

Recycling Reform Advisory Council

Statewide List Subcommittee

Meeting Notes

August 10, 2026, 10:00-11:30am PT

[Meeting Slide Deck Link](#)

- I. Welcome (10:00-10:10)
 - a. Attendance

Member	Affiliation	Attendance
Alissa Campbell	Recology	Y
Becci Piepel	Douglas County Solid Waste	Y
Danielle Waterfield	AMERIPEN	Y
Grant Williams	Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network	N
Jay Blazey	Cedar Grove	Y
Jeff Zillich	WM	Y
Julie Gilbertson	Circular Action Alliance	Y
Karen Hultgren	Pierce County	Y
McKenna Morrigan	Seattle Public Utilities	Y
Megan Daum	American Beverage Association	N
Michael Liptack	Friday Harbor	Y
Moji Igun	Zero Waste Washington	Y
Rick Vahl	Waste Connections	Y

- b. Agenda
 - i. **Desired Meeting Outcome:** Agree as a Subcommittee on how to summarize the lists' status and any specific asks/recommendations for the full Advisory Council.
 - c. Conflicts of Interest
 - i. Call for disclosure of conflicts of interest related to today's meeting agenda
 - 1. No conflicts of interests disclosed
- II. Finish Statewide List Preliminary Evaluation Discussion (10:10-10:25)
 - a. Carryover items from previous meetings:
 - i. Aseptics / Gabletops – end market concerns
 - 1. It's on the right spot on the list, but need to be cognizant of limitations that placement may bring from a responsible end market (REM) perspective as REM standards are built out
 - 2. Aseptics and gabletops have been discussed as a bundle, but their evaluation criteria differ; may be worth pulling apart for discussion

3. Version of statewide list for public comment listed “Other aseptic containers” – flagged to Ecology as a possible typo or carryover inconsistency
 4. Aseptics/cartons are getting mixed into mixed paper bales; only one WA facility is known to tolerate that mixed material versus multiple end markets in the Midwest/East Coast
 5. Two levels of contamination flagged: food/liquid residual on individual containers, and how the material can contaminate other streams during sorting/processing
 6. Needs assessment should evaluate two pathways for cartons/aseptics – sorted into mixed paper vs. a separate commodity be – and the REM for each per RCW 70A.208.110(4)(l) An assessment of the viability and robustness of markets for recyclable and compostable covered materials and the degree to which these markets can be considered responsible markets
- ii. PET non-bottle packaging – tinting, end market concerns
1. Ecology: Flagged disparity between the covered materials categories and the APR Design Guide, which treats clear plus translucent blue/green as “clear” and everything else (including black) as pigmented
 2. MRF representatives confirmed clear PET is far more desirable to buyers
 3. CAA noted other states treat transparent blue/green as part of the clear category, consistent with APR guidance
 4. Bale specifications reflect a contamination tolerance threshold, not necessarily active recycling; distinction is important for needs assessment
- b. Open call for additional discussion items
- i. Alternative collection list raised as topic not fully discussed; some materials were pulled off between V1 and V2 despite being technically feasible for separate collection and having existing drop-off programs in other states
 1. From a local standpoint, materials like foam blocks remain a costly management problem without a good alternative collection
 2. Ecology: To make the alternative collection list V2, the determination was based on that there needs to be an active group of producers organizing to propose collection for that material, since anything on the list must be provided for via statewide collection
 3. If a material isn’t flagged for the needs assessment now, how will its feasibility and cost questions get evaluated before a PRO could propose adding it later?
 - a. Ecology: Confirmed openness to adding materials to the alternative collection list based on Subcommittee/Advisory Council feedback, even if not entirely clear cut for every material. We will determine through guidance at a later date what makes the list

- III. Discuss summary information and recommendations to bring to 8/13 Advisory Council Meeting (10:25-11:15)
 - a. Ecology to formally re-present the V2 lists at the 8/13 meeting, with a clear distinction between covered and non-covered materials
 - i. Ecology to present residential recycling, public place, and compost lists as they currently stand
 - ii. Compost list is currently blank – no materials formally on it; wood/bio-based compostables and related items will be addressed via separate Ecology guidance at a later date rather than run through full evaluation criteria now
 - b. McKenna to draft slides summarizing Subcommittee discussion and recommendations for the Advisory Council to consider endorsing
 - i. Recommend Advisory Council formally endorse alignment of the residential recycling and public place collection lists (already completed by Ecology)
 - ii. Frame the process: how the list evolved from V1 to V2 and the work the Subcommittee has done to get the list to where it is, across material categories generally (not just glass)
 - iii. General Subcommittee sentiment: comfortable with the list as it currently stands, with the understanding that the needs assessment will conduct further evaluation (asterisks)
 - c. Needs assessment topics to flag for the Advisory Council
 - i. Glass – evaluate the appropriate method of collection within the residential recycling system
 - ii. Aseptics/gable tops – evaluate options for sorting as part of mixed paper vs. as a separate commodity
 - iii. Food service fiber packaging (including pizza boxes and uncoated food service fiber categories) – evaluate implications of inclusion in mixed paper bales and end market impacts
 - d. Framing up the alternative collection list conversation
 - i. V1 to V2 change: list narrowed to materials where there is an active group of producers known to be organizing to propose alternative collection, vs. broader “technically feasible” criteria in V1
 - ii. Ecology noted logistical/infrastructure challenges to statewide alternative collection for materials like EPS foam blocks (e.g., limited processing locations, transport logistics)
 - iii. Open call for Advisory Council members to flag additional V1 alternative collection materials they would like carried forward for needs assessment evaluation
 - e. Process overview for Advisory Council members not involved in Subcommittee meetings
 - i. Brief recap of the Ecology/consultant process and the Subcommittee's review to date

- ii. Clarify distinction between covered vs. non-covered materials, and residential recycling vs. compost lists
 - iii. Provide a look-ahead on the needs assessment process for context
- f. Meeting logistics for 8/13 Advisory Council meeting
 - i. Virtual meeting; approximately 2.5 hours across two sessions allocated for list discussion, with a lunch break
 - ii. First time a Subcommittee is bringing formal business to the full Advisory Council; Council will take action on a documented set of recommendations to advance to Ecology
- IV. Public Comment (11:15-11:25)
 - a. Heather Trim, ZWW: This is the list of the future, not the list of today, which is the way the statue's set up. It would be a real shame to make the list be a list of today and have those limitations and then have to redo it quickly because it's wasn't actually looking at the future. In terms of what you are presenting to the Advisory Committee, I hope that will come through. On the issue of compostable foodware, I hope there are certain categories that are in this unique role and that they shouldn't be lumped in with things like Styrofoam. Compostable foodware is something that intersects with other laws where it's not a firm decision that's going to be made through this process. I'd like to see a named category that is different for that, having it in its own place, and handled separately.
 - i. Ecology: The evaluation criteria scoring reflects current, present-day conditions – a material can still be scored that way today and be included on the list of the future. Encourage feedback on scoring via the public comment period, open through August 19.
- V. Preview of Next Meetings Content (11:25-11:30)
 - a. August 13 Advisory Council meeting
 - i. Bring content the sub-committee wants to bring to full RRA Advisory Council meeting on 8/13
 - b. Next subcommittee meeting tentatively scheduled for September 10; decision on whether to hold or cancel will wait until after the 8/13 Advisory Council meeting and the close of the public comment period (~August 19–20), in case further Subcommittee discussion is needed.
- VI. Adjourn