

Fostering Community Economic Development Through Recycling Workshop

Monday, April 10, 2000

1 – 4 pm

Office of the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs 3873 1st Ave, Smithers BC

Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. Purpose/Outcomes
3. Review of Talkin' Trash Conference and Next Steps
4. Overview of Chelsea Centre's Action Plan
5. Steps for Creating a Favourable Climate for Business
6. Strategies for Implementation

Attendance:

Laurie Gallant, Town of Smithers/Footprint Environmental Consultants
Ken Muller, Columbia Shuswap Regional District (Salmon Arm)
Michael Jessen, Toenail Environmental Services (Nelson)
Garth Blabey, Northern Greens Enterprises/Smithers Community Services Association
Mary Etta Cloud, Bulkley Valley Recycling Society
Sharon Robertson, Nadina Community Futures
Mary Swenson, EDO, Office of the Wet'suwet'en
Darlene Galim-Buchholz, Office of the Wet'suwet'en
Mary Jean O'Donnell, Recycling Council of BC
Frazer McKenzie, BC Environment
Jennifer Capuano, Chelsea Center for Recycling and Economic Development (Massachusetts)
Adam Gagnon, Office of the Wet'suwet'en

Regrets: Ivan Thompson, Northwest Community College, Nathan Cullen, Maravilla Consulting

Resources:

- 4) Action Plan for Recycling-Based Economic Development – Proposed Workshop Outline (Chelsea Centre)
- 5) Action Plan: Recycling-Based Local Economic Development in a Massachusetts Community- Draft (June 1998, Self-Reliance Inc., Washington, DC)
- 6) Manufacturing with Reused and Recycled Materials: 50 Small Business Opportunities (December 1998, Materials for the Future Foundation, San Francisco, CA)
- 7) Municipal Solid Waste Tracking Report Shows More Effort Needed, Press Release (April 7, 2000, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks)
- 8) Talkin' Trash Conference Proceedings

Action Items/ Recommendations

REDC = Recycling and Economic Development Centre (once funding is approved)

Partners = members of Working Group who job description could include research/task listed

RCBC = Recycling Council of BC

- 4) Create a Working Group on Community Economic Development and Recycling with all stakeholders represented: First Nations, Community Economic Development offices, Local Elected Officials, Provincially Elected Officials, Other political parties, Industry, Community Groups, Public Works Departments, Recycling-based enterprises, financial community, existing industries, entrepreneurs, purchasing agents, education institutions.

By who and when: Possibly Footprint as part of Town Contract, Regional District staff responsible for waste reduction.

- 2) Hold a meeting of the new Working Group – seek funding for coordination from Regional Districts under 3Rs budgets and Community Futures. Meeting should happen quickly to build on conference momentum. Purpose is to define terms of reference for new Centre and endorse proposal.

By who and when: Footprint (possibly under Town contract?) with partners (RDBN, CF?) by May 15.

- 3) Write letter to Regional Districts regarding outcomes of conference and requests for support and participation in Working Group and on specific action items.

By who and when: Footprint/Town of Smithers by end of April.

Write letter to Minister of Environment regarding outcomes of conference and request for support in establishment of REDC pilot in this region.

By who and when: Footprint/Town of Smithers

- 4) Develop waste composition data using existing or updated data to reflect impact of product stewardship programs by region and for the province. Can use recovery rate data collected by product stewardship associations, and data from MSW tracking reports, 1991 Provincial Study by Gartner Lee, 1998 NORD study by Footprint and EcoChoice, and information contained in Regional Solid Waste Management Plans. Waste composition is needed for both MSW and Industrial Wastes, especially forestry industry.

By who and when: REDC or proposal by qualified firms to province?

- 5) Promote and enhance use of BC Materials Exchange and bring in a regional focus.

By who and when: RCBC, REDC, and partners.

- 6) Develop Model Community Action Plans (based on Chelsea and other? Models) to distribute to communities. May need three model Plans: Municipal, Industrial, and Sawmill.

By who and when: REDC

- 7) Create a Market Development Task Force with regional, provincial and federal representatives from government, industry, business (retail) and non-profit groups (i.e. RCBC). Strategies include education, secondary content legislation and preferential purchasing policies. Provide case studies and sample policies and regulations.

By who and when: REDC and partners.

8) Identify existing community jobs that could incorporate Recycling Market Development into their responsibilities. Will need to partner with recycling market expert. May be part of Regional District or Municipal 3Rs coordinator job.

By who and when: REDC and partners

9) Develop an inventory of Business Opportunities based on regional waste streams for individual (home-based), small, medium, and large enterprises. Provide case studies. Research Private/Public partnerships (eg. Composting, Salvaging at public landfills). Bring ideas to communities through workshops and existing business development and employment agencies.

By who and when: REDC and partners.

10) Create Financial Incentives for sorting out materials at source and for businesses to transport materials to processing facility (user fees for collection of mixed waste, environmental tax shifting, penalties for burning or burying materials that have markets, structuring jobs and contracts to encourage salvaging of materials at transfer station and landfill). Introduction of bans and bag limits at curb can take 6 – 12 months to implement and education should start asap.

By Who and When: Must be done at local government level and by Province. Follow up with Minister of Environment on opportunity for Smithers to be a pilot municipality for tax shifting.

11) Address Zoning Issues – identify appropriate locations for specific types of recycling-based businesses and ensure zoning works. May need to work with local and provincial government to amend allowable uses (eg. Composting on ALR land). May need to create a new zoning category. Examples of eco-industrial parks (Edmonton, Sweden), converted airforce and naval bases (Massachusetts) were cited. Case studies will be critical to successfully convincing governments to amend zoning bylaws.

By who and when: REDC or Partners

12) Step up existing or develop new public education programs aimed at effective participation in existing collection programs, benefits of user fees and environmental tax shifting, information on end markets, and recycled product information (quality, applications, and distribution outlets).

Programs are needed at local, regional, provincial, and federal levels

By who and when: REDC or Partners

13) Evaluation of Infrastructure for Collecting Materials – assess current infrastructure and identify gaps in service and materials collected. Are there sufficient Material Recycling Facilities (MRFs)? Facilities exist in Prince Rupert and Prince George. Can municipal collection services include both mixed waste and sorted materials? Mary Jean just completed a redesign of services for Alert Bay which can be used as a model. Do we need to pursue cooperative marketing? Laurie gave a workshop on this concept at the Prince George meeting of Northern Interior Waste Managers in 1998 – consensus on the need was reached but there was no follow through – question of funding. Could this function could be handled through the new Centre?

By who and when: REDC or Partners

14) Revamp Proposal for Smithers Centre for Recycling and Economic Development based on new ideas from conference and submit to as many funding sources as possible. Make it a regional service i.e. Prince Rupert to Prince George or Kitimat-Stikine and Bulkley-Nechako Regional Districts, or Hwy 16/Yellowhead. Should we focus on political boundaries or go with watershed based planning? We need to maximize opportunities for working with other groups and capitalize on funding for economic diversification and retraining programs. Recycling Council will write letter of support if proposal can be reviewed – target Board meeting on April 27 and 28.

By who and when: Working Group (led by Footprint and Community Futures) by April 21?

Workshop Ended at 4:15 pm with permission from participants!