



Advisory Committee Meeting 03– February 13, 2018

City and County of Honolulu
2018 Integrated Solid Waste
Management Plan Update

ATTENDEES:

ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AC) MEMBERS

- Mr. Michael DeCaprio, Hawaiian Electric Company
- Mr. Dominic Henriques, RRR Recycling Services Hawaii
- Mr. Stephen Joseph, PVT Landfill
- Ms. Natalie McKinney, Kokua Hawaii Foundation
- Mr. Barry Nakamoto, Covanta Honolulu
- Mr. Mike O’Keefe, City and County of Honolulu, Department of Environmental Services

- Mr. Lane Otsu, State of Hawaii, Department of Health
- Ms. Breanna Rose, Hawaii Green Growth
- Mr. Steven Serikaku, City and County of Honolulu, Department of Environmental Services
- Ms. Georgette Silva, West Oahu Aggregate
- Mr. Joshua Stanbro, City and County of Honolulu, Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- Mr. Rafael Bergstrom, Surfrider Foundation
- Ms. Nicole Chatterson, Student
- Ms. Jodi Malinoski, Sierra Club

- Ms. Debbi McQuay, Aloha Waste Systems
- Mr. Nik Nikolaidis, T&N Computer Recycling Services

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU, STATE OF HAWAII, AND PLAN CONSULTANTS

- Mr. Evan Bisho, City and County of Honolulu, Department of Environmental Services
- Ms. Miya DeVoogd, City and County of Honolulu, Department of Environmental Services
- Ms. Julie Leano, City and County of Honolulu, Department of Environmental Services

- Mr. Josh Nagashima, City and County of Honolulu, Department of Environmental Services
- Mr. John Padre, CH2M
- Ms. Lyndsey Lopez, CH2M
- Ms. Elizabeth Schwing, CH2M

- COPY TO:** City and County of Honolulu, Department of Environmental Services, Refuse Division
- PREPARED BY:** CH2M
- MEETING DATE:** February 13, 2018
- PROJECT:** City and County of Honolulu 2018 Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan Update
- VERSION:** Final

This document provides notes from the February 13, 2018 Advisory Committee meeting. The notes include additional information from the City in response to some questions raised during the meeting. These responses are provided in square brackets and italics (i.e., [ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.....]).

Objectives

The purpose of this meeting was to confirm accuracy of the January 9, 2018 Advisory Committee (AC) Meeting 02 meeting minutes, review of comment/resolution on AC comments from Section 1 and Section 5, and to discuss and review the following draft sections of the City and County of Honolulu 2018 Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan Update (Plan): 1) Section 3, Source Reduction; 2) Section 4, Recycling and Bioconversion; and 3) Section 6, Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste.

Summary

Topics and discussions from the meeting are summarized below.

Introductions, Agenda Overview

- CH2M reviewed the meeting agenda, which is as follows:
 1. Welcome and Agenda Overview
 2. January 9, 2018 Meeting Minutes – Comments or Corrections
 3. Review of Comment/Resolution on Sections 1 and 5
 4. Presentation and Discussion – Section 3, Source Reduction
 5. Public Comments on Section 3
 6. Presentation and Discussion – Section 4, Recycling and Bioconversion
 7. Public Comments on Section 4
 8. Presentation and Discussion – Section 6, Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste
 9. Public Comments on Section 6
 10. Next Steps, Thank You, and Adjournment

January 9, 2018 Meeting Minutes – Comments or Corrections

- It was noted that the timeframe for the increase in wood waste recycling due to PVT's new gasification facility should be one to two years.
- No other comments were received on the notes from the last meeting.

Review of Comment/Resolution on Sections 1 and 5

- No comments were received on the comments/resolution on Sections 1 and 5.

