



City Manager's Office
300 LaPorte Avenue
PO Box 580
Fort Collins, CO 80522
970.221.6505
970.224.6107 - fax
fcgov.com

**MINUTES
CITY OF FORT COLLINS
FUTURES COMMITTEE MEETING**

Date: July 11, 2016
Location: CIC Room, City Hall, 300 Laporte Ave.
Time: 4:00–6:00pm

Committee Members Present:
Wade Troxell, Chair
Gino Campana

Committee Members Absent:
Kristin Stephens

City Staff:
Jeff Mihelich, Deputy City Manager
Jacqueline Kozak-Thiel, Chief Sustainability Officer
Darin Atteberry, City Manager
Dianne Tjalkens, Admin/Board Support
Andrew Carroll, Intern, Environmental Services
Jonathon Nagel, Waste Reduction & Recycling Program Assistant
Caroline Mitchell, Environmental Planner
Jackson Brockway, Graduate Management Assistant

City Staff Absent:

Invited Guests:
David Allaway, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Community Members:
Dale Adamy, citizen
Kevin Jones, Fort Collins Area Chamber of Commerce
Myles Crane, community volunteer
Stephan Gillette, Larimer County

Wade Troxell called meeting to order at 4:03pm

Approval of Minutes:
Gino moved to approve the May minutes as presented. Wade seconded. Motion passed unanimously, 2-0-0.

Think Tank Item 7-2016: Garbage in the 21st Century: The Shift from Solid Waste Management to Sustainable Materials Management—*David Allaway*

Intro from Jackie: Bringing in external thought leaders for content, best practices, and emerging trends. David is senior analyst at Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality. Force behind developing 2050 vision for materials management. Oregon has been national leader with one of highest recycling rates. Shifting paradigm. Has won numerous awards.

Materials Management

Oregon state law requires updates of solid waste management plan.

Charged with protecting the environment more broadly. Materials that end up as waste have environmental impacts along lifecycle. Traditional inventory of GHG does not show waste materials. Reclassified to show why emissions occur: lighting and HVAC, transportation, provision of food, provision of goods, use of appliances, etc. Emissions from provision of goods and food come mainly from extraction, manufacturing and freight. Goal is using resources most productively throughout their lifecycles—from extraction, to production, consumption, use and end of life management. Consider impacts of products and actions that can be taken across lifecycle.

Impacts of Waste

- Recycling requires truck—usually diesel. But recycling reduces emissions in other parts of lifecycle.
- In CO, concern about transport of recyclables to market. Energy required to transport vs. production energy savings from using recycled product. Must consider break-even point. Ex: Aluminum break-even point by rail is 475K miles. Shipping recyclables out of state is not a big problem.
- Opportunities to reduce impacts upstream. Ex: increasing recycling rate of PET bottles from 37% to 62% does not have a large GHG impact. Using a lightweight bottle has greater impact, while drinking tap water (and washing container daily) has much greater impact on GHG reductions.
 - Look at how we purchase and use products.
- Discards management vs. materials management

2050 Vision Process

- 20 of best in-state thinkers and some out of state people as well. Five day workshop. Developed vision and framework.
 - Vision: Produce and use materials responsibly—conserving resources, protecting the environment and living well.
 - Chose 2050: Stakeholders have investments in tech and systems and need time to recuperate. Can think more broadly about best interest of state when date is further out/thinking less about personal financial interests. Expect dramatic changes: demographics, environmental limits, globalization, etc.
- Framework for Action: Four pathways (concurrent): foundations, policies/regulations, collaboration, education.
 - Legislative concepts approved last year restored funding for program and updated state and local goals. Focus on increasing recovery of specific products: food waste, plastic and carpet. Outsized potential for energy savings and GHG reduction.
 - Counting recovery in different ways—composting vs. recycling. Outcome based metrics.
 - Stronger focus on prevention of waste generation.
 - Sustainable production—Ex: Concrete production has large carbon footprint. New project: providing access to producers to free tool that rapidly calculates carbon footprint of different concrete mixes.

Comments/Q & A:

- Waste as a resource vs. lifecycle impact. New Belgium does lifecycle analysis on 6-pack of Fat Tire beer, including waste disposal. Public health/state perspective is interesting. Applicable to our waste-shed analysis.
- This waste management plan tied to climate action plan?

- State does not have CAP. Have global warming commission, which has developed 2020 roadmap, a list of 200+ good ideas. Does not have resources to commit. 2020 roadmap has full chapter on materials and waste. Many linkages and good communication with commission. Local climate action plans have materials management (consumption & waste).
- How many on team?
 - Growing. Program has 45 FTE statewide. Most in permitting, solid waste facilities, staffing for projects.
 - Bill passed last year authorizing fee increase which went into effect in April.
 - Assessed on tip fees?
 - Yes. Statewide. Have had this tip fee for many years. Last revision in 1994. Adjustment was overdue.
 - How much?
 - Current fee is approx. \$1.80/ton, statewide. Funds: permitting and facility oversight, complaint response, orphan site fund (cleanup of sites), recycling, prevention, HHH, upstream sustainable production, composting, etc.
 - Have statewide tip fee in CO?
 - Commercial pays 35 cents/cubic yard, but not used for same ends.
- Haulers are private or municipally run?
 - Oregon has three cities with municipal waste collection, less than 10K population. With few exceptions, waste management is through franchises. City sets rates; locally regulated utility. State requires cities and counties provide recycling opportunities. Allows governments to franchise and implement recycling through franchises. If cities pass requirements to franchisees, must be fairly compensated. Disallows waste collection rates to charge more for recycling and garbage combined than for same volume as garbage only. Creates rate structure so waste generators are incentivized to recycle.
- Problems with commodity pricing being low for recyclables?
 - Over last 20 years has worked well. Changes in net profitability due to changes in commodity prices get compensated for in rate adjustments. Material is defined as recyclable if it meets certain criteria including that the entity who collects it can get it to a market at a cost that is no higher than disposing of in landfill.
 - Definition of recyclables, rate of return, practicality in adjustments. Good to think about for own community.
 - Direction regulatory system may be going—regulatory decisions informed by economics should take into account full social costs. Externalities are real economic costs, not reflected in market prices of transactions. Ex: recycling cans have economic and GHG impacts that can be quantified.
- Citizens bridge the gap?
 - People choose whether to subscribe to services. If had a material that is no longer recyclable under economic test, but has demonstrated significant social benefit, then collection rates must go up to pay for ongoing collection of that material. In lieu of human health costs of pollution of not recycling those materials.
 - Single fee for pickup of trash and recycling.
- Can you share analysis on low carbon concrete? Fort Collins has concrete recycling.
 - Tool was developed by national trade association. Proprietary tool with licensing requirement. Have agreement to fund license so all members can use it. Fort Collins could acquire a license.

