

## Zero Waste Minutes

January 13, 2021

**Attendance:** Carolyn Hart, Lisa Martin, Susan Knell, Claire Page, Alison Kettering, Barbara Ochota, Katrina Godshalk, Ruth Blaney, Nora Nickum, Jane Martin, Stefani Galady, Regina Spoor, David Vliet, Loanne Harmeling, Evie Stege; (later) Erika Shriner, Heide Madden  
Caitlin Newman, Kitsap Solid Waste Program Supervisor  
Christina Duggar, Kitsap Solid Waste Education Outreach

**Special guest:** Heather Church, owner of Bainbridge Disposal

The guest portion of our meeting was recorded and can be found at  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iNSeah-13Zo&feature=youtu.be> .

Facts about Bainbridge Disposal:

- Bainbridge Disposal (BD) was started by Heather's father, with one employee and one truck, in 1966. Today they have 40 employees. The transfer station opened in 1972 and curbside collection started in 1992.
- Glass, paper and cans used to be collected separately in small, open blue bins. In 2006, they went to a single-stream (everything in one cart) system.
- They serve 20,000 residential customers on BI and have 1,400 commercial accounts. Their service area includes Poulsbo, Suquamish, Port Gamble, and the S'Klallam Tribe.
- Residential curbside customers generated 8,151 tons of solid waste in 2019. Our trash is trucked to the Olympic View Transfer Station and from there gets hauled to the Columbia Ridge Landfill in Arlington, Oregon, by train.
- The transfer station sits on eight acres off Vincent Road. It opened in 1972. The landfill at that site (just to the east of the station) ran from 1942-1972, and in 1992, the Department of Ecology removed 475 tons of waste and 93 tons of contaminated soil.
- Besides mixed recyclables, the transfer station collects cardboard, yard waste, wood waste, scrap metal, oil, batteries, needles, mercury light bulbs, white goods, electronics, and waste. At one time, they collected books and are open to ideas for other materials. Prior to Bainbridge Disposal becoming the official recycler on the island, Friends of Recycling, a volunteer group started in the early '70s, collected newspapers, cans and glass bottles, which were taken to Seattle for recycling.
- Residential curbside recycling collection began in 1992. It started with a three-bin system collecting glass, paper, and cans. Workers emptied these bins by hand and could easily tell if people were putting in the wrong items and be corrected. In 2006, they went to the single-stream system, where all recyclables go mixed together in 64 or 96-gallon wheeled carts. These have a top and are mechanically emptied, so it is hard to track contamination.
- Recycling is trucked to Waste Management/JMK Fiber in the Port of Tacoma. In 2019, BD recycled 983 tons (T) of cardboard, 4,476T mixed recyclables, 415T scrap metal, 27T white goods, 27T electronics, 129T wood waste, 4,315T yard waste, 648T food waste, 11T oil, 11T batteries and 1T antifreeze.

- The yard waste goes to North Mason Fiber, a mile down the road from the Olympic View Transfer Station, where the garbage is hauled. OVTS is on Barney Road, across from the Bremerton airport. NMF makes a quality organic compost and prefers only yard waste and clippings.
- Caitlin Newman added that we are allowed to put any kind of food, paper towels, napkins and coffee filters in yard waste. Other items require a bit more preparation:
  - > Paper egg cartons can go in if the shiny paper is removed from the top.
  - > Pizza boxes can go in if all stickers are removed from the box and the plastic insert and paper comes out. The top is usually grease-free and can go in recycling.
  - > Shredded paper can go in only if there is no shiny paper or plastic (such as from envelope windows).

#### Discussion:

- In response to our query, Heather would consider taking food waste to Olympic Organics from commercial accounts. OO takes a wider variety of compostable material than North Mason Fiber.
- Heather would also consider putting labels on the residential carts so people would know what to recycle and compost. (This info is on their website.)
- We asked about educating the public through the billing process and on the website. At the bottom of the bill is room for one line of text, and Heather is open to ZW coming up with tips for each quarterly statement.
- She is also open to suggestions for the Bainbridge Disposal website, such as making “no plastic bags” more prominent in the unacceptable column of the recyclables list. (Later, during our business meeting, we also talked about asking to put our ZW logo and url on the BD home page to guide people to a source for the latest news.)
- Heather was asked if she would be willing to support city waste reduction ordinances. She said she would be open to it.
- Styrofoam collection at the transfer station was broached. Caitlin Newman said the Silverdale recycling and garbage facility may get a densifier as part of the years-long remodel going on at the site.
- The topic of the ubiquitous corrugated yard sale signs was also mentioned. Caitlin said she would check with JMK, our recycling facility, to see if there is a market for it.
- Caitlin and Heather were also asked if there was any hope for signage on our bins, to reduce contamination. Not everyone consults the lists online before putting things in their bins, and there are way too many "wishful recyclers" out there.

#### ZW business meeting

1. Events
  - a. **Styrofoam** – The January 30/31 collection has been postponed. Diane has arranged with our Safeway truck liaison, Jay Hildebrand, to have a very brief, targeted collection by special invitation before the next collection to those people who collect from groups and have accumulated huge amounts, such as Harbor Square and the Grow Community.

b. **Trashion Show** – Last year’s show was canceled, but chair Naomi Spinak was able to showcase five outfits in Bainbridge Arts & Crafts window in August. The planning committee is penciling in July 25, 2021, for the next show outside at Hilltop as the site. One model and designer per canopy would be arranged around the field and attendees with timed tickets would enter and walk from model to model.

2. Projects

a. **Recycling at Island Village (Safeway center)** – Sustainability goals for major producers include increased post-consumer plastic content in their products’ containers (e.g., soda bottles). Currently, there is nowhere near enough supply to meet these goals. Starting small, Diane is looking into having Island Village be a pilot for more public collection of cans and bottles. She has talked with one of the employees who picks up trash in the parking lot. He thinks the logistics of adding a can/bottle receptacle to the exterior trash cans would be no big deal. He gave Diane the name of the owner, whom she will be contacting to inquire about doing a waste audit of the trash to see what quantity of cans and bottles are discarded. Jane is working on designing a temporary attachment to collect the recyclables.

b. **Multifamily recycling** – Alison heads up plastic film (suspended due to Covid) and Styrofoam collection at Harbor Square, with 180 units. She is going to attempt to make contact with people in other MF residences to see if they collect non-Bainbridge Disposal recyclables, starting with the trailer park and BLIS, located to the north of Harbor Square.

*Anyone with suggestions for MF residences to connect with should contact Alison, [aketteri@carleton.edu](mailto:aketteri@carleton.edu).*

3. Communication

a. **ZW Facebook page** – Susan Knell created the page for us. She and Diane have been posting. *They ask that you invite your friends to like the page.*

b. **ZW newsletter** – Without many tabling opportunities, the newsletter still picked up 60 new subscribers in 2020. Diane wondered if she should ask the readers if there were types of content they would like to see more of. It couldn’t hurt, was the consensus.