

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

February 13, 1989

Room 330

Task Force Members Present: Chair Kirkpatrick, Bill Martin, Lissa Wienholt, Peggy Lovell, Patrick Moffatt, Russell Brownier, Jerry Herrmann and Jeff Gage

Others Present: Jerry Ebeltoft, Allen Hurst, Sara Vickerman, Ray Barker and Carrie Heaton

Chair Kirkpatrick called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

1. Overview of Industries' Use of Plastics

Jeff Gage gave a report on the industrial use of plastics. He discussed petrochemicals and the chemical formulation of plastics. He noted three billion pounds of plastic were produced in 1953 for commercial use and in 1988, 51 billion pounds were manufactured. He said the most rapid growth now was in the high technology field. He said plastics could be utilized in a wide variety of purposes, including the possibility of plastic car engines in the future.

He discussed recycling and the life cycle of plastics. He said one interesting aspect was while gas and oil prices dramatically increased, their by-product, plastic was still cheap. He said energy costs per pound per product were similar. He handed out a listing of BTU's used to manufacture styrofoam cups times BTU's per pound.

Sara Vickerman asked how many times styrofoam could be recycled. Those present then discussed the recyclable life of paper. It was noted that if virgin materials were added during the recycling process, there was no measurable degradation of material properties.

2. Report on Proposal to Establish a Dedicated Trust Fund for Recycling and Wildlife Conservation

Ms. Vickerman distributed the most recent draft of the Oregon Resource Conservation Trust Fund Synopsis. She said Jerry Herrmann and Dave Phillips addressed the collection issues. She said an annual waste diversion credit could be paid to collectors and recyclers.

Chair Kirkpatrick asked what was the next step in the process. Ms. Vickerman said she would like Metro Council endorsement. She said the goal was to obtain 20 or 30 sponsors and hoped the proposal would be referred to the House and Senate Revenue Committee. Mr. Herrmann noted Senator Joyce Cohen and Representative Ron Cease endorsed it. Ms. Vickerman said she would write the LC language and that a lobbyist had been hired.

Chair Kirkpatrick asked if anyone present objected to any detail or aspect of the Proposal. Chair Kirkpatrick noted the Plastics Recycling Task Force

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endorsed the Proposal to Establish a Dedicated Trust Fund for Recycling and Wildlife Conservation in concept.


Those present then discussed bonding, interest, surcharges, and capital related to this fund. Carrie Heaton representative at this meeting for Mr. Phillips, said language from the City of Portland should be used in this proposal. Those present discussed such a language change. Chair Kirkpatrick said this item could be placed on the next agenda and asked Mr. Gage to submit language to Ray Barker, Council Analyst.

3. Report on Rutgers University Plastics Demonstration Project

Mr Herrmann discussed Rutgers University which is engaged in plastics recycling research and has a large plant on the campus for that purpose. He distributed samples of plastic planks made from plastics which could be used in the construction of signs, bridges and other types of construction. He said they would be put to experimental use in a park. He said this type of building material was at demonstration level at this time. He showed a film which explained what Rutgers University had accomplished in the field of plastics recycling.

Chair Kirkpatrick adjourned the meeting at 5:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paulette Allen
Committee Clerk
PRTF89.044