



## **Policy Committee Notes - September 5th, 2:00-3:30pm**

**Attendees:** Randy Moorman (Chair, EcoCycle), Brandy Moe (Vice-Chair, Republic Services), Amelia Kovacs (Recorder, Walking Mountains), Scott Hutchings (Retreat Organizer, WM), Jenifer Freeman (Lobby Day Organizer, Constellation Strategies), Alicia Archibald (Board Liason, Steamboat Springs), Ally Byzewski (Recycle Colorado), Liz Chapman (Recycle Colorado), Alex Truelove (BPI), Alexis Marsh, Bill Schneck, Bob Hipper, Bob Hunt (Molson-Coors), Bob Yost, Caroline Mitchell (Fort Collins), Celene Peck-Andreano (Glass-to-Glass), Brian Loma (Cut the Plastic), EmJ (Lakewood), George Allen (Coca-Cola), Jace Driver (CDPHE), Jamie Blanchard-Poling (Compost Queen), Jamie Harkins (City of Boulder), Jonathan Levy (PakTech), Jonathan Wachtel (Lakewood), Joshua Kirschner (Valor Tactical), Kelsie DeFrancia (CASR), Mary Marchun, Megan Lane (Ball Corporation), Meghan Ibach (EcoProducts), Meghan Wiebe, Mellik Gorton (CDPHE), Naomi Curlan (Sustainable Resilient Longmont), Nicolas Wilson (West Highland Management Group), Rachel Roussel-Diamond, Rachel Setzke (Eco-Cycle), Rebecca Thomas (GPI), Ryan Call (Eco-Cycle), Scott Defife, Shelley Fuller (Boulder County), Sherry McCarthy, Suzanne Jones (Eco-Cycle), Tom Dodd (SCRAPS), Wolf Kray (CDPHE)

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### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Annual Meeting for Recycle Colorado is our organization-focused event, hosted around the state each year. This event is great for new members and non-members who are looking to learn more about Recycle Colorado, as well as long-time members looking to connect with others and stay in the loop.

Key Highlights:

- Board of Directors Candidate Panel: Meet the passionate individuals vying for a spot on our board.
- Organizational Updates: Get the latest insights into Recycle Colorado's achievements, challenges, and future goals from councils, committees, and staff.
- Producer Responsibility Program Workshop: Engage with the Colorado Circular Action Alliance staff to exchange ideas and learn what's next.
- Networking Opportunities: Share ideas, forge partnerships, and expand your network in a friendly and engaging atmosphere.
- Exciting local recycling tours in Boulder County.
- Join us for a day of inspiration, learning, and connection at Recycle Colorado's Annual Meeting. Be a part of our vibrant community driving positive change for a sustainable future. [REGISTER HERE!](#)



## **(2) Greater Colorado Council Policy Report (Presented by Rachel Setzke)**

- The first couple of meetings have been very positive with a great turnout. The group is looking to fill the Chair/Vice-Chair positions and is still looking for a Recorder if anyone is interested.
- As a reminder, during the 2024 Summit for Recycling, members met to discuss the merger of Recycle Colorado's Rural Policy Committee and Western Slope Council. The group voted to combine the two to create a single, more inclusive, Greater Colorado Council. This will allow the group to expand membership, add new perspectives, and tackle projects and problems together.
- The Greater Colorado Council meets on the first Wednesday of every month from 1:30-2:30pm. The next meeting is October 3rd from 1:30-2:30pm.
- If you are interested in joining the Greater Colorado Council, RSVP on the [Councils/Committees page](#) on the Recycle Colorado website.

## **(3) Producer Responsibility Implementation Updates, Next Steps, and Questions (Presented by Jenifer Freeman and Liz Chapman)**

- Visit the CAA website ([HERE](#)) to sign up for future consultation sessions, complete surveys/feedback forms (even if you didn't attend), and review past presentation slides from past consultation sessions. Additional fact sheets are created from each consultation session for review. Surveys are open after 30 days after the session.
- Liz is happy to consolidate comments from any Recycle Colorado members to send to CAA. Please reach out if you are interested.
- CAA will be finalizing the specific information related to EPR-rollout after the consultation process is complete.

