Contamination Subcommittee Meeting Agenda and Summary

Monday, April 15, 12 p.m.-2 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/j/2348602747 Dial 669 900 6833 US Meeting ID: 234 860 2747

Agenda

- 1. 'Map' out the Contamination problem
- 2. Glean from that the big issues
- 3. Funnel the issues towards the near term Stakeholder group (or subgroups therein), the long view SC efforts via existing or upcoming sub-committee work, or determine if there is a further discreet piece for this Contamination Subcommittee to work on

Meeting Summary

Members Present: Asami Tanimoto, Dylan De Thomas, Brian Stafki, Jeff Murray, Scott Keller, Vinod Singh, Laura Leebrick, Nicole Janssen and Jay Simmons.

The meeting was facilitated by Oregon Consensus (Robin Harkless and Amy Delahanty).

Dylan introduced Asami as a new local team member with Recycling Partners and who will be examining contamination issues nationally with an interest in what this group is working on.

Context: Since the kick off of this subcommittee at the January 17 Steering Committee meeting, the group met once in March to set some direction for itself and agreed that a first and primary task would be to 'map' the contamination issues across the system in order to assist the internal players (and perhaps later, external partners) in articulating and problem solving around this pervasive but complex concern. Since then, a survey was distributed which asked members of the SC to share perspective on which contaminants were of critical concern. In parallel, Laura, Scott and Jeff worked on a draft contamination visual to start to describe the issues, and different ways of seeing contamination, across the system.

Brian Stafki, DEQ, suggested the focus for today and moving forward on contamination should be to determine if an issue can be addressed in the current system, or if it would require a system change, in order to guide the discussions to the right forum/table.

The Contamination Map: Overall the group appreciated the work done on this and found it to be a very useful start. Some suggestions were made to reorganize it (e.g. add a distinct 'collector phase' column;

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consider ways to visually show the cyclical nature of the process, etc.) and Scott agreed to make these revisions.

Over the course of the conversation, the group also fine tuned their goals with this task: Getting clearer on the 'reason a contaminant is considered a contaminant' so they can look at these barriers and determine what if any changes could be made to minimize or eliminate some of the barriers. They felt that getting a handle on the critical contaminants now could inform later long term discussions around legal/relational framework (financing/oversight and enforcement, shared responsibility, etc.), physical infrastructure (e.g. processing/sorting technologies), and public education (e.g. consistent statewide messaging); and in the short term, could inform how the players collectively would like to manage and/or message around 'lists' and respond to changes in metrics that are evolving through DEQ's life cycle analysis work.

Next Steps:

- The group will review the following documents to inform next steps:
 - o The survey results (Dylan shared them during the meeting);
 - Appendix to the January 17 SC notes which captures the SC discussion about definition, stressors, and interventions from each system player; and
 - The work that Washington Dept. of Ecology is doing to define contaminants (Jay shared the document following today's meeting)
- Nicole will host a subset of the subcommittee (Nicole, Dylan, Vinodh, Laura) to identify the critical contaminants within each contaminant 'box' on the contamination map and answer 'why' what are the barriers? Brian suggested this feedback could be very useful to this process and also cautioned the group against doing the task just to formulate a 'list'. Others agreed but suggested a goal could be to look at a potential system change that sets up a process for adding/removing/managing lists based on what is learned from this work.
- Scott will update the contamination map for this group to review and approve for sharing at the May 10 SC meeting.
- The group will meet again before May 10 to determine what to share with the SC and specifically what if any questions to frame up for the SC.

Contamination

Different phases: different perspectives, definitions, realities

Generator Phase

- Residential & Commercial Users
- Local Governments (city or county)
- Collection Service Providers
- Depots
- Urban & rural variations
- Education by local government staff or hauler providers

Processing Phase

- Colleciton Service Providers
- Transfer Station or MRF
- Depots
- Regional or State Government

Market Phase

- Transfer Station or MRF
- Depots
- Brokers
- End Markets
- Collection Service Providers
- Regional or State Government

FEEDBACK

Roll-Cart Collection (est: 40-45% overall)

- Single-family residential: 80+% (?) of this sector
- Multi-family residential: 15% (?) of this sector
- Commercial: 5% (?) of this sector
- Residential: 9% contamination rate (Metro region)

Contaminants: IMPACT - Interfere with Ability to Sort

Generally, materials not on acceptable items lists and cause sorting **or** processing issues **or** interfere with ability to identify materials during collection or processing. Examples: tangers (including plastic film/bags), glass, shredded paper