Section 3: Source Reduction

Information regarding the following components of Section 3, Source Reduction, was presented:

- Source reduction definition and waste management hierarchy
- Plastic bag ban
- Food waste reduction efforts
- Public education
- Government procurement policies
- Promotion of reuse organizations
- Advocating manufacturer responsibility
- Business waste prevention guide and mandatory business recycling ordinances
- Measuring reduction

AC discussion covered the following topics:

- It was noted that the current understanding by some local food establishments is that fees to bring food wastes to H-POWER are less than taking food wastes to Eco-Feed. As such, H-POWER often gets requests to take expired foods from local food distributors. It was discussed that there is a need to provide more information about where to take expired food. The City acknowledged that in general, it can help to mitigate this issue through education for properly managing food before it reaches the expiration date. Further, the City noted that during inspections of businesses to enforce

the City’s recycling ordinances for businesses, it discusses the environmental, humanitarian and financial benefits of not generating food waste because of weight.

- There was a question as to whether there is a dedicated public education specialist position at the City Refuse Division. The City noted that while all staff have multiple responsibilities, of which public education is included, there is no one dedicated position.
- It was clarified that the fee structures provided in the Draft Section 3.0 are included as examples of residential user fees. The City noted that any residential user fee program that is implemented would need to be accompanied by strong education and enforcement components.

[ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – The City Administration currently supports proposed Bill 19 (2018) at the City Council, which establishes user fees for refuse collection services. The bill is currently structured to have a base fee for 3 carts and an extra charge for additional carts. There is also a fee for front loader 3 cubic yard bin collection, manual collection and bulky item collection. Attached is the current draft of Bill 19 (2018).]

- It was recommended that the City consider providing further detail regarding quantifiable metrics and goals in the update of the Implementation Plan section of the Plan. It was further noted that the renewable energy portfolio standardizes goals in metrics and data for energy and may be applicable to waste. In addition, the Statewide Aloha Plus Challenge has a waste reduction goal of 70% that may be considered as a type of goal. Lastly, it was recommended that, with respect to source reduction, a timeline for the next 10 years, detailed goals, and milestones be developed.
- It was further requested that the plan include a clear emphasis on the dedication of resources towards source reduction, a dedicated staff member for public education, widespread education campaign, resolution to support source reduction or zero-waste goals, and support of agencies for source reduction and reuse programs.
- Regarding process for the development of the Plan, it was clarified that feedback is collected upon the AC’s review of the section relative to the associated AC meeting and that a revision is reissued to the AC once again near the end of the process when a compiled draft (including all sections) is developed; no resubmission of individual sections prior to the compiled draft is planned. Comments can be provided at the meeting or emailed at iswmp@honolulu.gov.
- The City noted the difficulty of obtaining source reduction data because while the tonnage of waste processed within the City’s waste disposal system (i.e., H-POWER and WGSL) is known, data prior to waste being received at a City facility is not known. Data on waste to H-POWER, WGSL, green waste, and other operations is available to share.

[ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – See attached graphs for tonnage received at H-POWER and landfill.]

- There was an inquiry as to how the City tracks data from businesses and Waikiki hotels. The City indicated that data is collected by commercial haulers and it is suspected that businesses and hotels track their own amounts of generated municipal solid waste or recycled waste.
- A discussion was had regarding the structure of the AC meetings and a recommendation made to consider spending less time on the discussion of existing conditions and strategies, and more time gathering feedback from the AC on key issues. The City noted that while this recommendation will be evaluated, the intent of the meetings is to provide a high-level review such that all portions of the plan are covered in the allotted time. It was further noted that these meetings present an opportunity to share information on City operations/constraints relative to specific topics. Another AC member noted that the information being shared is extremely useful and that it is a good process to inform AC members on the progress of legislative bills associated with solid waste.

- As it relates to residential user fee options, there was an inquiry as to whether any projections were performed to evaluate the effectiveness or potential negative implications (e.g. illegal dumping) of any of the residential user fee options and whether it could result in higher contamination of the recycling stream. The City indicated that they are sensitive to illegal dumping and will continue to provide additional disposal opportunities outside of curbside disposal (i.e., convenience centers and transfer stations).

[ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – Refuse Division already does have personnel (inspectors/recycling staff) who educate and monitor residents contaminating their blue or green bins with prohibited materials. If such contamination continues, the recycling cart is removed from the residence.]

