

DRAFT
City of Cambridge Recycling Advisory Committee
March 14, 2012 – Minutes Taken by Claire Davies

Members Present: Michael Arnott, Luis Baigiorria, Lisa Casella, Claire Davies, George Delegas, Jan Dillon, Debby Galef, Rob Gogan, Jarrod Jones, Juliana Lyman, Adam Mitchell, Robert Winters, Jason Zogg
Members Absent: Bruce Comen, Jan Dillon, Judy Nathans, Laura Nichols.
Staff Present: Meryl Brott, Randi Mail
Guests Present: Joel Dashnaw, Nicole Labruto, Helen Snively
Public Comment: None

Minutes were approved from the February meeting and Randi confirmed date of May meeting as 5/16.

Market Update

Liza reported that volumes of paper / cardboard fell dramatically after high generation Nov-Jan. This is good for commodities market as domestic mills try to compete with exports for volumes. Rising gas prices make it hard domestic because transporting goods gets expensive. For the summer, cardboard should rise \$160's and newspaper to \$100. Nice increase for plastics market as HDPE and PET have risen by \$40 to \$60/ton. PET is selling at \$500/ton, HD Natural at \$700/ton in some markets, HD Color at \$600/ton. Increases mainly driven by mild winter, hardly a decline in construction. Export demand also affecting plastics market and levels expected to stay strong during the low generation summer months right up until October. Bi-metals (tin), no change selling strong through winter due to construction overseas. Tin at \$275/ton. Aluminum strong around \$1600/ton.

Casella is very happy with commodities for the next 3-6 months. Fiber grades will stay strong due to export demand. Recent study at Casella shows that the % of news is in further decline within the Zero-sort stream. 3 years ago news was 45%, now around 33%. Decline in the daily newspaper and online reading. Cardboard increased 5-7% and the remainder spread among glass, plastics and metals. Good news that Cascades will open another cardboard mill in upstate NY in early 2013 needing 2,000 tons/day, a sign of the US economy rebounding and will increase demand for cardboard.

Tonnage

Update on curbside recycling & trash stats. **Tons recycled increased** in Feb 691 tons, up 2% from 675 tons in 2011. **Tons disposed increased** in Feb 1095 tons, up 2% from 1072 tons in 2011. **Tons disposed includes trash from an estimated 32,103 households, public schools and city buildings. It does not include multi-family buildings served by private haulers, businesses or the universities. Randi is seeking volunteers to help table at the winter farmers market (Saturdays 10am-2pm through 4/28). Email rmil@cambridgema.gov if you can help.

City Updates

- **Tours: Recycling (4/10, 5/17, 6/6) and Trash (4/18, 5/22, 6/13):** Members are strongly encouraged to sign up for tours by emailing recycle@cambridgema.gov if you have yet to see these facilities. More details will be sent to you.
- **Household Hazardous Waste Collections (4/21, 7/21, 10/20)**
- **Yard Waste Collection & Street Cleaning Starts April 1st**
- **Go Green Awards:** [Nominations due 4/16](#), breakfast awards reception & ceremony 5/22 at MIT Museum.

- **Organics Summit Conference & Trade Show (3/27)**
Event sponsored by MassDEP and MassRecycle at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Boxborough, MA. Conference tracks include topics include: MA Policy & Strategy, Organics, Managing Packaging & Printed Matter, Municipal Programs, K12, and Industry. The event includes a trade show with many industry vendors. The organics track will include a session titled, "Gearing up for the 2014 Organics Ban: the Commonwealth's initiative on organics". Randi reminded members that MA has used waste bans as a policy tool to stimulate market development for collection, processing and end markets. Beginning in the 1990s, MA has established over a dozen waste bans on recyclables, hazardous and construction materials. See [MassDEP's webpage on waste bans](#) and for more workshop details for the conference visit www.massrecycle.org/conference.

- **Public Area Recycling Bins**
This spring DPW will install more public area recycling bins in Central Square, along Cambridge Street between Inman and Lechmere and in parks. DPW is working with other city departments to expand in the Library Park (aka Joan Lorentz), Fresh Pond Reservation, Golf Course, and the Cemetery. The new bins in Central Square will be the Big Belly recycling bins that match the current trash containers. They will be single stream accepting containers and papers. Staff will also consider where some trash bins may be removed. 35 parks, fields and other green spaces with recycling bins will soon include: Ahern, Cambridge Common, Clement Morgan, Cooper, Corporal Burns, Costa Lopez Taylor, Dana, Danehy, David Nunes, Donnelly, Fresh Pond, Golf Course, Glacken, Gold Star Mothers, Hoyt, Joan

Lorentz, Kingsley, Lindstrom, Larch Road, Linear, Lowell School, Magazine Beach, Pacific Street Open Space, Rafferty, Raymond, Reverend Williams, Rindge, Riverside Press, Riverside, Russell, Sacramento, Sennott, Tobin, Winthrop, and William Maher. See [a map of Cambridge parks](#).

