

MEMORANDUM

July 21, 1999

TO: Mayor Vera Katz
Commissioner Charlie Hales
Commissioner Jim Francesconi
Commissioner Dan Saltzman
Commissioner Erik Sten
Auditor Gary Blackmer

FROM: Doug Morgan, Chair of the Portland Utilities Review Board

RE: Recommendation on Commingling Proposal

The Portland Utilities Review Board reviewed and commented on the proposal by the Bureau of Environmental Services for increased commingling of recyclable materials at its July 14, 1999 meeting. Although the meeting did not have a quorum for a formal vote on this proposal, there were several conclusions that were reached by those in attendance:

- 1 The PURB reviewed the program proposal, and members expressed differences of opinion on various policy aspects of the proposal
- 2 From strictly a rate perspective, the members agreed that the rate impacts of the proposal would not be particularly large
- 3 The members attending the meeting unanimously endorsed the rate reduction opportunities that this proposal seems to provide

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input into the decision-making process for the commingling proposal



RECEIVED BY

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July 6, 1999

**COMMISSIONER
DAN SALTZMAN**

Councilman Saltzman
City of Portland

re Commingled Collection

Dear Dan,

Thank you for arranging the meeting on Friday July 2nd with interested parties to discuss the issues and potential solutions to the commingled collection of glass containers. The compromise BES proposal which you brought to the table shows progress towards a workable solution. Separation of the glass containers into an individual five gallon pail and maintaining this separation or additional glass color separation in the truck will allow existing local manufacturers to continue as a viable market for this recyclable commodity. The unwillingness of the regulated profit guaranteed haulers to consider this or any compromise is what we have faced for the past 18 months on this issue. I feel it is critical to the success of this compromise that the separation of glass containers be mandated not only for the residential households but for the franchised haulers. This compromise contains fewer sorts than the existing system and will reduce the collection costs passed through to the consumer.

The state has mandated a recycling market hierarchy through recycled content legislation and we have invested to meet our requirements. Historically container mix commingled system in California have a container/fiberglass market yield as low as 50% (per Strategic Materials 5/21/99). The remaining 50% is marketed as aggregate or landfilled. When SB 66 was passed, we supported the bill and are committed to meeting it's minimum recycled content goals. To achieve the minimum recycled content goals Owens-Brockway requires the accessibility to the curbside collected glass stream. If this glass cullet is "flow controlled" as mixed by the City of Portland then it makes it unavailable to our process for recovery into new glass containers and the recycled content goal unattainable. Recently Seattled reversed their container mix collection and started glass collection color separated.

I appreciate your willingness to attack this difficult issue and look forward to cooperating further in reaching a solution. I will continue to be an advocate for the color separation of glass containers to maintain all recycled glass market options.

Bob Dolphin
Plant Engineer
Owens-Brockway Glass Containers Inc

cc Sue Kiel BES
Tom Carnahan OB Portland

TESTIMONY ON RECYCLING RESOLUTION

21-Jul-99

- ✓1 Bill Findlay
- ✓2 Lynne STORZ, Washington Co Solid Waste
- ✓3 Ed G. Hodge - Recycling Advocates ✓
- ✓4 Gene R. Lindholm Owens Brockway ✓
- ✓5 Sherrine Raab " " SE Woodward ✓
- ✓6 Bob Dolphin " " ✓
- ✓7 Tom Carnahan " " ✓
- ✓8 Phil Colombo ✓
- ✓9 Jon Shelley
- ✓10 PAUL BARTON
- ✓11 Amy Shach, 2001 SW Primrose
- ✓12 Ann Holznagel
- ✓13 Xander Patterson 1331 SE 32nd Ave 97214
- ✓14 David White ✓
- ✓15 Gaylon Kiltow ✓
- ✓16 Jeff Murray, FarWest Fibres ✓
- ✓17 Jeanne Roy ✓
- ✓18 Betty Shelley ✓
- ✓19 Bryan Englefer 14041 NE Sandy ✓
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Portland City Council Testimony—July 21, 1999

Mayor Katz and Commissioners, I'm Phill Colombo, president of Central Northeast Neighbors, a coalition of nine neighborhood associations north of I-84 and between NE 33 Avenue and I-205.

The measure before you will dramatically simplify recycling and thus encourage more residents to use recycling to reduce the waste we send to landfills.

As a homeowner, I find this proposal very attractive. It encourages me to recycle more, it should cut costs to haulers, it provides savings be passed on to residents, and it reduces waste we'll send to landfills.

What's especially attractive is the simplification of sorting that is sure to encourage more residents to recycle. Three recycling bins: one for all paper waste, another for plastic and metal, a third containing all glass, is as far as the resident will have to go is separating materials.

Combining recycled products we used to separate into only three categories will increase hauler truck capacity, reduce the number of trucks circulating through neighborhoods, and reduce the number of off-line trips to unload these vehicles. Any savings from these efficiencies will be passed on to residents.

The proposed changes take advantage of recycling technology not available nearly ten years ago when Portlanders began separating reusable materials from unusable garbage. Now that the new technology is here, we should use it to reduce what we're sending to landfills.

We in Central Northeast Neighbors' nine neighborhood associations urge your affirmative vote on this measure.

