

DRAFT

Cambridge Recycling Advisory Committee – Zero Waste Sub Committee Meeting

March 23, 2011, Minutes taken by Jason Zogg

Attendees: Michael Arnott, George Delegas, Rob Gogan, Randi Mail, Lisa McMenemy, Jason Zogg

Approved the minutes from last meeting

Measurement / Data

- Use tons disposed instead of recycling rate as in the MA Solid Waste Master Plan. Recycling rate does not tell the full story especially when less consumption results in less recyclables and lean manufacturing results in lighter weight packaging.
- Tons per household or tons per capita. Since City trash crews do not serve all residential buildings, tons per household is a better measurement to get.
- These measurements would be for city-served residential and city buildings served by city collection services only.
- 1,411 pounds of trash per household for FY10 (2 people per household)

Other Community Zero Waste Plans

- Boulder: link money to diversion rate
- Oakland
- Austin
- Others have held several community meetings to educate the public and identify important partners.

Extended Producer Responsibility

Discussed involvement with the Product Stewardship Institute which is most recently facilitating discussions on high volume, highly toxic products in an effort to create voluntary producer take back programs. Discussed comparing environmental impacts on targeted materials to decide what is important to focus on. Producer take back involves retailers and manufacturers taking back products from customers at the “end of life”. It is important to educate retailers because they will have to work with their suppliers, and eventually have to implement. Create list of major retailers.

Subcommittee Topics

- How to address changing the rules and incentives around wasting: change the economics
 - For example: 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?
 - possible topics will grow over time

ZW definition and a set of recommended strategies

- Get the words government, producer, and consumer into the definition
- Responsible parties
- Reduce wasting
- Reduce toxicity: manufacturing, distribution and disposal
- Reuse
- Rob will edit the definition and we will discuss next time

Discussed creating one page Fact Sheets for researched topics to help educate DPW, represent our primary “work product” or be available to the public. We can organize these one page fact sheets into several interest areas, (green buildings, toxicity, product stewardship, downstream, upstream).