

## City of Cambridge Recycling Advisory Committee

May 13, 2010 – Minutes Taken by Adam Mitchell

### Members Attending:

Mark Evans, Casella Recycling; Rob Gogan, Ryan Gray, MIT; Harvard University; Jarrod Jones, MIT; Adam Mitchell, Save That Stuff; Judy Nathans, Cambridge resident; Laura Nichols, License Commission

### Guests Attending:

Michael Arnott, Cambridge Cornerstone Co-housing; Katy Chen, Cambridge resident; Debby Galef, Cambridge resident; Julian Lyman, Savenors/Taste of Cambridge; Helen Snively, Cambridge resident

### Market Update

Pricing on news is steady while high grade fiber has flattened. Cardboard prices have softened as exports have slowed. The ACR (Average Commodity Revenue) for single stream recycling has declined. Plastics have increased as fuel prices increase.

Mark said that Casella is moving forward with plans to develop processing capacity for organics and is waiting on permitting. They are working with a cooperative of MA farms to land apply a digested slurry from an anaerobic digestion system. Save That Stuff formed STS Organics, Inc and is continuing to work on siting an organics processing facility in the Boston area.

### Single Stream Recycling (SSR) Update

Committee members questioned the paper quality from SSR. As discussed in January, Bob Cappadona had explained that Casella's zero-sort facility is producing high quality recycling, due to:

- Their Hierarchy of Goals: 1) Safety, 2) Quality, then 3) Productivity
- Presort and quality control checks where employees remove unacceptable items
- Sorting technology removes glass at 5 different points during process
- Other equipment to ensure a clean sort such as air jets, magnets, screens, optical sensors and scanners, eddie current and destoner; and
- Material is re-circulated continually to ensure a quality sort and maximum recovery

Randi said her site visits showed the successful processing of material at Casella and will be organizing a series of tours for the public July-November. Rob reminded the group to remember that best management practices are implementing a three bin system: blue bin for single stream recycling, green bin for organics and dirty paper and black bin for residual waste.

Randi spoke of the City Council's 5/18 roundtable discussion on single stream, which was open to the public, but closed to public comment. She [presented information](#) on single stream recycling. The presentation reviews the current recycling program and collection logistics, what single stream is, new materials accepted, new vehicles and the role of the field supervisor, the recycling rate and the outreach strategy for SSR.

DPW included a proposal to switch to single stream and provide totes to 1-5 unit buildings in the FY11 budget, which was approved 5/24. DPW is moving forward with plans to start single stream recycling September 20. FY10 funds allocated for recyclables processing will fund SSR education materials.

The City received several curbside recycling collection proposals and will be executing a contract with F.W. Russell for curbside recycling and yard waste and with Casella Recycling for recyclables processing through 2015.

### Tonnage Report

	FY10 YTD Mar	FY09 YTD Mar	Percent change FY09 to FY10
<b>Trash</b> (city-served + tons from privately served residences)	17,073	17,198	- 0.7%
<b>Total Recycling</b>	9,336	9,680	- 3.6%
<b>Total Trash &amp; Recycling</b>	26,409	26,878	-1.7%
<b>Recycling Rate</b>	35%	36%	-1%

City is predicting at least a 10% increase in recycling with the switch to single stream. Randi mentioned the waste sort done in 2004 that found that 48% of trash could be diverted in the existing curbside recycling program. She would like to do another before September.

### Taste of Cambridge

Taste of Cambridge will be held June 24 from 5:30pm-8:30pm, in the Charles Hotel Courtyard. Julianna Lyman and Helen Snively presented on the event's goal this year for [zero waste](#), following up on last year's initiative. Perkins Supply is donating compostable products and SaveThat Stuff is providing collection services. Vendors were required to sign a Carbon Footprint Agreement and the organizers hope to recruit at least 30 volunteers to help oversee the zero waste program. Contact [Juliana@savenorsmarket.com](mailto:Juliana@savenorsmarket.com) if you are interested.