## **(4) 2025 Legislative Priorities Discussion and Voting**

Each working group will have 15 minutes to provide updates and make a proposal. During those 15 minutes, members will have the opportunity to ask questions. The three working groups are: ([Batteries/HHW Producer Responsibility](#), [Organics Diversion Infrastructure](#), [Bottle Return/Deposit Return System](#))

### **Batteries/HHW Producer Responsibility - [REVIEW PROPOSAL](#)**

Report to Committee (led by Rachel Setzke)

- The group hosted a [Webinar](#) in July that overviewed current battery/HHW EPR bills in the US, and hosted a Webinar Round Table 2.0 for a conversation to develop potential battery and/or household hazardous waste (HHW) Producer Responsibility approach that best meets Colorado's needs.



- The working group would like to propose a producer-responsibility bill to Recycle CO for small/medium-format batteries. They would also like the group to support the non-legislative initiative of expanding educational initiatives regarding proper disposal/recycling of batteries. They would also like to monitor and keep up-to-date with national discussions about EV battery recycling.
- They want to embrace the policy momentum with other states (WA bill, [IL bill - CO's Model Bill](#)) and apply the policy here in Colorado.
- This bill would address the safety issue of batteries in landfills

#### Questions

- What kind of opposition do you expect? What kind of opposition did other states face?
  - Illinois faced little to no opposition. Toy manufacturers were originally in opposition since the original bill language had them included as a responsible party, but the bill language was updated.
- Have we had any discussions with the Governor's office or CDPHE about this bill?
  - The group has not met with the Governor's office and has only worked with CDPHE for technical assistance.
- When would the bill be drafted?
  - If the policy recommendation is approved, then the bill will be drafted as a group.
- Will you focus on rural areas? Is there a priority on the funding?
  - Illinois' battery bill is similar to CO's Paint Care program. The same elements of convenience in our rural communities for the battery collection would be similar to our current Paint Care Program.
- Can you give more context into the decision-making for it to be batteries-only vs. an HHW-EPR bill?
  - Vermont is the only state with a HHW-EPR law. Other states are focusing on packaging first. The plan is to see how EPR rolls out to support the recycling of packaging of other HHW-related products.
- Are vapes covered by this bill?
  - The bills we've looked at in other states refer to "loose batteries" and they are completing studies on embedded batteries.
  - If we moved forward with this policy recommendation, the hope is that we'd also complete additional research on embedded battery recycling.
  - The answer is hopefully yes, but the working group can give a strong answer after more conversations and research are had.

#### **Organics Diversion Infrastructure - [REVIEW NEW PROPOSAL](#)**

##### Report to Committee (presented by Meghan Ibach)

- The focus of the proposal has shifted to non-legislative proposals.
- After reviewing the OMP 2.0, doing additional targeted research, and consulting experts in addition to group members, the working group recommends that: Recycle Colorado prioritize organics diversion as a top focus in coming years, with eventual policy approaches including organics diversion requirements (as listed in the OMP 2.0).



- At this time the strongest course of action is for Recycle Colorado and its councils to lead efforts exploring opportunities and barriers to organics diversion. Specific, non-legislative actions that the working group has identified as needs RC should focus on include:
  - Goal: Increase diversion of yard trimmings and slash organics
  - Goal: Support better end-market use of compost
  - Goal: Update CDA definition of compost
  - Goal: Organize a mega meeting with various stakeholders that could support more compost use
  - Goal: Continue to work with state and local government groups to support and encourage state efforts to divert organics.

#### Questions/Comments

- It's commendable that the group has considered the feedback, consulted with field experts, and assessed OMP 2.0 to proceed with non-legislative measures.
- Can you please define the OMP 2.0?
  - In 2023, the Colorado State Legislature tasked the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) with studying the feasibility and benefits of diverting organic materials from landfills through Bill 23-191. The study explored existing data, evaluated environmental benefits, and identified necessary infrastructure for statewide organics diversion projects. It also provided guidelines for local governments and recommended policies to support organic waste diversion and market development.
  - Read the updated report, [HERE](#).
- Do we need to vote on non-legislative initiatives for Recycle CO?
  - This has not been clearly defined. In the past, non-legislative initiatives proposed to the Recycle CO Board were voted on solely by the board if the proposal involved a significant financial or capacity requirement.
  - Liz's understanding is that the Organics group doesn't have a legislative "ask", but instead, the group is hoping to expand these efforts gradually through increasing collaboration with the Colorado Compost Council and other organizations.
- Have we thought about reaching out to the governor's office/exec branch to have CDOT utilize the finished compost product?
  - Meghan is advocating for positive collaboration, as CDOT has made significant efforts to incorporate finished compost into its products. The group has decided to halt the progress of a legislative motion because they recognize and appreciate CDOT's significant use of compost in its projects.

