

COG Recycling Committee – December 1, 2022 – Plastics Update Chat Discussion

[Yesterday 10:31 AM] Erik Grabowsky (Guest)

At least one National waste company is building secondary plastic processing facilities. It appears that part of these costs for these facilities are being passed to users of MRFs, driving our processing costs up dramatically. Can you further discuss the cost aspects of advanced recycling and is EPR a way to address these costs?

[Yesterday 10:32 AM] Shannon McDonald

Adam, one of the primary issues is the storage/shared cost burden associated with collection and transportation that you highlighted was a possibility (the slide that has the initial collab). Transportation and storage is expensive - how do you foresee who will pay those collaborative costs?

[Yesterday 10:34 AM] De Souza Coelho, Andre

Can you share the name life cycle assessment about plastic and other packing materials you use as an example in the presentation? Thanks!

[Yesterday 10:34 AM] Rick Galliher (Guest)

Question: Some people are concerned that Advanced/chemical recycling will take bottle bill PET stock (clean, uniform) from current mechanical recycling methods. Is it possible this might happen? They support mechanical recycling, but are against chemical, and this affects support of bottle bills.

[Yesterday 10:36 AM] Martha Ainsworth, MD Sierra Club (Guest)

Why not focus on redesign of products so that they are easier to recycle?
(2 liked)

[Yesterday 10:39 AM] Ricky Phillips

<https://techcrunch.com/2022/06/27/uks-magical-mushroom-company-uses-mycelium-to-replace-plastic-packaging/>

Magical Mushroom Co.: mycelium to replace plastic packaging
Magical Mushroom Company's mycelium solution is a direct replacement for plastic-based packaging such as polystyrene and cardboard
techcrunch.com

[Yesterday 10:42 AM] Peer, Adam

Rick Galliher (Guest)

Question: Some people are concerned that Advanced/chemical recycling will take bottle bill PET stock (clean, uniform) from current mechanical recycling methods. Is it possible this might happen? They support mechanical recycling, but are against chemical, and this affects support of bottle bills.

Creadore, L. T., & Castaldi, M. J. (2022). *Quantitative Comparison of LCAs on the Current State of Advanced Recycling Technologies* (p. 35). City University of New York. <https://ccnyeec.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/comparisonOfAdvRecyclingLCAs.pdf> Feber, D., Helmcke, S., Hundertmark, T., Musso, C., Jie Ong, W., Oxgaard, J., & Wallach, J. (2022). *Climate impact of plastics* [Industry report]. McKinsey & Company. <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/chemicals/our-insights/Climate-impact-of-plastics>

[Yesterday 10:45 AM] Willie Puz

Does the 6% figure include all plastics created, or just the consumer food-packaging types that can be processed in a MRF? The two pictures - washed on a beach and a MRF warehouse - are two different types of plastics with one being what is generally thought of as being collected and recyclable.

Edited

[Yesterday 10:46 AM] Wyetha Lipford

The mic pods are very sensitive so they are picking up sounds around the table.

[Yesterday 10:53 AM] Bret Biggers

With the EU banning exporting of recycled plastics (their terminology is plastic waste), do you think that comparative advantage should not apply to the recycling industry? And are these types of bans good for achieving free and open trade for companies to restrict established markets from continuing?

With all the litter shown in the slides, don't most countries have anti littering laws in place? Where's the enforcement?

[Yesterday 10:55 AM] Naumann, Marilyn (Guest)

This is a huge problem. Wondering how much is the plastics industry contributing to the cost of the clean-up of plastics and then the proper recycling of that plastic that is being cleaned up from the ocean.

[Yesterday 11:00 AM] Ashleigh Diaz

I really loved and appreciated this presentation, thank you so much.

[Yesterday 11:01 AM] Naumann, Marilyn (Guest)

Are any big cities, like San Francisco that have plastic straw and other plastic bans, considered a ban on plastic hypodermic needles, since the drug problem has generated an enormous amount of used needles being littered on the streets - ending up in the storm drains - which is a dangerous problem.

[Yesterday 11:01 AM] Willie Puz

Is this messaging causing further recycling confusion? And should the focus be on overall plastic production and use - leaving residential recycling out of it? If the 6% is all plastics, but you said the focus has been on single use plastics, it appears there is a mixing of the proverbial apples and oranges. As much of the washed ashore plastics did not seem to have a residential recyclability. Especially if the other commenter said they only collect 1s 2s and 5s - bottles, jars and jugs.

[Yesterday 11:53 AM] Bret Biggers

A few topic suggestions: Bottle Bills, paper update, aluminum update

[Yesterday 11:53 AM] Martha Ainsworth, MD Sierra Club (Guest)

How about progress in expansion of recycling refunds (bottle bills), new technologies to address collection and access issues, the link to expanding refillables, and to clean food-grade recycled feedstock?

[Yesterday 11:54 AM] Ricky Phillips

Construction and demolition waste?

[Yesterday 11:54 AM] Hofman-Graham, Sarah (DPW)

+1 on refillable programs

[Yesterday 11:54 AM] Shannon McDonald

Maryland is hosting a recycling market development [workshop online next tuesday](#) in case anyone on the call would like to attend

Recycling Market Development
An official website of the State of Maryland.
mde.maryland.gov

[Yesterday 11:55 AM] Ricky Phillips

Yes, to bulky and white goods!

[Yesterday 11:55 AM] Anne Germain

Sustainability, Environmental attributes, Climate change

[Yesterday 11:56 AM] Sam Schultz
The Recycling Partnership (TRP)

[Yesterday 11:56 AM] Erik Grabowsky (Guest)

Can we get goodwill and others to discuss what they are willing to accept, so we can accurately talk to the issues and challenges. They are not dumping grounds for used clothes, etc.

[Yesterday 11:56 AM] Ashleigh Diaz

Michele, John- thank you so much for the wonderful session today. I've got to run to a lunch thing. Happy holidays all!

[Yesterday 12:55 PM] Manning, Rachel (DPW) (Guest)

To view and provide comment on the Zero Waste DC Plan Draft Framework, visit <https://publicinput.com/zwdcplan>

Zero Waste DC Plan Revised Draft Framework - PublicInput.com
The Department of Public Works (DPW) Office of Waste Diversion is seeking feedback one last time from the public on the Zero Waste DC Plan s revised draft framework. The revised draft framework is ...
publicinput.com

[Yesterday 1:00 PM] Adams, Blake (DPW)

Thanks everyone! Please follow-up with Sarah and/or Rachel for any questions or concerns. We will be reaching, through John, via email with a spreadsheet soliciting comments from our peer municipalities. Thanks!