

PRODUCTS & PACKAGING SUBCOMMITTEE: MEETING #3

Meeting Date/Time: Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 2:30pm-4:30pm

Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84638037035>

Attendees

Subcommittee Members

John Deuel, Oregon State University (Retired)

Kathryn Duvall, Oregon Legislature Environmental Caucus

Carly Mick, University of Oregon

Staff

Facilitator: Lisa LeDoux, Start Consulting Group

Subject Matter Expert: Joel Schoening, RRS

Notes

Identify and refine strategies for the recommendations report, focusing on market development, co-location, reuse/repair systems, and textiles.

Ideas

- Strategies need clearer differentiation between public, private, and public-private partnership approaches
- Co-location concept may be integrated into other strategies rather than standalone
- Emphasis on supporting existing reuse/repair efforts and developing end markets for recovered materials
- Data collection and standardization critical for all focus areas, especially for textiles
- Marketing and behavior change strategies essential across all focus areas
- Need for ongoing education and outreach to support all initiatives

Focus Areas:

- Market Development Strategies
 - Public sector strategies: Austin Materials Marketplace (business-to-business byproduct exchange), Hennepin County small business grants
 - Private sector involvement crucial: Need to incentivize entrepreneurship and innovation in waste diversion
 - Potential public-private partnerships: Innovation centers (e.g., Boulder County model)
 - Leverage existing programs: Consider Business Oregon for economic development grants
- Co-location and Community Diversion
 - Reframing co-location as a tool within other strategies, not a standalone focus
 - Two types of co-location discussed: Similar services (e.g., repair, reuse, donation centers), Diverse stakeholders (e.g., industry, academia, non-profits, government)
 - Benefits: Improved efficiency, knowledge sharing, resource optimization
 - Examples: Durham Reuse Hub, Seattle Public Utilities partnerships
 - Potential integration with transfer station planning (Regional Waste Committee crossover)
- Expanded Reuse and Repair Systems
 - Support social-based non-profits (e.g., Community Warehouse model)
 - Develop workforce training programs (e.g., Repair Academy concept)
 - Create information-sharing platforms for repair services
 - Explore public purchasing preferences for reused/repared items
 - Address transportation and logistics for efficient material movement
 - Focus on high-impact items (e.g., furniture, mattresses, appliances)
- Textiles Strategy Development
 - Prioritize end-market development for recovered textile materials
 - Support entrepreneurship and design innovation using recycled textiles
 - Advocate for a dedicated textile material recovery facility ("TERF" concept)

- Address pre-consumer textile waste (e.g., unsold inventory, production scraps)
- Consider policy measures to increase transparency in textile supply chains
- Explore incentives or requirements for durability and reparability in textiles

Considerations

- Focus on measurable impact (e.g., landfill diversion metrics)
- Support scaling of successful small-scale initiatives
- Identifying specific market gaps and barriers to address
- Review potential integration of on-the-go foodware reuse strategies
- Consider lifecycle impacts and upstream interventions (e.g., right-to-repair)

Action: Research and Analysis

- Joel Schoening to restructure focus areas and strategies based on meeting feedback
- Updated deck with benefits/consequences table to be sent a few days before next meeting
- Next subcommittee meeting: May 6th at 3:00 PM
- Prepare for final task force meeting (half-day) on May 28th to share subcommittee recommendations
- Review potential integration of on-the-go foodware reuse strategies