

## DRAFT

### Cambridge Recycling Advisory Committee May 11, 2011, Meeting Minutes by George Delegas

**Members:** Michael Arnott, Claire Davies, George Delegas, Debby Galef, Rob Gogan, Jarrod Jones, Juliana Lyman, Adam Mitchell, Judy Nathans, Laura Nichols, Robert Winters

**Guests:** Helen Snively

**City Staff:** Randi Mail

The April minutes were approved.

#### Market & Tonnage Update

Randi shared a market update from the Official Board Markets yellow sheet. Since early 2011, cardboard prices have been stable. Mills need tons so prices have not gone down. Chinese mills concerned about short term demand for containerboard, but it does not seem they are low on inventory on any paper grade. Tornados in the US south did not hurt mills.

**Tons recycled in Cambridge increased** 19% month to month for April: 700 tons, up from 588 tons in Apr 2010. **Tons disposed decreased** 5% month to month for April: 1170 tons, down from 1234 tons in Apr 2010. Tons disposed does not include multi-family buildings served by private haulers, businesses or the universities.

#### City Update

- Randi reported that in lieu of a spring mailing, the DPW will pay for 4 weeks (late May/early June) of recycling advertising with MBTA including interior bus cards (above seats) and platform posters at Porter, Central, Kendall and Lechmere. Specific buses cannot be targeted because buses change to different routes. The ads will feature the **Recycle More Trash Less campaign** which invites residents, city departments, schools, business, houses of worship, and community organizations to take the 50% recycling pledge. Everyone who takes the pledge will get a free bumpersticker. Click here to [take the 50% pledge](#), and [print the poster](#).
- **GoGreen Awards:** All are invited to the breakfast ceremony on May 26 during at SwissNex Boston at 420 Broadway at 8:30am. The GoGreen Awards recognize Cambridge businesses and organizations for their efforts to preserve the environment and quality of life in Cambridge. View winners and more info [here](#).
- **Donate Your Stuff!** Local charities and reuse organizations accept donations year-round. You CAN reduce waste and choose to give your stuff a second chance. Encourage others to donate! Always check on exactly what is accepted, such as clothing, electronics, furniture, household goods, kitchenware, and building materials. Donate to Goodwill, Salvation Army, MIT Furniture Exchange, MA Coalition for the Homeless, Solutions at Work, Big Brother Big Sister, American Red Cross, Boston Building Resources, and Boston ReStore. Visit the City's webpage for a [one page list of organizations that accept donations](#).
- **Climate Week:** Cambridge Climate Change Week takes place May 13 through 21, 2011 with [events](#) all across Cambridge. During this week you will hear and share important facts about climate change.

#### Chair, Co-chair, and Subcommittee Work

In January, RAC members agreed to revisit the positions of chair and co-chair in the Spring. Members discussed and decided that Adam and Judy will remain in their positions as chair and co-chair, respectively, until January.

\*\*\*Randi asked that subcommittees finalize and submit their mission statement, list of possible topics and draft recommendations. Members discussed inviting the DPW Commissioner Lisa Peterson to upcoming meetings to present their mission and draft recommendations. She will be able to join the RAC meetings on July 13 and October 12.

#### Subcommittee Updates

- **Business:** Juliana reported on the meeting with 11 Haulers on Wednesday April 27 at the library, to discuss business recycling. Read the meeting notes [online](#). In early 2011, the City merged customer lists provided by the haulers and

from that effort, it appears that 35% of commercial customers do not appear to have a recycling program. This helped to launch the discussion. The meeting was productive and enlightening by brainstorming a few key questions:

- What are the barriers to recycling for Cambridge businesses that do not have a program?
- How can haulers help businesses implement new programs and maximize recycling?
- What are the benefits of recycling to businesses and haulers?
- Best strategies to increase recycling?
- What are the priority areas that the RAC business subcommittee should address?

Haulers voiced their comments and concerns. Their interests varied (trash vs. recycling). Barriers for small businesses that are not recycling include: space, it may not be a cost savings due to small volume generated, indifference and lack of enforcement. Benefits include compliance with state waste bans, being a green business, reduce trash costs, good PR. Haulers can help by offering waste audits, notifying customers of waste ban violations, offering flexible service, contracts, and pricing, helping with education and onsite training. Suggestions included simplifying the Ordinance, explore economic incentives for businesses, have Inspectional Services lead enforcement, and encourage small businesses to negotiate together for collection services.

Members asked if individual RAC members can help educate particular companies about [business recycling](#). Randi suggested identifying ourselves as members of RAC and offer information available on the City website on what should be recycled, landlord responsibilities and a list of all licensed haulers in Cambridge.

- **Zero Waste:** Michael and George reported that the committee is still prioritizing list of possible topics, but the three items will likely be recommended: Organics, Bulky Waste and Construction Material. Other items include:
  - Logistics for a swap meet of bulk items and whether we can identify a location.
    - The [MIT Student Furniture Exchange](#) at 350 Brookline St is a great resource. They accept donations from Cambridge residents. Anybody with a valid university ID from MIT, Harvard, Boston University and Suffolk may buy available furniture and household goods during open hours: Tues/Thurs 10am-4pm and the first Saturday of the month from 10am-1pm.
  - Resources available for donation and exchange of medical equipment such as walkers, canes and wheelchairs. Randi found out that the [Council on Aging](#) accepts these items and also recommends the [Boston Center for Independent Living](#) and [www.getatstuff.com](http://www.getatstuff.com)
  - The effectiveness of curbside (Big Trash Day) recycling.
  - Google Map: Jason is working on creating map that includes where to donate and recycle items in Cambridge
- **Outreach:**
  - Claire talked about members planning to help distribute the [translated brochures](#), which is available in Spanish, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Amharic (Ethiopian) and Portuguese.
  - How members will begin to use their own Facebook and Twitter accounts to push messages taken from the [City's monthly recycling eNewsletter](#).
  - Issue of public space recycling and how it relates to the curbside program and general public education
  - Helping to expanding the eNewsletter distribution, which currently goes out to about 3900 people.
  - Scheduled a recycling volunteer training session on Monday June 6 at 6:30pm, at DPW. Also, Debby volunteered to help Randi act as a volunteer coordinator

**Next meeting:** Next RAC meeting June 15 with location to be determined. Traditionally the RAC does not meet in July and August. However, members agreed to meet on July 13 at 8am, Council Chambers in City Hall.