

## DRAFT

### Cambridge Recycling Advisory Committee

February 9, 2011, Meeting Minutes by Jan Dillon

**Members Attending:** Michael Arnott, Luis Baigorria, Bruce Comen, Claire Davies, Jan Dillon, Debby Galef, Lisa McMenemy, Adam Mitchell, Judy Nathans, Laura Nichols, Robert Winters, Jason Zogg

**Guests Attending:** John Fischer, Ted Live, Helen Snively, Minka vanBeuzekom

**City Staff Attending:** Meryl Brott, John Fitzgerald, Paulie Kelsey, Randi Mail, Lisa Peterson

The January minutes were approved unanimously.

#### Market Update

Lisa reported that there was little change on fiber, with good inventories after the holiday season and no major problems. Generations typically starts to trail off towards the end of the first quarter, so expectations are to maintain price and potentially to strengthen over time. Plastic volumes have not kept up with demand and likely will not for 1-2 more months. Mills are aggressively looking for volumes. Lower than usual generation of plastics might be attributed in part to the number of snowstorms in the North East. PET is selling around \$530. Natural is selling ~ \$720 and Colored around \$530. Aluminum remains strong, selling around \$1665. Steel containers are experiencing some softening and are selling around \$285.

#### Tonnage Update

Randi reported that January recycling tonnage was up 8% year on year (698 tons 1/10 vs. 752 tons 1/11). City trash was down 7% for January year on year (1269 tons 1/10 vs. 1182 tons 1/11). Since single stream went into effect 10/25/10, overall tons recycled have increased of 10% year on year, and tons disposed have decreased 6%. The accumulated snow from storms in December and January have impacted the volume of material set out for recycling and trash.

#### Mass DEP Presentation on draft Solid Waste Master Plan (SWMP)

John Fischer from Mass DEP presented the draft SWMP entitled 'Pathway to Zero Waste'. For more information please see the [presentation and link to the report](#).

The [Solid Waste Act of 1987](#) requires solid waste master plans. The first SWMP was published in 1990. A new plan was published in 2000 and updated in 2006. The current 2010-2020 draft plan includes short and long term targets/strategies for 2020 and beyond.

Objectives are to:

1. Maximize recycling  
(Increase business, institutional and residential recycling/composting, incentives through producer responsibility, greater reuse of materials/products, strategies for organics/C&D diversion, build local/regional recycling markets)
2. Improve environmental performance of solid waste facilities  
(State lead by example, statewide education campaigns, eliminate barriers to siting new facilities, toxics diversion)
3. Develop integrated solid waste management systems  
(maintain moratorium on municipal waste combustion, improve waste ban/recycling performance, reduce emissions and increase efficiency at combustors, landfill oversight)

2020 goals include:

1. Reduce disposal by 30%, ~ 6.55M tons to 4.55M tons. (If equated to recycling measurements this represents a 50-55% statewide recycling rate.)
2. Continue toxic waste diversion from waste stream
3. Divert at least 35% of food scraps from disposal

2050 goals include 1) Reduce disposal by 80%, rough 6.5M to 1.3M tons and 2) Virtually eliminate toxics from waste stream. This aligns with the Global Warming Solutions Act to cut greenhouse gas emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2050, since waste reduction has significant climate benefits.

Primary materials to be targeted are paper, organics and wood and secondary materials are metal, plastics, C&D (ex. wallboard & shingles). Materials targeted for producer responsibility include electronics, beverage containers, carpet, plastic bags, and ceiling tiles. Major proposed new initiatives include:

- Shift from a disposal reduction target as the primary goal for measuring progress.
- Partnering with other states to establish a regional framework for producer responsibility.
- Modify siting regulations to eliminate barriers to siting new recycling / composting
- Waste ban on commercial and institutional food waste by 2014

The plan is being revised based on public comments. A 'response to comments' document has been prepared and is going through internal review. This document and the final plan will be published and implementation will begin. There currently is no target date for plan publication. To be placed on MassDEP's Solid Waste Advisory Committee's email list for updates, email John Fischer at [john.fischer@state.ma.us](mailto:john.fischer@state.ma.us).

Members asked many good questions about developing additional organics processing capacity, regulation changes needed, safer alternatives to toxic products, hauler requirements, waste-to-energy plants, plastic bags, bottled water, coordination with unions and local governments, the shift to a disposal reduction goal, biofuels, and PAYT.

### **New Sub Committees – Zero Waste, Outreach, Businesses**

Three subcommittees were created in January and members broke out into subcommittees for initial discussions about possible topics, draft mission, and resources. As of 2/24/11, these subcommittee meetings have been scheduled:

- Business: 2/28/11 at 4pm, DPW 147 Hampshire St
- Zero Waste: 3/2/11 at 8am, DPW 147 Hampshire St