- It was recommended that credits to businesses for recycling be considered (i.e., via legislation) to incentivize diversion.
- There were multiple comments from the public regarding the City’s influence on Extended Producer Responsibility and public behavior as it relates to waste reduction.
- There was a recommendation from the public to include in the Plan information about transfer station reuse centers being used on the Big Island and about vermiculture to reduce waste streams.
- Additional public comments included a request for additional meetings or public comment time, and a statement that source reduction is a State-mandated priority for the waste management stream. An AC member clarified that while source reduction is in the hierarchy, it is not mandated by the State.
- It was recommended by an AC member that the AC provide their prioritization of the 4 residential user fee options via email.

Section 4: Recycling and Bioconversion

Information regarding the following components of Section 4, Recycling and Bioconversion, was presented:

- Recycling and bioconversion definitions and waste management hierarchy
- Current markets and volatility
- State Hi-5 program
- Former City-involved community recycling (white bin) program
- Tires and lead acid batteries
- C&D debris
- Green waste and cardboard disposal limits
- Backyard composting/grasscycling
- Ferrous and non-ferrous metal recycling
- Mandatory recycling ordinances
- Public recycling receptacles
- Residential recycling
- Energy recovery
- Public education
- Promote beneficial reuse of hard-to-recycle materials

AC discussion covered the following topics:

- There was a question as to why the former white bin program is included in the Plan update. The City and CH2M clarified that its inclusion was to document its discontinuation since the previous Plan was published.
- It was clarified that the variance for tires at H-POWER is for tires collected at City convenience centers, transfer stations, curbside collection, or community cleanups, and not for tires generated by City departments outside of ENV or the commercial sector. Furthermore, it was noted that the comment submitted during AC Meeting 02 (Section 5) regarding the tire variance would be applicable in this section as well.
- There was an inquiry as to whether an evaluation is still being performed regarding a potential policy to require builders to submit a construction and demolition (C&D) debris recovery plan with building permit applications. The City noted that the success of any such policy would be dependent upon the resources available and the ability of the affected City department that would implement such a plan. Also, it was discussed that the current legislative bill regarding C&D debris would require all State buildings to meet Green Building Council standards.

[ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – City council is currently considering a resolution (18-3) that requires a minimum of 30 percent of the materials generated from City construction projects be reused or recycled. Attached is Resolution 18-3 (2018).]

- There was discussion regarding PVT Landfill’s future gasification facility and the potential end users of its gasification products. In general, the outlook for the anticipate reuse of wood for gasification is very good. The City inquired as to the residue percentage of the gasification process and it was clarified that what remains is residue that is approximately 1-2% of the processed wood volume. Furthermore, it was noted that there is a market for residue that is processed into carbon black, which can be used as asphalt/tire coloring.
- There was an inquiry as to whether it was possible for a deposit system be put in place for white goods, similar to deposit system for batteries, so people could return appliances to retailers and provide for aggregated collection areas instead of curbsides. It was clarified that there is no battery deposit system in statute but there is a requirement in statute for retailers to take back used batteries. In addition, it was discussed that further thought and discussions are required regarding the inclusion of a recycling fee in the cost of a new white good.
- There was an inquiry regarding the City and State’s position on increasing the existing advanced disposal fee (ADF) for non-deposit glass. The City acknowledged that several bills were presented in the past 3 to 4 years to require importers of this glass to increase their fees into the ADF, but all were defeated. The fee has not increased since 1994 and does not cover the current costs to recycle the non-deposit glass. It was requested that AC members provide feedback via email regarding potential re-evaluation by the government to increase the State’s ADF.
- AC members discussed the addition of a possible 4th boiler at H-POWER and the inclusion of additional technologies in the Plan. The City confirmed that other technologies (aside from incineration for waste-to-energy) would be included in any evaluation of increasing the City's waste processing capacity, as appropriate and at the appropriate time in the future.
- Regarding China’s import ban of 24 “solid waste” materials, there was discussion that despite its immediate effect on recycling, recycling will not end globally and that it will take some time for other countries to develop new markets.
- It was noted that, in general, recyclers will need to invest in newer and better equipment to meet China’s contamination requirements. However, the short-terms and conditions of current recycling

contracts (i.e., no guaranteed tonnage, only 90-day out terms) do not allow recyclers to invest in the equipment to meet China’s contamination requirements.

