



Working Group Name: WASTE
Meeting Date: March 6, 2011, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Meeting Location: REEVES CENTER, 2000 14th STREET NW, 6th FLOOR

Attendees:

Heeral Bhalala
Sam Brooks
Jeremy Brosowsky
Laura Chamberlin
Hallie Clemm
Kara Davis
Damon Downing
Dave Dunning
Mike Grillo
Sybil Hammond
Jeff Jones
Russell Klein
Oana Leahu-Aluas
Silvia Lucero
Victoria North
Janita Ponze
Susan Riley
Jim Schulman
Steven Siegel
Mike Smaha
Ashlea Smith
Mary Lynn Wilhere

IDENTIFY INDICATORS AND RESOURCES

AGENDA

- 1. Introductions (5 min.)**
- 2. Review Group's Top 25 Recommendations (15 min.)**
- 3. Identify Resource and Agencies for the Top 25 Recommendations (20 min.)**
- 4. Identify Indicators to Evaluate Each Implemented Recommendation (20 min)**
- 5. Prepare for the Transition to Plan Development (15 min.)**
- 6. Summary & Next Steps (5 min.)**



NOTES

- The Waste Workgroup will submit a draft strategic plan which will go to the consultants. The consultants will merge the Waste report with the other 8 Working Groups' reports.
- Tonight is the last workgroup meeting.
- The first overview of the Sustainable DC plan will be out around Earth Day (April 22); the whole report will come out this summer.
- In the previous meetings, the Waste Workgroup wrote a vision statement, goals, action items, and collected feedback. At tonight's meeting (March 6), the group will review the action items, add new items if needed, talk about who is going to implement it, how to pay for it, and what are the indicators of success.
- Kara Davis utilized a software graphic program to represent the work of the Waste Workgroup in a single visual and shared with the group (please take a moment to look at this PDF file; Hallie will send it around). It shows how the information is interconnected and feeds the larger goal we are trying to achieve. The graphic also identifies where we are missing an important strategy.

RANKED ITEMS - DISCUSSION

The group reviewed and discussed each ranked item on the list. The main discussion points and suggestions are noted below.

- New item: DC government should require that a business have a valid waste hauler license and the business understands their recycling requirements. In the past, commercial plans did not work for DPW. Staff was focusing on the plan, rather than focusing on implementation and proper waste management. Needs to be tied to business license.
- Suggestion: Create signage in the window (certification) for recycling by businesses.
- Suggestion: *Yelp* – a website that lets citizen spot check the system, whether they are correctly recycling or not. Track responses to questions: Were you able to recycle? Were there signs on the bins? *Yelp* is a social pressure mechanism.
- Question: Should the group consider "pros" and "cons"? Discuss trash, recyclables, and organics in San Francisco, which requires 2 or 3 trucks, 3 bins, and a high level of personal responsibility. Huge cost model, it was outsourced and everyone pays. In DC, not everyone pays. It is not a fee for service system. Only a small portion of taxes funds the trash collection. Is it the best use of tax payer money?



- Question: What is the projected timeline for composting? DC does not have a timeline currently. Can DC educate the kids in schools on the 3 waste streams? It is in the *Healthy Schools Act* already.
- Suggestion: Filtered public water available -- people will use water bottles, similar to TAPIT program (DC Water program). Add "gumball machine" to add tablets to the water bottles to make them vitamin water.
- Suggestion: Education: establish overarching waste campaign, waste, reuse, reduction, refuse, repair, return, reject.
- Discussion: DPW will allocate a portion of Fort Totten as a transfer station in 12 months, new organics transfer station in 18 months. Right now, Waste Management is allowing transfers at Annapolis Junction. If Waste Management Company pulls this option, it will be very hard to start/restart composting. We need a "safety valve" for composting. The composting infrastructure is VERY fragile. Goes to WM Delaware Peninsula or McGill facility in south Richmond. The cost to dump at Annapolis Junction \$50-75 a ton, plus the cost to the hauler to transport the materials.
- Example: South Africa model – farmer was collecting green waste from city parks, waste was converted into compost and sold to farmers.
- Suggestion: Bottle Bill – the governors would need to address together.
- Suggestion: By 2015, DC Council will pass legislation on C&D recycling, include construction waste management plan in permitting phase, at the end of product, for occupancy certificate, need documentation of C&D recycling
- By 2018, financial incentives to encourage organic recycling
- Discussion: Polystyrene – flat out ban vs. 10 cent fee on Styrofoam, possible exemptions for medical products.
- Suggestion: Take out DC SEU on the "taskforce to explore waste-to-energy conversion technology.
- Suggestion: "Pay to Throw" – move to 2016. Group would like more research on pay programs. Add language, "Including possibility of..." for other options.
- Suggestion: By 2014, Mayor Gray shall introduce legislation requiring all new construction and major projects to recycling... (combine with #9). Requirements on the part of the processor, user. Needs additional wordsmithing.
- Question: Accessible space for citizen drop off – how does this affect non-profits such as Goodwill? This is only another option.
- Suggestion 18 and 25 can be combined.
- 29, environmentally preferred purchasing to be completed.
- Suggestion: Will integrate and launch a multi-media anti-littering awareness campaign.
- Suggestion: Combining 17 and 7 and 28 (duplicate).



- Suggestion: #33 hazardous materials combined with one above
- Suggestion: Cooking oil (waste oil) has not been addressed. Should go into recovering resources section. Need statement on what we want to see on cooking oil. Could add requirement that restaurants need to accept cooking oil from residents. DPW is now conducting a pilot with oil in vehicles. Make sure that fuel manufacturing regulations allows for the creation of biodiesel. The regulations were difficult. Add this to #13. Add as separate bullet (similar to 13).
- Suggestion: Tires needs to be addressed and is not in the current report. This needs to be added to the goals. By the year 2020, the District will have a comprehensive plan for salvage and recovery of tires. (Ashlea and Hallie compromised!)
- Suggestion: DCRA needs to know which businesses have grease (they should provide information to businesses). Look at #2 – how do we make businesses accountable?

After the discussion, we broke into 4 subgroups. Each subgroup took 6 actions to further refine and identify responsible agencies and partners, which business, industry, potential indicators for success, and any type of action needed (policy, funding, legislation).

The subgroups addressed the following actions:

- Subgroup 1 – 1,2,3,4,5,6
- Subgroup 2- 7,8,9,10,11,12,13
- Subgroup 3 – 14, 15,16,17, 18 conference room
- Subgroup 4 – 19 to the end

At the end of the subgroup discussion, the scribe from each subgroup was asked to provide notes to Mary Lynn. The final work product will be shared with the Consultant for further analysis. Around April 22, an overview document will be made available to the public. Members of each workgroup will be contacted on an ad hoc basis. Each member will get a copy of the report.

Questions? Email sustainable.waste@dc.gov

Other Notes:

- The members of the workgroup should receive a deliverable for their work/hours. A specific report from the Consultants for the Waste Workgroup.
- Lessons learned: One of the “core” organizing group members should have attended one of the workgroups to make sure things are on track. Example: waste workgroup was getting goals and action items mixed up.