

CARPET RECYCLING WORKGROUP

STRATEGY FOR ESTABLISHING PROCESSING CAPACITY AND END MARKETS

December 3, 2009

Agenda:

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Project Update
- III. Updates from Workgroup Members
- IV. Recommendations
- V. Check in on comfort level with the process and the content
- VI. Next Steps

Welcome and Introductions

Phone:

Leslie Kochen, OR DEQ
Sego Jackson, Snohomish County
Fareed Ferhut, CIWMB
Shannon McLelland, WA Dept. of Ecology
Bill Smith, City of Tacoma
Theresa Bloom, Californians Against Waste
Joyce Cooper, University of WA
John Davis, Mohave Desert and Mountain Recycling
Robert Carlson, CIWMB
Jay Shepard, WA Department of Ecology

Room:

James Palmer, WA Dept. of Commerce
Julie Colehour, Colehour + Cohen
Shirli Axelrod, City of Seattle
Kris Beatty, King County
David Stitzhal, Full Circle Environmental
Lisa Sepanski, King County
Beth Humphreys, King County

Notes:

Kris noted that she presented at the EPA West Coast Climate Forum yesterday and invited a few new folks to participate and listen in at this meeting.

Project Update:

At the first meeting of the Workgroup we agreed on a Charter and a timeframe. The Charter lays out the objectives of the group (develop processing and end markets in the NW). The strategies for achieving the goals should be completed in December (now, expected to be January). We are still incorporating the great input from the two Business Roundtables. The Roundtables were developed to solicit industry input. The September meeting focused on removal, collection and sorting. The October meeting focused on processing for end markets and manufacturing. There were roughly 50 or 60 folks at each meeting, with all business sectors represented. Notes have been distributed to the Workgroup.

Identified themes have been incorporated into the Tactics document that has been distributed to this Workgroup.

A meeting focusing on available products made with recycled carpet was led by Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE) and held in conjunction with the Oct. Roundtable.

Survey Monkey Results

Shirli outlined the results of a Survey Monkey distributed to the Workgroup.

- Bringing in additional stakeholders, following product stewardship principles, determining financing mechanisms all emerged as themes.
- After this meeting, the Survey Monkey results will be integrated into the tactics document.

Updates from Workgroup Members

James Palmer, Washington State Dept. of Commerce, is focusing on economic and job development. His plan is to attract an out-of-state business to set up a processing facility in Washington State by providing proposals to prospective companies.

Shannon McClelland, Washington State Department of Ecology is scoping a project to map materials infrastructure in the state. Carpet is a material being considered to be included.

Shirli Axelrod, Seattle Public Utilities, has a WWU, a senior engineering student intern working with a local manufacturer on the viability of substituting recovered carpet in a manufacturing process. He will work on this in 2010.

Key comments on Recommended Tactics

Recommended Tactic I: Take actions to prevent asbestos contamination, maintain/improve removal of desirable used carpet.

- Identified the issue of unclear agency authority and refusal to enforce regulations that are “not theirs.” Need to determine if this is a legitimate response and address lack of enforcement. Who is responsible? Who is liable if something is missed. Interested in how CA has dealt with asbestos issue. (Bill Smith)

The meeting facilitators will look into CA’s approach to asbestos. (Kris)

- Agencies/groups to involve:
 - Regional Clean Air agencies
 - City / County building permit departments
 - Industry organizations (e.g., Rental Housing Association, Building Owners and Maintenance Association.)
 - Recyclers and receiving facilities
 - Interagency Resource for Achieving Cooperation could be engaged.
- Timeline:

There are things that can be done now, and things that can be done as part of Tactic 2 along with statewide policy and legislation vis-à-vis performance standards that establishes guidelines for entrance to market. (Lisa)

Recommended Tactic II: Build/advance regional infrastructure, by pushing carpet away from landfilling and enhancing the supply chain for used carpet and carpet-derived commodities.

- Absent is a coordinated product stewardship approach. There are opportunities to coordinate with groups discussing GHG emissions reduction and product stewardship policies, and benefit from electronics product stewardship experience in the state. Market development aspects could also be incorporated into legislation, including purchasing tools. (Lisa)
- Jay and Shirli will participate in negotiating the CARE MOU update. (Shirli)
- California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), an MOU signatory, will be involved in the CARE MOU update. Original MOU goals have not been met. (Fareed)
- There may be an opportunity for individual state MOUs. (Kris)
- Look to the National Paint & Coatings Association (NPCA) as a model for CARE for a one-state pilot, as was done in OR. (Lisa)
- Oregon has been involved with CARE, with Jan Whitworth as lead. (Leslie)
- Suggestion of government requirements for recycling or products made with recycled carpet. (Shirli)

- There are LEED requirements in the WA now, but using carpet detracts from points. Raising LEED points for carpet could interest the industry. Talk to LEED architects in the region, like Mithun. (James)
- Department of Ecology materials infrastructure study may include material flow in the second phase. It will depend on data. Suggested that processing capacity is more of a concern than flow of collection (Shannon)
- We have a lot of the complex material flow information already. (Shirli)
- Include green purchasing offices as key partners. (Bill)
- Tactic Two seems oriented toward supply, with Tactics Three and Four focusing on demand. (Shannon)
- Suggested that perhaps we weight Three and Four over Two. (Shirli)
- Supply is not a problem. The key is developing carpet into value-added product. (Fareed)

Check in on comfort level with the process and the content

Leslie: She is monitoring this process for Jan Whitworth, and communicating with Green Building lead. GHG impacts are important. DEQ is coordinating with Portland METRO on product stewardship and on an upcoming requirement to pre-process all C&D materials before disposal. Discussing model product stewardship legislation would be of interest, and carpet would be a material high on the list for plugging into framework legislation.

Bill: Coordinates the West Coast Climate Forum solid waste subcommittee along with John Davis. Depending on what comes out of the Forum, he will stay involved with this group. Participating in the carpet workgroup is under consideration by the Forum. Also, Jeff Morris' lifecycle analysis points out that upstream is where many of the emissions originate.

Lisa: Will focus on product stewardship angles from infrastructure through market development. Will report back to the NW Product Stewardship Council.

Sego: Feels similar to Lisa. Suggests conversing with specific parties about model legislation in 2010. Some manufacturers might be interested in this, but can't disclose this widely. Also, as in past national negotiations, state level activity can be influential, even as the CARE activity roles out for the MOU.

Shirli: If meeting participants joined as a result of the Climate Forum, please reply to Kris' email to give us your contact information, and let us know your level of desired involvement.

And if you can think of parties not yet involved, please give us their name and/or organization. We will add it to the list of over 200 contacts.

Kris: King County's LinkUp program has a dedicated budget for 2010 and will finalize the strategy and look at what pieces it can implement in partnership with this group as well as industry folks.

Shirli and I will revisit our process for input on the Tactics document, and will be in touch with the Workgroup with a revised plan.

Julie: Suggested that we use a Survey Monkey to gather input for prioritizing the tactics.

James: If a site to locate a processing facility can be identified, we can reach out to the Representative for that District and get a start on building legislative support.

Shirli: The City of Seattle wrote an interested company regarding economic development assistance and local incentives.

James: He can work with an interested company and put resources toward them as an active lead if they are put in touch with them.

This would be true for other companies too. (James works on recruitment of out of state companies. Others in Dept. of Commerce focus on in-state retention and expansion of local companies.) One of his mandates is also Green Jobs. He focuses on Aerospace, Clean Tech and Life Science.

Next Steps

Meeting notes will be emailed to Workgroup Members.

Workgroup coordinators will devise a way to gain workgroup input on prioritizing the Recommended Tactics.