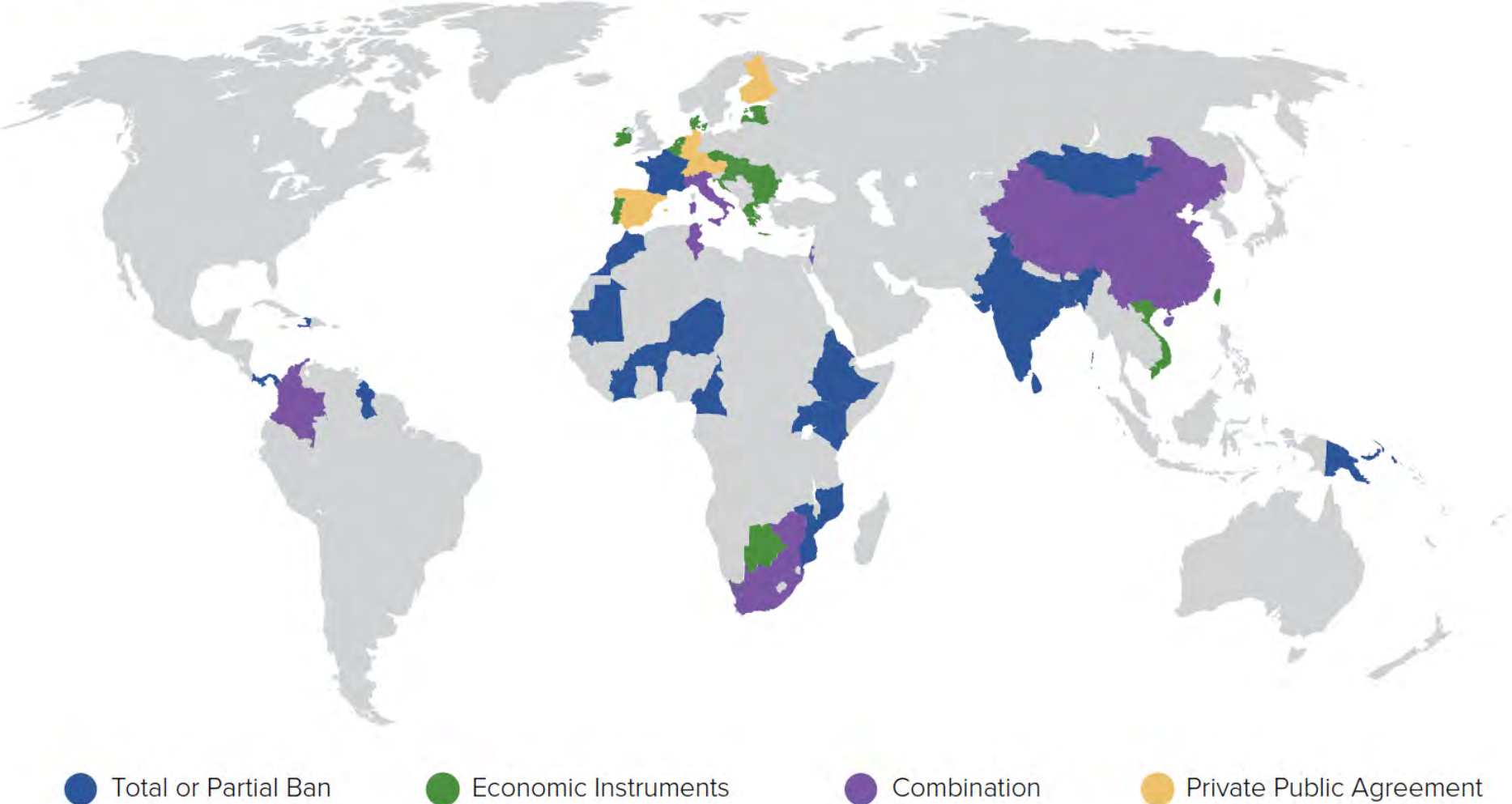


Shanghai Daily

Reusable bag ordinances



National-level Plastic Bag Bans and Styrofoam Regulations.