- Consideration of cradle to grave design? Credit or encouragement for more of that to be used?
 - Lot of interest in design community. Has significant potential for environmental benefit. Materials management framework is concerned with all segments of lifecycle, not just production and waste. Cradle to cradle concept as well. Just because something is made from recycled materials does not make it inherently a low carbon product. Ex: Instant coffee—in recyclable steel can, recyclable plastic tub, or non-recyclable film-like pouch. Cradle to cradle advocates encourage the recyclable products, but film pouch has much less material and smaller footprint. Ex: Compostable upholstery from plant fibers and wool. Sheep produce lot of methane. Natural renewable resource with significant environmental impacts. Finite resources and growing population.
- Oregon has moved to consumption based inventory for quantifying GHG. Fort Collins has discussed, but has momentum for sector based GHG accounting. Does Oregon look at both types of accounting to keep peer-to-peer accounting?
 - Officially adopted as part of inventory, but have not abandoned traditional inventory. Use two to three lenses to understand state contributions. Lot of merit/value and quality of information in traditional model. Full update every five years.
- Waste to energy and other energy benefits of waste streams, not just GHG perspective? Look at waste as an energy resource?
 - Look at materials as energy resources including waste. State policy hierarchy of waste management prefers waste to energy over landfilling. Economic reality is that landfilling is less expensive and have abundance of land and communities that want landfills. However, comparing waste to energy with recycling—recycling is almost always preferred method. White paper available online.
- Local landfill has 10 year life left. Looking at options. Advice?
 - Will always need place to dispose of materials. Will always be discards. Choose infrastructure that balances cost and environmental impact, that also allows flexibility. Waste to energy has higher capital costs. Financing model requires guaranteed flow of waste. If economy dematerializes, do you cannibalize recycling to keep out of bond default? Portland metro is doing planning exercise for waste disposal for 25 years. Planning to send 25% of waste to incinerator. Landfills provide backbone/option of last resort. Hybrid system—waste to energy system that is not oversized. Combine waste streams with neighboring communities to make pan out economically.
- Haven't adopted zero waste?
 - Good marketing tool to increase recycling and composting. In most communities encourages these in favor of prevention. Frames as a waste issue. Prefer materials management.
- Conversation relevant to current issues. Could have a panel of experts in field share thoughts with all of Council, like a Work Session.
 - Framing issue. Problem trying to solve. Karen Bandhauer with Recycle America can provide another perspective.
 - Continue reading white papers to have more educated perspective.
- State department of public health and environment?
 - CDPHE has had leadership changes. 320 page report to regional wasteshed coalition—bigger picture approach. Dividing state into wastesheds for holistic look.
 - Colorado Plan and what David shared—based on flexibility. Can't continue to put all of our eggs in one basket.
 - City document with local context.

- Synergy Network?
 - Jackie has been tracking. Matchmaking process underway. Can get an update.
- Met with mayor of Cheyenne—potential to collaborate on waste streams. Can get to critical mass.
 - Direct connection between recyclables and an end user, reduces costs.
 - Like flexibility in fees so haulers can get return on investment.
 - Our plans are greener than Oregon's.
 - State level. Portland has similar plans to Fort Collins.
- Drew distinction between motivations created by RZW; complementary.
- Technologies available in 30 years may change everything.
- In Norway scale technologies differently; more capital up front. More dynamics, more investment.
- Shame that more members of policy committee and TAC working on wasteshed were not able to attend.

DO: Next Steps

- Consider implications to Pay As You Throw—CRO update
- TBL analysis is soft, qualitative impacts. Move to lifecycle analysis. Resources at CSU. ISO standards. Look at incorporating as normal practice.
 - BFO offer this fall for lifecycle assessment work.
 - Look more at practices in Oregon—rate of return, definition of recyclables, regulatory relationship
 - Revamping TBL
 - Send update to Council—summary of Oregon zero waste white paper, report from state, etc. Had sustainable materials management Work Session in April.
 - Include brief document describing context.
 - Will send slides from David's presentation.
 - Update on Synergy Network.

Other Business and Upcoming Meeting Planning

One topic per meeting is working better for timing. Jackie will work out details on schedule.

Future Agenda Items

- August: Sports Tourism
 - September: Fort Collins Food System Panel Discussion
 - October: Climate Economy
 - November: Community Architecture
 - December: Resilient Infrastructure
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Meeting adjourned at 5:20pm.