

DRAFT
City of Cambridge Recycling Advisory Committee
April 10, 2013 –Minutes Taken by Juliana Lyman

Members Present: Michael Arnott, Claire Davies, George Delegas, Debby Galef, Rob Gogan, Juliana Lyman, Adam Mitchell, Laura Nichols, Robert Winters
Members Absent: Liza Casella, Luis Baigiorria, Mike Cosgrove, Jan Dillon, Jarrod Jones,
Staff Present: Meryl Brott, John Fitzgerald, Randi Mail
Guests Present: Judy Nathans, Helen Snively

Committee approved March minutes unanimously.

Market Update

Adam shared that fiber prices are essentially flat, plastic prices are stronger as fuel prices inch higher.

Tonnage Update

For curbside recycling and trash statistics. **Tons recycled** in Mar 2013 was 709 tons versus 703 tons for 2012, down 1%. **Tons disposed*** disposed in Mar 2013 were 1,139 tons versus 1,221 tons for 2012, down 7%. (*Tons disposed includes city collected trash from about 31,500 households, public schools and city buildings. It does not include multi-family buildings served by private haulers, businesses, or universities.) The city is on target for its goal of 16 lbs of trash per household (HH) by 2020, given 18.7 lbs/HH of trash in 2012. In 2008, it was 22 lbs/HH of trash.

City Updates

MassRecycle Conference

Randi attended the MassRecycle Conference, *Real World Issues, Real World Solutions* on April 1st in Boxborough, MA. The keynote speaker was MassDEP Commissioner Ken Kimmel, who said that:

- The 2020 Solid Waste Master Plan, *Pathway to Zero Waste* will be finalized this spring. He discussed the proposed [modification of the MA moratorium on new incinerators](#) (currently 6 in MA) to encourage alternative technologies such as gasification or pyrolysis, limited to 350,000 tons per year, which is half of the projected in-state capacity shortfall of 700,000 tons, if the state's waste reduction goals are met. These technologies are discussed in a 2008 Tellus report for MassDEP, [Assessment of Materials Management Options for MA Solid Waste Master Plan Review](#).
- The state continues to push for more organics diversion including 1) adopting updated regulations that speed and simplify the process to build or expand composting facilities, and 2) pushing the development of anaerobic digesters by completing a feasibility study identifying 3 state owned sites as potential candidates, 2 prisons and one university.
- MassDEP plans to increase enforcement of the waste bans and is hiring three new employees for this. Also MassDEP require third party inspection at landfills and incinerators to ensure waste ban compliance.

The opening plenary also discussed the municipal solid waste combustion moratorium including commentary from MassPIRG, Toxic Action Center, MSW Power and Mackie, Shea O'Brien. Randi spoke at two sessions 1) *Diversion Trends – Reuse in the Commonwealth and Launch of the MA Chapter of the Reuse Alliance*, and 2) *Diversion Trends – Extended Producer Responsibility in (EPR) in MA – Electronics, Paint and More*. The [Reuse Alliance](#) has five state chapters in CA, NY, NC, TX, OR, and wants more states to join. Randi is on the MA steering committee with MassDEP, MassRecycle, Harvard, City of Northampton, Morgan Memorial Goodwill, Institutional Recycling Network, Bay State Textiles/SMART, EcoBuilding Bargains, and The Wish Project. They discussed reuse activities in MA and what's needed. She reviewed the growing resources on reuse in Cambridge including the [Google map](#) of clothing donation boxes and thrift stores, reuse shelves at the Recycling Center, last year's StoryTrade's about reduce, reuse, recycle; reuse opportunities highlighted in the email newsletter, web tips on textile reuse, and soon for plastics and food. The EPR panel had staff from the [Product Stewardship Institute](#) and Panasonic. Judy also attended the conference. One takeaway for her was about educating generators more since haulers and processors must deal with the materials.

Revamping Go Green Program

Randi told the group that CDD and DPW staff are revamping the Go Green awards so that the program better serves the business community and advance sustainable business practices by giving business leaders a true opportunity to share experiences and engage in peer to peer learning. Typically the ceremony is attended by winners, City officials, and members of public committees on environmental issues. The event has been a crowning moment for sustainability leaders and offered a great opportunity for photos and congratulations. The new program will provide participants with more value, and bring even more businesses, property owners, institutions and community leaders into the fold. To this end, we will temporarily suspend the Go Green program, and plan to officially re-launch in the fall of 2013 which will still include recognition and photo opportunity with City leaders and will likely include roundtable discussions, webinars, networking and mentorship to encourage green businesses to connect with peers in their industry not yet implementing similar measures. Randi said that CDD has two new sustainability planners, and the planning group has good energy.

One idea to provide businesses an incentive to go green is to organize a [Carrotmob](#). In a Carrotmob campaign, a group of people spend money to support a business, and in return the business makes an improvement people care about. This was launched in 2008 in San Francisco. They've had more than 250 campaigns in over 20 countries in the world raising over \$1 million to help make sustainability improvements at businesses. Adam suggested partnering with [Cambridge Local First](#) with their shift shopping days and cash mobs.

