

# Hillsboro Sustainability Task Force Meeting Summary

April 4, 2019, 12:00 - 3:00 PM

## Pacific Landscape

21555 NW Amberwood Dr, Hillsboro, OR 97124

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Attendees: Heather Robinson, Steve Callaway, Anthony Martin, Tom Arnold, Carol Brown, Nina Carlson, Kya Dillon, Linda Everett, Kristel Griffith, Bob Grover, Mia Hocking, Makena Krause, Mac Martin, Laura Schaefer, Ben Erickson, Ryan Stee, Jason Robertson, Peter Brandom, Dacia Bakkum

Absent: Troy Gagliano, Adam Haslam, Emily McBroom, David McInay, Jeff Pazdalski

Guests: David Allaway (Oregon Department of Environmental Quality)

### Welcome

Heather Robinson welcomed the group and asked for a round of introductions. A great big thank you to Bob Grover, David Allaway, and Heather Robinson for their fantastic presentations! And an extra thank you to Bob for hosting us at Pacific Landscape Management!

### Partner Survey Preview

Jason Robertson announced that the Partner Progress Survey is now open at [www.hstfsurvey.com](http://www.hstfsurvey.com) – Peter Brandom will be sending out a reminder to all partners the week of 4/15.

### Pacific Landscape Presentation + Tour by Bob Grover

Bob Grover presented an overview of Pacific Landscape's ongoing efforts to become a more sustainable business. Initiatives have been undertaken to reduce chemical fertilizer dependency, reduce chemical use through Integrated Pest Management techniques, reduce petroleum dependence through use of electric and propane-fueled equipment, and implementation of a comprehensive recycling program. Pacific has also reengineered its facilities to better capture stormwater and to re-direct wastewater from stormwater systems to the sanitary sewer. The company also works with customers to identify adaptive plant species and to manage water usage through a variety of conservation techniques.

### Special Presentation: Materials Management by David Allaway, Oregon DEQ

David Allaway presented an overview of materials management, including what materials consist of, how their production, use and disposal impact greenhouse gas emissions and our environment, and how we can reduce those impacts based on our choices and practices. Several key points are outlined below. Materials include paper, cardboard, electronics, furniture, building materials, plastics, clothing, etc. – everything we use is a material. The use of materials is increasing here in the United States and abroad. We are increasingly dependent on non-

renewable materials. The rapid rise in material use has led to serious environment effects including climate change and pollution of land, water and air.

- The world has produced and used more materials in the last 50 years than it had in all of prior recorded history.
- From 1990 to 2017, Oregon’s greenhouse gas emissions increased nearly 30 million metric tons. The majority of those emissions come from materials (41%); 26% results from services and 33% from electricity & fuels.
- Oregon’s 2015 consumption-based greenhouse gas emissions from materials disposal only accounts for 1% of total emissions – the remaining 99% is a result of production and use of those materials. It is estimated that the world will need to reduce emissions by 90% in order to avoid future climate catastrophe.
- The primary challenge isn’t the downstream (recycling, disposal), but rather the upstream impacts (energy used in production, emissions, etc.) of materials.
- **Recycling still matters.** In 2016, materials recovery in Oregon saved about 27 trillion BTUs (British Thermal Units) of energy – about 2.8% of the total statewide use which is equivalent to about 220 million gallons of gasoline and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 2.9 million metric tons of CO<sup>2</sup>e which accounts for 4.7% of total statewide emissions (equivalent to 690,000 “average” passenger cars taken off the road).
- NORPAC, a paper manufacturer located in Longview, WA, offers an illustration of current challenges in the recycling industry. The company used to incorporate recycled paper as an integral part of their paper production process. Over time, it became almost impossible to continue doing so as the recycled product became increasingly contaminated with other materials. This is primarily due to the advent of comingled recycling systems that have, inadvertently, caused people to include materials in the recycling that do not work in the comingled stream.
- China is the world’s largest importer of plastic waste and receives tens of millions of tons a year from developed countries around the world. Late in 2017, China announced a ban on the import of various plastic and paper scrap.
- [Plastic China](#) is a documentary that follows the lives of the owner of a household recycling workshop and one of the families who lives and works in the waste workshop.
- The U.S. contributes about 0.9% of plastic waste in the ocean – equivalent to 0.04-0.11 million metric tons per year.
- Most consumption-based greenhouse gas emissions come from pre-purchase emissions and use – not post-consumer disposal.
- The EPA conducted a life cycle analysis for energy, GHG emissions and waste generated of three different types of coffee containers – steel can, plastic container and a flexible pouch. The steel can and plastic container are both recyclable – the flexible pouch is not. Below is the result of their findings.