#### **Bottle Return/Deposit Return System**

Report to Committee (presented by Celene Peck-Andreano)

- Today, Colorado only recycles 11% of beverage containers and only 9% in a closed-loop (bottle-to-bottle or can-to-can). Recycling Refunds (also known as bottle bills or deposit



return systems) have been shown to increase the quantity and quality of recycled materials, promoting circularity and maximizing economic and environmental benefits. Beverage container manufacturers want to access more recycled content in order to meet their customers' sustainability goals.

- Colorado's two glass plants produce 2 million glass bottles daily, yet 88% of the glass ends up in landfills, amounting to 210,000 tons annually. Many producers are shipping recycled glass from other states to meet their recycled-content goals.
- Non-legislative actions:
  - The group has decided not to move forward with a policy proposal. Instead, they would like Recycle Colorado to support a task force working group that will focus on these efforts and move closer to legislative action in the next year. They also want to complete a study of the current infrastructure and hotspots of glass production.
  - Partnership opportunities?

#### Questions

- What other non-legislative actions can this group recommend for moving forward with outside of a task force?
  - As for Recycle CO as an entity, there are fewer non-legislative actions they can consider. There are industry-specific non-legislative actions that can be pursued on the side.
- Would this be a State of Colorado Task Force or a Recycle CO Task Force?
  - A Recycle Colorado Task Force.

## (5) Comments & Motion Process

*Each motion that is made and has a second will be recorded and will be sent out to the policy committee for an electronic vote. Voting will end Monday, September 9 at 6 PM. Each policy committee member organization gets one vote, and votes will first be tallied within each sector to determine a sector vote. The final sector vote will determine if the motion passes and the recommendation goes to the Board of Directors for approval.*

#### Comments

- Alicia - A quick reminder for the Policy Committee: As we consider the next steps after the vote, there is a possibility that the Recycle CO Board may need to reject certain proposals based on the budget and capacity.
- Jenifer - Echoes Alicia's comment: 1) From a strategy perspective, we need to consider the current budget constraints at the capitol with current budget cuts; launching something costly may not be successful or smart, 2) it is exciting to hear the number of opportunities from these proposals - we could look into other fundraising opportunities to build out these proposed non-legislative initiatives with staffing.



#### Motion Process

- Brian Loma - Motion to move forward with the Battery Producer Responsibility policy proposal.
  - Shelley Fuller seconds, BUT would clarify that small/medium battery is the focus of this bill. Her suggested amendment is for small and medium formal batteries to be the main focus of the EPR bill.
    - Brian Loma clarifies that this is what the current policy recommendation states. No amendment is necessary.
- Jenifer Freeman - Motion that Recycle Colorado abstains from running a bill next session, but that these working groups continue to explore non-legislative programmatic and policy solutions moving forward.
  - Alicia Archibald seconds
- Celene Peck - Motion that Recycle Colorado recognizes the potential of a Recycling Refund system, also known as a 'Deposit Return System' or 'Bottle Bill,' to complement our Producer Responsibility for Recycling program and help build a more resilient circular economy in Colorado. Therefore, Recycle Colorado commits to forming a Recycling Refunds Taskforce to initiate a stakeholder engagement process aimed at exploring the development of potential legislation to create a well-designed, complementary, modernized, efficient, effective, and equitable recycling refund system.”
  - Scott Defife seconds

#### **(6) Next steps – Next meeting October 3.**

*Voting will end Monday, September 10 at 6 PM. Each policy committee member organization gets one vote, and votes will first be tallied within each sector to determine a sector vote. The final sector vote will determine if the motion passes and the recommendation goes to the Board of Directors for approval.*

#### **(7) Adjournment - Adjourned!**