

**City of Cambridge Recycling Advisory Committee**  
November 12, 2014 - Minutes Taken by Mary Verhage

**Members present:** Keith Cialino, Debby Galef, Rob Gogan, Debby Knight, Janet Mosley, Michael Orr, Meera Singh, Joanna Vanden, Mary Verhage

**Members absent:** Laura Nichols

**Staff present:** Randi Mail, Meryl Brott, John Fitzgerald

**Guests:** Brian Coughlin, City of Boston; Susy Jones, MIT; Adam Mitchell, Save That Stuff; Jeri Weiss, EPA

The October minutes were approved. No Public comment.

**Prioritization of RAC Action Items**

Jeri Weiss from EPA expertly facilitated the process for the RAC to prioritize the 12 action items:

The high priority action items are (not in any order):

- Customize support statement for paint EPR legislation in MA provided by PSI. (DG)
- Increase Cambridge Public School participation in [MassDEP's Green Team program](#) and involve high school students. (MS & DK)
- Review DPW recycling outreach budget. Develop proposal to leverage funds for media campaign. (JV, DK, KC, MO)
- Incorporate materials management into the City's waste and climate goals and strategy. (JM, RG, MO, MV)
- Review and recommend changes to the Recycling Ordinance, and the Commercial Rules & Regulations. (all)

The medium priority action items are (to be prioritized):

- Engage City in planning, response & implications for rodent-proof trash barrels, and propose short term, more tangible trash reduction goals (30% less trash by 2020 & 80% less by 2050).
- Host a roundtable/speaker series on waste reduction, highlighting checkout bag ordinance, curbside organics, and trash barrels.
- Assist with regular outreach to multifamily buildings, publicize big building performance and do surveys to gauge attitudes/awareness.
- Review and follow-up on Business Recycling Recommendations presented to the commissioners in June 2014.
- Research options and explore policy recommendations to increase reuse and/or recycling of bulky items such as broken furniture.

The low priority action items are (not in any order):

- Support organics outreach and help expand drop-off program.
- Ensure pharmaceutical collection options are publicized by the recycling program.

Next steps:

- Members will refine plan of action for each item via conference calls and report back/discuss at 12/10 meeting.
- Randi will share sample paint EPR letter from PSI with DG once it's received.
- Revised Checkout Bag Ordinance can be viewed online [here](#).
- RAC members to review Recycling Ordinance and Commercial Rules & Regulations by December 1.

**Tonnage Update**

For Jan-Oct 2014 vs. Jan-Oct 2013, tons recycled: 7,687 tons, down .2% from 7,703tons. Tons disposed\*: 12,399 tons down 2.7% from 12,745 tons. \*Tons disposed includes city served trash from ~31,750 households, public schools and city buildings. Doesn't include multi-family buildings served by private haulers, businesses, or universities. DPW will publicize lbs/household/wk in January and June, end of the calendar and fiscal year. FY14 was 18.1 lbs/HH/wk and goal is 16 for 2020. Baseline year 2008, was 22 lbs/HH/wk.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30.