

# WGYC REGIONAL RECYCLING STUDY

## FINAL STAKEHOLDER PROJECT WORKSHOP FINDINGS

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- Evaluate MRF options such as
  - Transferring single-stream recyclables only (i.e., bale and ship without sorting) to MRFs in Boise (new), Salt Lake City
  - Identify whether Western will move its current recyclables transfer operation in Idaho Falls to a processing MRF
  - Determine whether Bonneville or Jefferson Counties (or other potential locations) is willing to be home to a MRF
- Evaluate private sector role
  - Private sector may provide capital but need to see policy change first
  - Evaluate long-term, exclusive contracts with private sector
  - Use contract to establish flow control-like requirements to take recyclables to regional MRF
  - Haulers need to work with municipalities to bring recyclables to the MRF
  - Pursue grant funding, bonding and/or public/private revenue sources - such as looking at regional grant opportunities
- Education, data and advocacy also important
  - Need to make recycling easier, accessible and cheaper than throwing away
  - Get the private sector to help develop outreach materials

### **#2 WHAT MRF OPTIONS DO YOU FEEL WILL BE MOST COMPELLING TO YOUR CUSTOMERS – DUAL-OR SINGLE-STREAM? GLASS IN/OUT OF COMMINGLED RECYCLABLE STREAM?**

- Single-stream without glass was preferred by 5 out of 6 workshop groups with these comments
  - Single-stream without glass most likely preferred by the private sector
  - Easiest for consumer, hauler, government, businesses - will generate higher tons
  - Higher tons means more jobs and greater efficiencies
  - Allow local governments to decide how they want to handle glass
  - Glass is inert with minimal disposal impacts
  - Maintain drop sites at central locations where people are doing every day shopping
- One group selected dual-stream without glass because it would be easier for the public to learn, would earn better revenues - also noted that glass may have local markets

### **#3 WHAT ARE THE FIRST STEPS MY ORGANIZATION NEEDS TO TAKE TO INCREASE DIVERSION IN THE REGION (WHETHER IT IS IN SUPPORT OF A REGIONAL MRF OR OTHER ALTERNATIVE)?**

- Adopt regional strategy for landfill tip fees
  - Implement separate tip fees where they don't exist now (e.g., Fremont, Bonneville which embed in property taxes)
  - Increase landfill tip fees to create future revenues to address true landfill costs
  - Increase landfill tip fees to create an incentive for diversion
  - Landfill fees must be higher than any recycling fees

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- Don't rely strictly on landfill tip fees to fund recycling
- Establish consistent landfill tip fees in region so haulers use closest landfill
- Develop over-arching regional organization
  - Need champion(s) to spear-head regional programs and organization
  - Identify what governments/agencies would be involved in regional effort
  - Use organization as a unified voice to politicians - need to develop strategic plan (with goals, possibly not action items) in advance so future actions supported by public with possible leadership by the Eastern Idaho Solid Waste Association, the Eastern Idaho Public Health District and/or Teton Valley Community Recycling
  - Revisit local land use and comprehensive plans to ensure they address the issues of landfill adequately - and incorporate a "best practices" policy such that as (political and other) situations change they are able to implement
- Need to evaluate local collection direct/indirect costs and impacts
  - To evaluate the feasibility of a new regional MRF
  - To determine impacts to businesses already recycling
- Other next steps
  - RAD would help define recycling message, market and promote new programs
  - Waste Connections would conduct a cost/benefit analysis
  - Conduct a survey to query what residents/governments/businesses really want, why they want what they want and if they'd be willing to pay more for new infrastructure/programming
  - Assist WGYC in conducting member survey next fall - add recycling questions
- Other waste diversion programming
  - Evaluate feasibility of new organics processing infrastructure
  - Implement organics collection
  - Evaluate organics backhaul options such as for recyclables between Bonneville, ID and Teton, WY and organics between Teton, ID and Teton, WY)