Phill Colombo
3525 NE 66 Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97213

Routing Info:

Group Manager
 ZIP Manager (if applicable)
 Financial Planning
 Facilities Manager (if applicable)
 BES Director

Council Info:

Agenda: Regular Consent
Requested Council Date 7/21/99
During Council Session Submitter will
 Not Attend Attend Give Presentation

BES Contact Bruce Walker
Phone # 7778 Group SWEET ISW

July 8, 1999

Commissioner Dan Saltzman

Subject:

Descriptive title using appropriate dates and wording such as resolution, ordinances, etc.

RECOMMENDED/ACTION REQUESTED:

(Concise listing of recommendations/actions requested)

Propose changes to residential recycling program that will allow citizens to mix certain recyclable materials

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

(Explanation of this item. This section should be as detailed as necessary to provide the Commissioners with the information they need to make a decision. Why does this item have to go to the Council? What has the Council already seen about this issue?)

There has been extensive research undertaken on this subject that has included meetings with a wide variety of interests. City Council selected BES to undertake further research when this subject was last considered in 1998. Approval of this resolution will direct BES to change the Administrative Rules that govern the recycling program.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

(Revenue/Expenditure? Address current and long-term issues. Was this approved in the budget process? Has OFA seen this item? Detailed explanation)

Promoting this change to the public was included in the Solid Waste & Recycling Program Budget. The long-term benefit will be to help contain costs of collecting recyclables that are paid by ratepayers.

**BES Supplemental Report
Council Ordinance/Resolution Package**

35807

IV. LEGAL ISSUES:

(What are the legal issues? Cite ORS, ordinances or other city administrative procedure if appropriate)

This resolution meets ORS recycling requirements

V. CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES:

(Policy/Political)

There has been controversy in the past when changes to the recycling program were considered. Concerns were raised regarding the handling of glass in the recycling program. This resolution is a compromise that requires glass to be collected separately from other recyclable materials.

VI. LINK TO CURRENT CITY POLICIES:

(Consistent/Changes Needed)

This resolution is consistent with City goals to increase recycling levels and contain costs for ratepayers.

VII. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

(What has been the citizen involvement – Formal, i.e. task force or committee – neighborhood or business associations, etc.? Informal input? Do you anticipate citizen testimony at the council meeting? Who?)

There has been a significant level of public involvement with three advisory committees reviewing the issue. Because of the level of interest in this subject, there will be public testimony at the Council hearing from recycling industry representatives and interest groups.

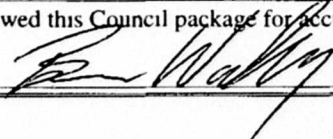
VIII. OTHER GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION:

(Does it affect another jurisdiction or city bureau? Do they know about it? How have they been involved?)

Other local governments in the Metro region are considering similar changes to their recycling programs and numerous meetings have occurred with their staffs.

I have reviewed this Council package for accuracy. By signing this document I agree that this package is ready for Council's review.

Originator



RESOLUTION No.

35807

Direct Bureau of Environmental Services to begin implementation of changes to recycling program that allows mixing of certain recyclable materials. (Resolution)

WHEREAS, Portland residents have participated in the recycling program in an award winning manner and City Council has established ambitious goals for the recycling program,

WHEREAS, based on City Council direction on February 25, 1998, the Bureau of Environmental Services undertook an extensive analysis of Portland's residential recycling collection program that has involved a wide variety of interests;

WHEREAS, advances in local recycling processing and sorting technology now allow mixing (commingling) of certain recyclables while still assuring high marketability of the collected recyclable materials;

WHEREAS, current market conditions indicate that keeping glass separate from other recyclables preserves high use of these materials;

WHEREAS, independent research indicates that Portland residents would prefer simpler sorting requirements for the recycling program and this action will increase recycling levels;

WHEREAS, simplifying the sorting requirements of the recycling program will contain program costs for ratepayers;

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Environmental Services proposes to modify the Administrative Rules governing the recycling program that will incorporate best management practices and simplify sorting requirements while keeping glass separate from other recyclable materials;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council that the Bureau of Environmental Services be directed to implement changes to the residential curbside recycling program that will allow mixing of many recyclables while requiring glass be kept separate from other recyclables by recycling collectors.

Adopted by the Council,

JUL 21 1999

Commissioner Dan Saltzman
Bruce Walker
July 8, 1999

GARY BLACKMER
Auditor of the City of Portland

By

Britta Olson

Deputy

RESOLUTION NO. 35807

Title

Direct Bureau of Environmental Services to begin implementation of changes to recycling program that allows mixing of certain recyclable materials (Resolution)

INTRODUCED BY	DATE FILED JUL 18 1999
Commissioner Dan Saltzman	Gary Blackmer Auditor of the City of Portland
NOTED BY COMMISSIONER	
Affairs <i>Don Saltzman</i>	By <u><i>Gary Kershner</i></u> Deputy
Finance and Administration	For Meeting of _____
Safety	ACTION TAKEN:
Utilities	
Works	
BUREAU APPROVAL	
Bureau Environmental Services	
Prepared by Date Bruce Walker July 8, 1999	
Budget Impact Review <i>jm</i> X Completed Not Required	
Bureau Head <i>Domant</i> Dean Marriot, Director	

AGENDA	FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA	COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS		
			YEAS	NAYS
Consent Regular X	Francesconi	Francesconi	✓	
NOTED BY	Hales	Hales	✓	
City Attorney	Saltzman	Saltzman	✓	
City Auditor	Sten	Sten	✓	
City Engineer	Katz	Katz	✓	