

DRAFT

Cambridge Recycling Advisory Committee - Zero Waste Subcommittee

April 13, 2011, Minutes Taken by Jason Zogg

Finalize Draft Mission

The subcommittee finalized our draft mission statement, as follows:

“The mission of the Cambridge Zero-Waste Committee is to promote the highest and best use of materials to eliminate waste and pollution, emphasizing a closed-loop system of production and consumption in which producers, residents and the City share responsibility for moving in logical increments toward the goal of zero waste through the core principles of: improving downstream reuse/recycling of end-of-life products and materials, pursuing upstream re-design strategies to reduce the volume and toxicity of discarded products and materials, promoting low-impact or reduced consumption lifestyles, and fostering and supporting use of discarded products and materials to stimulate and drive local economic and workforce development.”

Reuse Opportunities

Rob and Lisa presented the multi-page list of reuse opportunities that they assembled. The subcommittee discussed the best format and location to present this information, and who the audience would be. The subcommittee thought it would be best to have a tri-fold or card that summarizes the most important and relevant reuse opportunities from the full list, but also create a full list as a PDF too. The full list needs to be re-formatted, checked against what is already on the website, outdated or irrelevant links taken out, and generally slimmed down to the most relevant reuse opportunities for Cambridge residents within each category.

- A town in MA (Medfield, MA?) has a “how to get rid of stuff” tri-fold that could be used as an example
- Rob and Lisa will research best practices, and continue to work on a card/tri-fold and full list of reuse opportunities for many categories, with the idea that the card or tri-fold could be easily handed out at events or meetings, and the full list could be posted online.
- Jason will research existing re-use mobile apps and Google maps, and/or try to develop a single Cambridge Google map of reuse opportunities and list of mobile apps. Jason will look for already existing apps and maps first: red cross boxes, big brother big sister boxes, planet aid, being-green.org etc
- The first one-page info sheet developed by the subcommittee will be “Reuse Opportunities”, highlighting best practices and suggestions for the City.

Other Discussion

- Request that Randi present lbs trash per household with tonnage update.
- Michael agreed to start making a small instruction guide to running your own swap day to be reviewed by DPW.

Prioritize Possible Topics for Subcommittee to work on:

Subcommittee still needs to prioritize topics previously identified:

- Define ZW, stay practical
- Know composition of waste stream
- Focus goals on reducing trash tonnage
- Keep abreast and involved with product stewardship activities in MA and New England
- Develop recommendations to capture reusable / bulky wastes, textiles, C&D
- Push backyard composting
- Promote deconstruction / buildings designed for disassembly
- Follow best practices in other communities
- Walk the Walk: Push green procurement and institutionalizing practices in all departments
- Discuss strategies for the City to take a leadership role on ZW with the DPW Commissioner
- How to address changing the rules and incentives around wasting: change the economics (i.e. Incinerators: cost of handling, waste reduction, recycling, incinerators)
- Salvaging the utility of materials
- Sharing systems and charities
 - Could be useful to compile list of groups, events and electronics, that will salvage reusables? How do they get it what do they take?