The parks bins are made by MassCorr and serviced weekly by Metro Pedal Power. The funds for the bins is being absorbed by the FY12 budget, savings from the curbside recycling contract. Members asked that DPW put maps on the website of public area recycling bins and issue a press release on this exciting program expansion.

- **Postcard Mailing**

DPW will send target mailing in April to multi-family buildings with 6+ units that have a B or C recycling grade. Postcard tailored for a broad audience with pictures of what can be recycled, callout to sign up for the monthly [email newsletter](#) and to “Like Cambridge DPW” on [Facebook](#). Meryl emailed property managers in advance to encourage them to get more toters for their buildings. Campaign will involve magnets to these residents with same theme.

Discussion Topics

- **Business Subcommittee Update**

Juliana / Jan said the subcom is working on recommendations to get businesses to recycle more. Data gathered about current conditions proved to be difficult to crosscheck. Through the [City's Mandatory Recycling Ordinance](#), all buildings that generate waste must recycle any designated recyclable that makes up at least 5% of the trash. License Commission requires haulers to report which customers receive trash, and recycling service. All locations with a dumpster must submit a [dumpster plan to receive a permit](#) from Inspectional Services Department (ISD).

The subcommittee is still reviewing ideas from the meeting with haulers in Spring 2011 and would like to work with the full RAC to finalize recommendations to send to the Commissioner. Initial recommendations include:

- The City enforces mandatory recycling, already required by Ordinance.
- Consider offering an incentive to businesses to downsize or eliminate dumpsters
- During regular bi-annual inspections by ISD, include a check on recycling
- Update the Ordinance: eliminate the 5% rule, consider requiring specific recyclables based on business type
- Make data collection and tracking more consistent and coordinated among Departments

Following the update, members brought up other related issues: open dumpsters and recycling programs at malls, how the 7am City Noise Ordinance affects the time haulers can service customers, explore haulers helping with enforcement, simplify recycling plan reporting requirements (property owners vs. business owners) and streamline process with existing permits and licenses, give businesses a placard to display (that expires) which indicates recycling compliance, and a new [council policy order](#) regarding trash and recycling service for small businesses which DPW is discussing with other City departments before drafting a response.

- **Council Policy Orders (Plastic Bags & Styrofoam)**

Randi spoke about two open council orders 1) How to encourage businesses to use recyclable packaging instead of non-recyclable [Styrofoam](#) and 2) Look into the elimination of [plastic bags](#) from chain grocery stores and pharmacies. DPW is meeting with staff from the City Manager's office, Law Dept and Community Development to research and discuss what other communities have done on both plastic bags and styrofoam, goals for Cambridge and options to proceed. Juliana talked about use of Styrofoam for shipping cold product and noted that at the seafood vendor show, she learned of a Canadian company offering non-waxed cardboard shippers that keeps temperatures. Some suggested that the City help circulate a list of suppliers for businesses on where to get compostable and recyclable items. Some said that compostable bags are essential for a clean organics program, whether at businesses or residences. Some preferred a tax on bag us rather than a ban.

Sub-Committee Updates

- Zero Waste: Looking at how other communities implement Zero Waste plans for Commissioner's consideration. Read letter to Commissioner thanking her for attending January meeting and sharing draft City waste goals (part of draft 2020 climate goals) to meet Massachusetts state goal of 30% waste reduction plan by 2020 from 2008 levels, and 80% less by 2050. Members voted to propose a zero waste goal for 2030, instead, by a show of hands. Randi emphasized the need for all feedback related to the draft climate goals, be sent to John Bolduc in Community Development jbolduc@cambridgema.gov as well.
- Outreach: Need to reach consensus on meeting times. Upcoming topics include outreach opportunities through the spring, Earth Day events in the City.
- Business: See above.

Upcoming Meetings: April 11 (George minutes), May 16 (Michael minutes), June 13.