

MINUTES OF THE PLASTICS RECYCLING TASK FORCE  
OF THE METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

January 3, 1989

Room 330

**Plastics Recycling Task Force Members Present:** Corky Kirkpatrick (Chair), Dave Phillips, Bruce Holser, Ted Stanwood, Russell Brownier, Scott Ashcom, Ripley Gage, and Dennis Denton

**Others Present:** Bruce Walker, Bill Martin, Bruce Valentine, Leon Horton, Robert T. Lute, Leola Stanwood, Gayle B. Kiltow, Judy Wyers, Jeff Gage, Pat Vernon, Becky Crockett and Estle Harlan

Chair Kirkpatrick called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

1. Subcommittee Report on Proposed Changes to the Oregon Reclaimed Plastic Product Tax Credit (ORS 468.925 to 468.965)

Chair Kirkpatrick discussed the meeting of the subcommittee to this task force held December 19, 1988, and Lissa Wienholt's memorandum on reclaimed plastic product tax credits used for discussion at that meeting. Scott Ashcom briefly outlined the subcommittee discussion and changes recommended outlined in staff's report in this meeting's agenda packet.

Those present discussed the issues, including interstate issues; tax credits to Oregon businesses only; when the proposed legislation would sunset; and the benefits derived from proposed legislation such as reduced litter and improved industry.

Chair Kirkpatrick said Joyce Cohen agreed to review and refine the proposed legislative language.

2. Discussion on Changes to SB 405 to Make Plastics Recycling Work

Chair Kirkpatrick said there was disagreement at the subcommittee level the definition of plastics needed revising. Bruce Holser said if the recycling aspect was pushed too much the end result would be an unworkable system. He questioned whether this issue should be attached to SB 405. Dave Phillips said waste disposal rates would increase to \$65 per ton and recyclable materials should be sold. Gaylen Kiltow said he lost money recycling materials other than plastic and that he would not make money recycling plastic. He said when newspaper sold for a premium price, recycling was profitable.

Jeff Gage asked if profitability improved or depended on participation. Mr. Kiltow said each stop to collect material cost money and said there was not enough revenue to offset costs. He did not think plastic should go to the landfill, but said it was difficult to get people to do their part and participate. He referred to a failed venture to recycle milk jugs which did not compensate haulers for the time and trouble they took to do it. Mr. Holser said striking current language

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or adding to the existing language would not work and did not think curbside pick-up was effective. Pat Vernon, Solid Waste Planner, noted drop-boxes had less contaminated materials than curbside did.

Those present discussed the issues including high costs to haulers; low participation; agreed drop-boxes produced better results and that recyclables must be densified.

Mr. Phillips said he was involved with the first yard-debris processor, but said there was not a profitable market. He said long-term solutions were needed and time could be taken to analyze the issues. Mr. Phillips agreed there was a market but noted haulers were not paid.

Mr. Gage said recycling had to pay for itself. He said there would be metals shortages; glass would be expensive because it is energy-intensive; and paper recycling did not offer a big savings. He said the problem with recycling was that it took time for markets to mature. He said haulers had to be paid a fair amount for whatever recyclables they handled, or otherwise people would need to go to depots.

Mr. Ashcom asked Mr. Kiltow, if yard debris were deleted from the legislative language and plastic inserted, if he would prefer that language. Mr. Kiltow said no and stated it would trade one problem for another.

Dennis Denton said if plastic was collected and baled, it still would not work. He said there had to be source separation, but that subsidies would still be needed.

Haulers present agreed the public was the beneficiary of a clean environment and paid for by the haulers. Chair Kirkpatrick asked those present if there was interest in serving on a subcommittee to analyze recycling needs in general since the Task Force was focused on plastics alone.

Mr. Holser said the Task Force meetings as a forum were very useful. Chair Kirkpatrick said Clark County had made some suggestions and asked if the data thus far should be compiled. Councilor Kirkpatrick noted Metro was working on a curbside pilot project.

Chair Kirkpatrick requested this agenda item be carried over to the next meeting January 17, 1989.

4. Discussion on Options

- . Next six weeks
- . Long-term

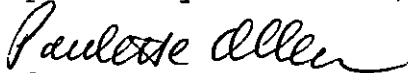
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The Task Force discussed various options for further consideration. It was agreed that the following items would be considered further by the Task Force:

1. The five plastics recycling bills proposed by the Interim Committee on Environmental and Hazardous Waste;
2. The Reclaimed Plastic Product Tax Credit Law;
3. Establishment of a trust fund (Herrmann/Vickerman);
4. Require that plastic beverage containers have labels that are conducive to recycling;
5. Metro activities such as increasing its budget for the One Percent for Recycling Program and increasing its budget for the Public Education Program.

Chair Kirkpatrick adjourned the meeting at 5:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paulette Allen  
Committee Clerk  
PRTF89.003