

	Tons	Lbs Per Capita
Nov 2008 Recycling	1348	27
Nov 2007 Recycling	1382	27
Nov 2008 Trash	1988	39
Nov 2007 Trash	2254	44

City of Cambridge – Recycling Advisory Committee
December 13, 2007 – Minutes taken by Paul Schlaver

Members Attending: Rob Gogan, Harvard University; Cathy McCormick, Cambridge resident; Judy Nathans, Cambridge resident; Paul Schlaver, Cambridge Consumers Council; Adam Mitchell, Save That Stuff; Mark Evans, FCR; Kevin Douglas, F.W. Russell

Guests Present: Jim Ardolino, Solid Waste Superintendent; Kelly Dunn, Recycling Program Manager; Randi Mail, Recycling Director; John Bolduc, Community Development Dept.

FCR Report

Mark reported that Shauna left FCR. He handed out the yellow sheet. Prices have been stable but office paper and sorted white paper jumped. Plastics remain strong.

Rob raised the question of residuals in the single stream recycling process and whether it accounted for in recycling rates. This information is particularly important for recyclers to understand if questioned by critics.

Zero Waste Update

Rob reported on his conversation with Commissioner Peterson. Lisa wants further research and staff to undergo training before going public or announcing any goals. She was positive about the training possibility with [EcoCycle](#) and wants internal measures established.

Randi spoke with Eric Lombardi of EcoCycle. They have done the training twice, in Oakland, CA and at the 2007 NRC conference in Atlanta; never to a single community. Currently 5 staff do the training, so EcoCycle would have to revise it to lower costs. The discussions with the City are preliminary. Randi thinks it is best train key City staff and rather than a general audience so that the City can have a working session with the experts. Adam suggested that the training target others in the Boston-region. He felt we might staff from the [Central Vermont Solid Waste District](#) to do the overview rather than Ecocycle. Rob and Cathy suggested that Harvard might be able to help fund the event and possibly host it.

Rob suggested that per capita waste and recycling numbers be publicized to focus attention on lowering trash and raising recycling. He suggested that a graduate student could research and analyze what needs to be done to get to zero waste, similar to the research effort done by a student prior to the establishment of the [Mandatory Recycling Ordinance](#).

Randi said Lisa wants two RAC members to continue to meet with her and Randi, etc. to develop this further as a next step. Rob volunteered and the Committee suggested that others be brought in based on the discussions.

Randi said that DPW is considering different strategies that could reduce trash and increase recycling, including single stream, curbside organics for residents and enforcing trash limits. Now that large toters are available to 7+ unit buildings, curbside recycling should see a big boost as these are distributed to 250 more buildings.

Climate Protection/Energy Update

John Bolduc was invited to update the Committee on the *Cambridge Energy Alliance*. The Alliance is now moving toward the project phase. Five companies have been certified to service different customer types including small and large residential and small and large commercial/industrial. Contractors need to be pre-qualified by the Alliance to participate; the services offered by the Alliance include energy audits, installation of energy efficiency and renewable energy measures and financing for customers who don't have sufficient funds of their own.

The project implementation financing for the Alliance is being provided through an investment bank, Bostonia, as well as other private banks. In addition, operating capital is being raised now to set up the office and fund initial staff. Financing will be available in the spring.

Over 400 customers - ranging from large commercial property owners to condo owners - have already signed up on the Alliance's website. The project is being pitched as a way to reduce energy use and save money. In many cases the cost of the work can be paid for fully by the savings in energy cost but owners must pay a small fee for the services provided by the Alliance and its contractors. Audits are performed upfront and the payback period for the different types of measures proposed by the contractor are provided to the owner before any work begins. The Alliance will provide quality control services and monitor that predicted savings are realized.

The Alliance's goal is a 15% reduction in electricity use in peak hours and 10% in fossil fuel use over a period of five years. 2/3 of the energy use in Cambridge is in the commercial sector. Also, 450 NSTAR customers use 70% of electricity in Cambridge.