Source: United Nations, 2018.¹¹¹⁰

WA Reusable Bag Ordinances



Edmonds (2009)

Seattle (2011)

Bellingham (2011)

Mukilteo (2011)

Bainbridge Island (2012)

Port Townsend (2012)

Issaquah (2013)

Shoreline (2013)

Thurston Co.-unincorp (2013)

Tumwater (2013)

Olympia (2013)

Lacey (2014)

Mercer Island (2014)

Kirkland (2015)

Ellensburg (2016)

San Juan Co.-unincorp (2016)

Tacoma (2016)

Friday Harbor (2017)

Quil Ceda Village (2017)

Port Angeles (2018)

La Conner (2018)

Kenmore (2018)



BRING YOUR OWN BAG
CITY OF *Redmond* REUSABLE BAG ORDINANCE

Say NO to PLASTIC
morsbags.com



Bring Your Own Bag Campaign

THE FREE BOOK LIBRARY
- BOOKS, HAVE A BOOK AND SHARE IT GET READING IN COMMUNITY.
Redmond Library 10000 NE 10th St

Key Features of Reusable Bag Ordinances

No thin plastic carry-home bags



www.seattlepi.com/local/article/Plastic-bags-banned-in-Seattle-2412950.php

5 cents fee on carryhome bags

- Paper bags with one-eighty barrel (882 cubic inches) capacity or larger
- Reusable plastic bags thicker than 2.25mils
- Store **keeps** the 5 cents

Plastic Bag Restrictions
starting in Kirkland March 1, 2016

Restricted
(exemptions for prepared food, damp items, newspaper & dry-cleaning bags)
Carryout Plastic Bags

5-Cent Fee
(minimum)
(retained by retailers)
Large Paper Bags

Allowed
(no charge)
Small Paper Bags & In-Store Plastic Bags

Choose Reusable

Bring Your Bag
Kirkland

EBT/WIC/TANF exempt

- Retailers cannot collect a pass-through charge from anyone with a voucher or electronic benefits card



Bag exemptions

- Produce bags
- Newspaper bags
- Dry cleaning bags
- Bags sold in large quantities intended as trash can liners



Green and Brown-tinted Plastic Bags Banned

- Compostable bags allowed
 - Must be correctly labeled
 - must be tinted green or brown
- To prevent plastic pollution in compost



Enforcement: minimal

- Noncompliance is considered a civil infraction
- Up to \$250/day penalty
- City will send a violation notice

**PENALTY
NOTICE**

Maui's Plastic Bag Ordinance

Maui Landfill Before Bag Ordinance (2010)



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MAUI NEWS / MATTHEW THAYER

Lauren Bickley, Swell Consulting

Maui's Plastic Bag Ban

Maui Landfill After Bag Ordinance (2011)



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MAUI NEWS / MATTHEW THAYER

Thank You

Bag Monster

Every year, the
average American

uses **500**

plastic grocery bags



Recommendations Review



Meeting	RRTF Recommendation	Responsible Recycling Framework Relevance
#1: Task Force Kick-off (4/30/18)	The region should make a commitment to responsible recycling and domestic sorting/processing of curbside recyclables.	Overall Responsible Recycling Framework
#2: What's in the bin? (6/1/18)	All regional curbside programs should remove plastic bags and shredded paper from the blue bin.	Quality vs. quantity
#3: Contracts, Waivers & Surcharges (6/18/18)	The region should have a coordinated and consistent approach to waivers.	Regional policy alignment Recycling is not free
#4: Domestic Processing Infrastructure (7/18/18)	Local governments and their service providers should prioritize that sorting and processing take place domestically, in the United States and Canada, to ensure that the materials generated for use as feedstock in new products are clean and suitable for remanufacture. If there are no sorting and/or processing facilities located domestically, the next priority should be in countries that are members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that have worker health and safety and environmental regulations comparable to those in the US and Canada.	Domestic processing and markets

August 24 Recommendation



- Discuss recommendations from 8/24 meeting
- Possible recommendations include:
 - *Recycle BC's province wide, coordinated program is worth studying in further detail, specifically to understand how a statewide, systems approach might be applicable to our operating environment here in the Northwest.*
 - *Engaging producers in recycling solutions is recommended in order to achieve a system of sustainable and responsible recycling.*

Draft 9/19 Recommendation



- The region should continue to evaluate and put forth local and statewide policy and legislation that is consistent with helping establish a responsible recycling system.

Wrap Up & Next Steps

- Action items, recommendations & take-aways

- Next meeting:

Date: October 26, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Location: King Street Center, 201 S. Jackson St.

Parking: Parking is available in the King Street Center garage

Room: 8th Floor Conference Center

Future Meeting Schedule

Date	Topics Covered
April 30	<i>Task Force Introduction; Responsible Recycling Framework</i>
June 1	<i>What's in the Bin?</i>
June 18	<i>Contracts, Waivers, Surcharges</i>
July 18	<i>Domestic Processing Infrastructure: Fiber & Plastics</i>
August 24	<i>Working with Producers</i>
September 19	<i>Policy Approaches in Support of Responsible Recycling</i>
October 26	Creating Demand
November 15	Review Recommendations & Next Steps
December 14	Final Outcome Document Review