

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE  
OF THE METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

November 14, 1988

Room 330

Committee Members Present: Gary Hansen (Chair), Kelley, Corky  
Kirkpatrick and Mike Ragsdale

Committee Members Absent: Jim Gardner (V. Chair)

Also Present: Councilor-Elect Judy Wyers, Greg McMurdo, Ray Barker,  
Bob Martin, Charlotte Becker, Pat Merkle, Jerry Herrman,  
Dennis Denton, Russell Brownner, Merle Irvine, Ripley  
Gage, Betty McArdle, Jeanne Roy, Carol DeJardin, Debbie  
Miller, Lissa Wienholt, Steve Kafoury, Don Kneass, Bill  
Martin, Sam Culpepper, Bruce Holser, Ted Hughes, John  
Normandin and Scott Ashcom

Chair Hansen called the meeting to order at 7:40 a.m.

1. Introduction by Committee Chair

Chair Hansen stated that the purpose of this meeting was to listen to individuals involved with, or interested in, the recycling of plastics. Chair Hansen told those present the Committee was extremely interested in hearing their ideas, concerns and recommendations on plastics recycling. Chair Hansen asked those present to give testimony on what Metro should do at this time, mid-term and long-term, to assist with the recycling of plastics.

2. Discussion of Plastic Recycling Ideas, Policies, Problems, Programs, Solutions, and Possible Legislation

Dennis Denton, Denton Plastics, stated that the biggest current problem in recycling plastics was collection of plastics. He said air was hauled inside plastic milk jugs which was not economically feasible. He said milk jugs should be condensed before hauling.

Don Kneass, Waste Management of North America, said hauling plastics added two hours to the normal collection times in a north Seattle curbside collection program. He said densification on the route was the most pressing need at this time.

The following points were made by individuals in the plastics recycling industry and others interested in the recycling of plastics:

1. There is a tremendous demand for plastics in the world. It is the largest industry after gas and oil.
2. There are good markets now for plastic and that should continue in the future.

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3. Metro should consider giving assistance to those in the plastics recycling business. The One Percent for Recycling Program could be a good tool for this purpose.
4. Labelling standards for plastics would be of help.
5. Senate Bill 405 neglected depots and drop-off centers.
6. The plastics industry is doing some voluntary codification.
7. Contamination, the mixing of plastics, is a problem.
8. There are three main types of plastics coming off the food shelves.
9. A subsidy should be considered for plastic recyclers, especially those recyclers that are recycling other items such as motor oil; a practice which costs recyclers money.
10. Metro may need to invest more money in the One Percent for Recycling Program.
11. An advance disposal fee should be considered for packaging.
12. Prioritize which plastics are most valuable.

There was consensus to form a plastic recycling task force to prepare recommendations for the legislature. Councilor Kirkpatrick invited those interested in serving on such a task force to sign up.

Chair Hansen adjourned the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ray Barker  
Council Analyst  
SWC88.319

RB:pa