

Cambridge Recycling Advisory Committee
January 14, 2010 – Minutes Taken by Cornelia Herzfeld

Members Attending: Bob Cappadona, Casella Recycling; Ryan Gray, MIT; Cornelia Herzfeld, Cambridge resident; Randi Mail, Recycling Director; Judith Nathans, Cambridge resident; Robert Winters, Cambridge resident

Guests Attending: David Deull, City of Boston; Jarrod Jones, MIT; Ted Live, Cambridge resident; Corey Pilz, Cambridge Consumers Council; Junjay Tan, Cambridge resident

Market report

Bob reported that the markets have improved since one year ago and even since December 2009. Generation is up; plastic prices have stabilized and the prices for newspaper and cardboard have risen. #8 News is over \$40/ton. Export demand for cardboard is high. There is 20% less newspaper volume due to increased use of the internet.

Bob discussed the high quality of single stream recycling produced by Casella's new zero-sort facility, due to:

1. Presort quality control checks at the beginning of the line where employees remove unacceptable items
2. Sorting technology equipment such as trommels and disk screens used to remove glass at the beginning of the sorting process and at other stages
3. Other mechanisms to ensure a clean sort of materials such as air jets, magnets, screens, optical sensors and scanners, eddie current and destoner; and
4. Re-circulation of the cycle until all the material is separated.

Casella's Charlestown facility is still accepting dual stream recycling and running it on a separate line. With the new equipment to sort single stream recycling, Casella is able to market commodities to the same end markets. Paper, cardboard, plastics, and metals from single stream and dual stream loads is separated, baled and shipped as high quality material, to make recycled products. Glass continues to be recycled to new glass bottles by the Container Recycling Alliance in Franklin MA.

Randi made mention of a report on single stream released by the Container Recycling Institute that concludes that processors that cannot produce material that meets high quality standards have trouble marketing the material to mills and recyclers. Bob said Casella will release an official statement on this report. Ultimately, companies that convert recycling plants to single stream rather than installing new equipment may be unable to provide similarly high quality material for mills. Bob reported that Casella's investment on their new facility and commitment to maintaining and improving the quality, distinguishes them in the industry.

Recycling Rate and Tons Collected

Randi reported on recycling tons in FY10 for July – December, the first half of the fiscal year. The City recycled 35%, collecting 6620 recycling tons and 8841 trash tons (plus 2740 trash tons from privately served residential buildings). In FY09, for the same time period, the City recycled 35.6% collecting 6906 recycling tons and 9360 trash tons (plus 2715 trash tons from privately-served buildings).

In addition, Randi reviewed the Solid Waste Division budget objectives, which can be viewed online in the [City's budget](#) beginning on page 385. Currently, there are 4 goals, each with several performance measures that the Division reports on quarterly:

1. Maximize efficiency and effectiveness of curbside solid waste collection.
 - a. Complete assessment and evaluation of the rubbish routes
 - b. Explore pilot for semi-automated rubbish collection
 - c. Number of rubbish service requests received and responded to
 - d. Number of recycling service requests received and responded to, excluding bin requests
 - e. Number of warnings/citations issued for solid waste violations
2. Increase the City's recycling rate and reduce the number of tons disposed.
 - a. City recycling rate

- b. Tons of rubbish collected by DPW from households, schools and City buildings
 - c. Tons of recyclables collected from households, schools and City buildings
 - d. Cost per ton for recycling
 - e. Cost per ton for rubbish
3. Keep Cambridge a clean and environmentally responsive city and reduce the toxicity of trash land filled or incinerated.
 - a. Number of bulky waste items including white goods (appliances) collected
 - b. Pounds of CFCs extracted from appliances
 - c. Pounds of computer monitors, TVs and other electronic waste collected
 - d. Pounds of hazardous batteries collected
 - e. Number of fluorescent bulbs collected
 - f. Number of pounds of mercury-containing devices collected
 - g. Gallons of motor oil collected
 - h. Gallons of paint collected
 4. Expand the citywide recycling participation program
 - a. Percentage of large residential buildings (6+ units) with comprehensive recycling programs
 - b. Number of service requests received and responded to for recycling bins and totes

From this overview, the Committee discussed expanding the school composting program. Randi reported that the DPW is working with the School Department to release a guide to lunchroom composting for principals and has begun planning a pilot program for the spring at the 9th Grade Freshman Campus at 359 Broadway. Conversation also turned to [RecycleBank](#). DPW has met with RecycleBank on several occasions. Randi asked members whether they thought Cambridge residents would recycle more if they could earn rewards to redeem at local and national businesses or donate to local schools and charities. Overall, members felt that the city should focus on implementing single stream to increase recycling and that RecycleBank seems more appropriate for the type of resident in suburban communities.