Discussion Topics

Product Stewardship: Electronics MA Senate Bill 357

This bill would require producers of electronic waste to pay for the collection, transportation and recycling of e-waste. A summary follows these minutes and progress of the legislation can be tracked [online](#), along with it's companion bill in the House ([H.803](#)). There was an Executive Session of the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture in April and it's expected that it will go to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means for review. With this bill, MA would join 25 other states already have similar "producer pay" legislation. Randi noted that Best Buy takes any brand electronics from customers for a \$10 fee which can then be used as a \$10 gift card. For several years now, the City's contracted electronics recycler, [Universal Recycling Technologies](#) does not charge the City for computer monitors and TVs, which are subsidized and paid for by several electronics manufacturers. Depending on the volume collected this can save Cambridge \$20,000-\$45,000 annually. The City still pays \$10,000/year on other electronics.

The paint industry created [PaintCare](#), an industry funded non-profit created to pay for the collection, transportation and recycling of paint in states that have passed similar legislation including OR, CA, CT, and RI. There is significant interest in MA and many other states to get on board with this. Collecting and managing paint represents a large portion of household hazardous waste budgets and the City pays \$30,000-\$40,000 annually for paint.

City's Climate Change Preparedness Project

City staff is making presentations to different community organizations, neighborhood associations, business groups, residents and other stakeholders to increase community awareness and gain feedback about the [City's climate preparedness project](#). Randi shared the brief presentation. This new project is being coordinated by an inter-departmental steering committee with Public Works, Public Health, and Community Development. The first step to make the City more resilient and adaptable to climate change and to understand how we are vulnerable or resilient in terms of impacts on people, infrastructure, public health, and the economy. This climate change vulnerability assessment will be completed in 2013 and be a foundation for a climate change resilience and adaptation plan. A consultant team led by Kleinfelder, a Cambridge based architecture, engineering, and sustainability services firm, is working with City staff to perform the assessment. A Technical Advisory Committee of community stakeholders will help guide the assessment and provide critical information. An Expert Advisory Panel will provide feedback on the assessment's technical approach and assumptions. Public workshops will also be held to solicit feedback.

RAC members completed a brief [survey](#) which CDD staff is collecting in this phase of the project. Robert W. said that there is value in this exercise to get people oriented to thinking about adapting and that its helpful to talk about long term maintenance of aging infrastructure. Rob G. said he signs should be posted in the community where it is below sea level to give the public a clear understanding and visual reminders where flood zones exist.

Upcoming Outreach Opportunities

Randi asked members to please volunteer at a community event this spring to talk to people about recycling and composting, and sign residents up to receive this newsletter. It's fun! You can enjoy the atmosphere, educate people and get a free t-shirt. Email recycle@cambridgema.gov if you can help at:

- May 5, Mayfair/Urban Ag Fair, Noon-6pm, Harvard Square (raindate May 19)
- May 10-12, Santo Cristo Feast, Time varies, Cardinal Medeiros & Cambridge St
- May 18, Central Square Fair, 2-8pm (raindate June 9)
- June 1, Riverfest, Noon-6pm (raindate June 2)
- June 8, Fresh Pond Day, 10am-2pm

Materials/EPR Subcommittee

At the last meeting RAC created a new subcommittee including Claire, Debby, Rob G. and Michael A. The subcommittee will be meeting May 7 at 8:30am at 344 Broadway with CPAC members present.

Upcoming Meetings (Minute Takers): May 8 (Mike), Jun 12 (Adam)

**An Act to Require Producer Responsibility for Collection and Recycling of Discarded Electronic Products
(the "EWaste" Bill S.357)**

Lead Sponsors: Senator Jamie Eldridge and Representative Frank Smizik

Summary: This bill requires producers of electronic waste (e-waste), -- i.e. computers, televisions and printers -- to be financially responsible for the proper disposal of their products. The bill aims to vastly reduce the amount of hazardous chemicals leaching into landfills from e-waste disposal by increasing public accessibility of e-waste recycling, while also taking the financial burden of collecting and recycling e-waste products off of municipalities and placing it instead on the manufacturers.

Why This Matters: E-waste makes up the fastest growing portion of trash collected by cities and towns in the Commonwealth. In 2006, Massachusetts residents discarded over 8 million pounds of e-waste. These products contain significant amounts of toxic substances, including lead, mercury, cadmium and beryllium, which are persistent in the environment and cause untold health problems, including brain damage, kidney problems and learning disabilities.

Currently, when disposed of these products either:

- **Go into a landfill**, where the toxic chemicals can leach into our water and soil;
- **Are exported to developing countries**, contributing to high levels of pollution and serious health risks;
- **Or, ideally, are recycled responsibly**. However, this recycling currently occurs at the expense of residents or local municipalities, which can cost a municipality upwards of hundreds of thousands of dollars per year in disposal costs.

What this Bill Would Do: This legislation would make it illegal to dispose of e-waste products in the landfill and instead mandate that they be recycled responsibly.

- This legislation requires producers of electronic products to pay for the collection, transportation and recycling of e-waste or to set up their own recycling collection facilities. By connecting responsible disposal to manufacturers, the bill encourages producers to make products that are "greener," easier to disassemble and less expensive to recycle.
- With passage of this bill, Massachusetts would join **25 other states** in enacting legislation to regulate disposal of e-waste. The bill builds on the experience of a number of voluntary recycling programs that responsible producers and retailers like Sony, Dell, Apple, Best Buy and Office Depot have already implemented. It will boost the recycling industry in Massachusetts and help to ensure that Massachusetts does not contribute to the pollution problems of other countries.