Contaminants: PREVALENCE - Frequency or Volume

Materials not on acceptable items lists **and** have limited or no markets. Examples: frozen food boxes, take out containers, paper coffee cups, styrofoam

Contaminants: Health & Safety

Materials not on acceptable lists **and** cause a risk to health and safety at the MRF. Examples: sharps, garbage, diapers, hazardous waste, batteries, propane tanks

FEEDBACK

FEEDBACK

Container Collection (est: 55-60% overall)

- Single-family residential: >1% of this sector
- Multi-family residential: XX% of this sector
- Commercial: XX% of this sector
- Commercial: XX% contamination rate
- Multifamily: 21% contamination rate (Metro region)

Contaminants: Marketability

Materials that do not meet end-market or broker specifications **or** mis-sorted material **or** unable to be sorted *Examples: plastic bottles in paper bales, lids in bales, etc.*





Depots & Other Collection (xx%)

• Unknown contamination rate

Processor/MRF Variances

- 1. Varied sorting capacity and technologies
- 2. Varied markets
- 3. Varied costs of services
- 4. Distance to service (transportation cost; geographic/statewide)

COMMUNICATION TOPICS:

- 1. Mixed messages or inconsistencies in education
- 2. Frequent misconceptions
- 3. Feedback loop to generators (lacking in many areas)
- 4. People "think they know it all and are doing it right" (re-education is complex!)
- 5. Common statewide vocabulary

Public Expectations

- 1. Generally wants to "Recycle More"
- 2. Transparency; All phases wants confidence that materials are being recycled (proper environmental management)
- 3. Sometimes conflicts with reality of the system
- 4. Public education about change -- both specific change(s) and broader materials management overview
- 5. Preference for domestic (North America)

MATERIAL STREAM TOPICS

- Are there materials that should be removed from Yes lists? (Borderline materials -- with minimal or questionable marketability -- such as aseptics, cartons, shredded paper, plant pots, etc.)
- 2. Short-term vs. long term factors
- 3. Regional or geographic factors around state (distance to MRF/processors)
- 4. Importance of statewide consistency

On the Horizon: Evolving Material Issues

- 1. Wraps/labels on plastic bottles
- 2. Increased business use of plastic film shipping bags
- 3. Upstream changes in materials and packaging (such as plastic tub composition, etc.)

Finances - Costs/Revenue Environmental Goals - Lifecycle impacts

Orange = Limited/Mixed	
Yellow = If Separated	
Red = No	

	Green = Yes										
	Residents/Businesses		Generator Phase Regulators: Local Governments Collectors/Haulers			Barrage to Black	Regulators (Regional/State)		Market Phase		
					Collectors/Haulers						Processing Phase
Danor						,		(1108.011			
Paper											
Cardboard/OCC											
Brown Paper Bags											
Newspaper											
Magazines Miscellaneous Paper											
Office Paper											
Junk Mail											
Milk Cartons	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Difficult to sort from paper	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Separated	Mixed
Juice/Soup Cartons (Aseptics)	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Difficult to sort from paper	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Separated	Mixed
Shredded Paper	If bagged	Loose	If bagged	Loose	Collection issues		Difficult to sort	Regional Variances	Regional Variances		d Markets
Frozen Food Boxes	II bagged	LUUSE	ii baggeu	LOUSE	Collection issues	(II Hot bagged)	Difficult to soft	Regional variances	Regional variances	Limite	u ividi kets
Paper Take Out Containers											
Paper Coffee Cups											
Pizza Boxes											
Plastic											
Bottles & Jugs (#1 & #2)	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Bottle wraps causing sorting/ID problems				
Tubs (#5)	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Difficult to sort	Regional Variances	Regional Variances		d Markets
Nursery Pots Buckets	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Difficult to sort	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Limited Markets Limited Markets	
Styrofoam	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Regional Variances	Difficult to sort	Regional Variances	Regional Variances		Separated (Limited!)
Plastic Beverage Cups										ONLY II Source :	separated (Limited!)
Plastic Clamshells											
Plastic Film/Bags											
Plastic Lids											
Plastics #3											
Plastics #4											
Plastics #6											
Plastics #7											
Metal											
Aluminum Cans											
Tin Cans											
Metal Paint Cans											
Scrap Metal (30", 30#)											
Propane Tanks											
Glass											
Glass bottles & jars Separated											
Glass bottles & jars Commingled											
Glass Other (Non bottles/jars)											
Other/Miscellaneous											
Sharps/Needles											
Garbage											
Diapers											
Batteries											
Hazardous Waste/Misc											
Textiles											
Food											