

PLASTICS RECYCLING TASK FORCE OF THE
METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

November 28, 1988

Conference Room 330

Plastic Recycling Task Force Members Present:

Councilor Corky Kirkpatrick, Charlotte Becker, Dave Phillips, Peggy Lovell, Jeff Gage, Merle Irvine, Bill Martin, Jerry Herrmann, Russell Brownier, John Normandin, Scott Ashcom, Ted Stanwood and Sara Vickerman

Others Present:

John Drew, Pat Vernon, Bob Martin, Todd Jones, Michael Sievers, Bruce Holser, Jeffrey Walter, Pat Merkle, Greg McMurdo, Ray Barker and Leola Stanwood

Councilor Kirkpatrick called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Herrmann referred to "Memorandum - Outline" of January 29, 1985, distributed to those present. He referred to the Oregon Plastics Issues and Recycling Task Force assembled at that time. He discussed the ten plastics recycling initiatives outlined in the 1985 memorandum. He said a tax credit provided for using certain plastics in manufacturing processes became law in 1985. He said the initial Task Force Committee was formed because of concern over ocean beaches and the need for plastics re-use. Mr. Herrmann said after one year there was no group consensus on the problem and no recommendations for the 64th Legislature.

Councilor Kirkpatrick said her goals for this task force were to interact with the interim Committee and interface with its recommendations. Mr. Gage said he served on the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Task Force and said there was too much disagreement and at the time the members were not ready for a final consensus. He said currently the issues were more critical. He said a mandate on plastics recycling was necessary to incorporate into the curbside pick-up program. The group discussed the issues further. The main points raised were:

1. The market provided the only direct revenue. Other states subsidized programs out of regular collection fees; and
2. It would be useful to state what economic incentives would be realized by the market place; and
3. Markets should be developed; and
4. The Oregon State Legislature should be asked what plastics legislation they will consider at their next session.

Mr. Phillips said he had curbside experience. He said such a program was predicated on markets in which materials were returned in the same format such as aluminum, paper and glass. He said collectors could have problems

PLASTICS RECYCLING TASK FORCE

November 28, 1988

Page 2

distributing plastics. He said a strong foundation would be needed for such a collection program.

Those present agreed a strong foundation for such a program was needed and a feasible view agreed upon and then the Committee could discuss how to implement it. Programs implemented in Japan and Europe and programs similar to those which would be implemented in New Jersey and Seattle were discussed.

Those present agreed plastic items should be coded for easy identification and products generated from recycled plastics developed. Those present agreed products produced would generate Oregon jobs. Those present discussed easy identification of seven million milk jugs used per year in Oregon. Those present agreed labelling would have to be compatible with materials. Mr. Irvine said the tax incentive in effect now was too strict.

Mr. McMurdo referred to the legislation necessary to achieve the goals discussed. He referred to LC 742; legislation on the plastic rings to hold cans together and provide clarification of biodegradable terms. He also discussed LC 753 and LC 741 and said the three proposed bills had been approved by the Interim Committee on Environment and Hazardous Waste.

Councilor Kirkpatrick asked if changes to the tax credit bill would be introduced and asked for any information available on that issue. Mr. Herrmann asked what effect the City of Portland would or could have on plastics legislation. Mr. Normandin suggested school involvement in the recycling of milk jugs. Mr. Phillips noted thus far this year 40 to 45 schools had been visited to encourage plastics recycling. Ms. Merkle said Portland schools would address plastics recycling December 2 at a Council Finance Committee meeting with regard to recommendations to school boards. Mr. Ashcom said Metro's budget allocation for public education was small. Mr. Herrmann suggested incentives for plastics recycling. Mr. Normandin said recycling of milk jugs could be a Metro-only issue and tax credits an issue for the Legislature.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Barker
Council Analyst
PLAS.28:RB:pa