- The City stated that it issued a request for proposal (RFP) for recycling and beneficial reuse of ash the week of February 5, 2018 and that this RFP is the first of its kind in the country for ash, so the City has an extended comment period.
- Regarding the transition to once-per-month pickup for blue bins, it was noted that there is concern that people would begin to put recyclable materials into the trash and the City would be recycling less. A recommendation was made to consider moving away from implementing the transition until after implementation of a residential user fee.
- A comment was made regarding the need for the City to look at expanding composting beyond green waste to include residential food waste and other organic matter.
- With respect to Section 4.2.1 (and other locations in this section) regarding State statute being a potential barrier to changes that the City is looking to make in its recycling and waste management processes, it was clarified that there is no barrier created by any State statute nor are there needed changes.
- Comments received from the public for this section included the potential collection, washing, and reuse of glass bottles; methods of waste stream sorting practiced in Japan; and that Hawaiian Earth Recycling should consider accepting some food waste (i.e., garden fruits and vegetables), which could provide a better profile for nutrient-rich compost product.

[ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – To clarify, Hawaiian Earth Recycling is able to accept and process fruit and vegetable waste in addition to other plant waste from home gardening, and residents of the City and County of Honolulu are able to put this material in their green curbside cart.]

Section 6: Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste (E-Waste)

AC discussion covered the following topics:

- It was noted that global standards such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Sustainable Consumption and Production Section provide specific targets by 2020 for hazardous waste.
- There was an inquiry regarding the comparison of total residential e-waste volume to commercial e-waste volume. The City indicated that its waste composition study will include information regarding the amount of generated residential e-waste, which will be forwarded on to the committee. Additionally, it was recommended that the Plan consider addressing electric vehicle batteries and residential home storage batteries given the likely increase in demand of these products. The City further indicated that it may need to evaluate implementing an e-waste guidance or policy.
- Based on an inquiry from the public regarding advocacy plans to strengthen manufacturer and producer responsibility of e-waste recycling at the State level, it was noted that a 2017 amendment to existing law allowed for the State to support County collection programs. As such, the State is currently working on re-establishing e-waste collection and recycling programs.
- The City noted that there is a need to come up with creative solutions within budgetary constraints and provided an example such as potentially using several of the State’s 30 HI-5 certified redemption centers (in the City) as e-waste collection centers.
- It was commented that recycling businesses would like to see State lands become available for use as recycling/redemption centers; the City currently makes City lands available for recycling

businesses to use as recycling/redemption centers. It was further commented that RRR Recycling Services Hawaii worked with T&N Recycling to collect e-waste at its redemption centers.

- The City noted that an appointment-based bulky items collection program within the Honolulu district is scheduled to begin testing in early June/July, but acknowledged that there are still a lot of items that still need to be completed. It was further noted that the existing bulky item collection program was audited and implementing an on-call appointment-based system was suggested by the auditor. The City acknowledged that a strong public education component is required and more refuse inspectors would be hired for enforcement.
- There was an inquiry as to whether it would be possible to have more time to further discuss the Implementation Plan portion of the Plan. It was noted that further evaluation will be performed regarding the schedule.

Next Steps

- Per request from Josh Stanbro, AC Members will email to iswmphonolulu@ch2m.com a prioritization of the Types of User Fees presented in the Draft Section 3.0, Table 3-1.
- Per request from Steven Serikaku, AC Members will email to iswmphonolulu@ch2m.com their recommendation as to whether or not the government should re-evaluate the existing ADF program.
- Ms. Rose will share the Aloha Plus Challenge dashboard link to the AC.
- The schedule for next meeting was discussed, and it was noted that the next sections would be provided at least one week prior to the next meeting.