Coffee Packaging (11.5 oz)	Recyclable Postconsumer?	Energy Consumption (MJ/11.5oz)	CO <sup>2</sup> Equivalent Emissions (lbs/11.5oz)	MSW Waste Generated (lbs/100,000oz of product)
Steel Can w/Plastic Lid	Steel Can – Yes Plastic Lid – No	4.21	0.33	1,305

Plastic Container w/Plastic Lid	Plastic Container – Yes Plastic Lid - No	5.18	0.17	847
Flexible Pouch	Flexible Pouch – No	1.14	0.04	176

- Oregon compost facilities recently issued a [joint message](#) that they will no longer accept “compostable packaging and service ware” with food waste.
- Bio-resin packaging and other similar “compostable” products don’t really offer a net environmental benefit once you factor the inputs (energy, etc.) and processes required to manufacture them. Worse, many of them do not actually compost well and are therefore not desirable to composting companies.
- Concrete is one of the most widely used construction materials and creates large amounts of emissions. Other waste products such as glass can be mixed with the concrete in certain applications to reduce its impact on the environment.
- Environmental Product Declarations (EDP) are an emerging standardized way of quantifying the environmental impact of a product or system. EDPs can aid in purchasing decisions in construction.
- With respect to building-based emissions, it is estimated that 85% of emissions come from building use vs. 15% from building production.
- The key to environmental impacts of future building design is size. Millennials aren’t purchasing the larger homes built by baby-boomers. In Portland, 50% of recent permits issued were for relatively smaller Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs).
- DEQ is currently undertaking detailed research to identify and distinguish between different “values” associated with materials based on life-cycle analyses.

David encouraged the Task Force to read “Donut Economics” by Kate Rayworth. It looks at modern economics in a way earlier generations might not have been able to imagine, in a planet that actually has physical capacity limits.

### **Washington County Recycling Program by Heather Robinson**

- Washington County Solid Waste and Recycling (WCSWR) is a division of Health and Human Services and serves a dual role – regulation and education.
- WCSWR sets the rates and rules for 10 certificated garbage and recycling companies in the unincorporated County area – six of which also serve within the City of Hillsboro. Cities regulate collection services, rates, policies and service issues and complaints.
- The County conducts education/outreach, on-site technical assistance and projects as well as manages data and reporting on behalf of 10 cities and unincorporated areas in the County.
- A Metro fee is assessed on each ton of waste generated in the region and those funds are distributed to local jurisdictions. WCSWR receives the funding, in the form of waste reduction grants, for education, outreach, technical assistance, collection events, etc.

- Metro is exploring the feasibility of locating a full service garbage and recycling facility in Washington County.
- The [DEQ Materials Management in Oregon – 2050 Vision & Framework for Action](#) and [Metro’s 2030 Regional Solid Waste Plan](#), provide guidance and direction on how materials are managed and disposed of.
- More than 100 businesses in Hillsboro have food waste collection service. *Food Waste Stops With Me* is a collaborative effort between Metro, the Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association, Oregon DEQ, and city and county governments to help food service businesses reduce food waste. Embassy Suites started offering smaller plates at buffets and realized a 50% post service waste reduction and saved \$32,000 in the first three months. They also hired a “Bacon Ambassador” to reduce protein waste – the position paid for itself with a 40% saving in bacon/sausage cost.
- [The Garbage and Recycling Day app](#) can be used to locate recycling facilities and hazardous waste collection events. It can also provide service collection reminders.
- WCSWR also participates in community collection events for harder to recycle items such as tires, Styrofoam, and electronics.
- Multi-family communities have a 20% contamination rate (garbage in the recycling) as compared to the 9% contamination found in the recycling of single-family neighborhood carts – better systems need to be developed to help reduce contamination across the board.
- The [Green Business Leaders Program](#) provides businesses with resources to reduce waste including access to a dedicated Green Business Advisor coach, supplies such as recycling and composting bins, bags & signs, assistance setting up new or improved recycling and composting systems and staff training.
- The Hillsboro Environmental Sustainability Plan has four waste-related indicators:
  1. Materials generated (weight per capita; collected by franchised collection companies)
  2. Materials recovered (% recovered of all materials collected by franchised collection companies)
  3. Organizations participating in natural resource activities (currently 311 organizations)
  4. Organizations with Green Business Leader certification (currently 22 in Hillsboro)
- Oregon’s waste recovery goal is 52% by 2020 and 55% by 2025.

### **Indicators Discussion**

Jason Robertson distributed a summary sheet outlining key Environmental Sustainability indicators and projects currently included in the Hillsboro Environmental Sustainability Plan. He asked members to review the inventory and think about other potential indicators and projects as we enter into the Plan update stage in 2020.

### **Member Updates**

None.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Next Meeting**

June 18 – Intel Ronler Acres Campus