

WASHINGTON FOOD WASTE REDUCTION PLANNING PROCESS

Education and Behavior Change Subject Matter Expert –

September Meeting Summary

Participants

Bianca Smith – Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Mary Harrington – Washington Department of Ecology
Kendra Tyler – Environmental Protection Agency
MeeLin Nakata
Elizabeth Schmitz - Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Erin Hislop – Triangle Associates, Inc.
Julie Bongard – Spokane Regional Health District
Michelle Picinich – Clark County Green Schools
Sahar Arbab – Washington Green Schools
Dale Alekel – King County Green Schools
Joan Qazi – Wenatchee School District
Jamie Wiggins – Food Northwest
Meggan Uecker – Clallam County Public Works
Kris Major – Spokane City

Meeting Summary

- Overview of HB114 and food waste reduction goal
 - Department of Ecology website will track progress of plan development and invite public comment
- Subject matter expert groups
 - Education and Behavior Change, Hunger Relief, Food Business, Food Collection and Conversion, Food Safety
 - All groups to meet separately every other month through May
 - A cross-sector group will also meet every other month (one representative from each expert group and core team members)
 - Expert groups will provide insight and input on food waste reduction plan proposal
- Education and Behavior Change group focus
 - Food waste reduction education and behavior change strategies in K-12 schools
 - Group can include other topics in meeting discussions (i.e. food safety and food waste reduction in school environment itself) as there may be other expert contributions to related topics
- Overview of solution strategy template and implementation plan (3 phases)
- Meeting structure
 - Pre-meeting surveys to go out before each meeting
 - Surveys will help highlight key topics to be discussed in meetings and gather initial input
 - We will begin formulating plan recommendations as we establish key areas of need/possible solutions
- Overview of project timeline

- **Questions/Concerns/Comments from Participants:**

- Why is the primary focus of this group K-12 education?
 - Answer: That is what was written into HB 1114—to include inputs from K-12 education.
- Excited about the ability of this opportunity to potentially aide growth in sustainability and environmental education
- School gardening is a strategy that can help better connect kids with where their food comes from to help increase consumption and reduce waste of fruits and vegetables.
- Is there funding for K-12 climate change curriculum?
 - Yes, there is funding going out to the 9 Educational Service Districts and 5 non-profits. One of these grantees is helping kids quantify the carbon footprint of food waste. WA Green Schools is doing STEM seminars and trainings with teachers.
- Is there a similar program like this food waste reduction project at the national level or in other states where best practices have been identified?
 - Answer: Yes, there have been similar projects in other states and there are existing resources we can review as a part of this group to identify best practices and get ideas for our plan. We will look at methods for team members to share resources with one another.
- Seattle is one of nine cities that piloted the *Food Waste Warriors* curriculum and conducted waste audits in schools. There is a large amount of data that was collected.
- Will we be learning as a group more information about changes to seated lunchtime and recess before lunch requirements that are being rolled out?
 - Answer: Seated lunch times and recess before lunch requirements are currently being addressed through legislation. Development of best practices to share out to schools around the state will be necessary for successful implementation. OSPI is currently performing a pilot to gather some initial best practices to share.
- Can this group address a need for identifying best practices and resource disbursement to schools to support food waste reduction?
 - Yes. This Food Waste Reduction Plan stakeholder group can help identify needs for resource development, technical assistance, and training to support the food waste reduction efforts.

Next Meeting:

- November 21st, 3:00pm – 5:00pm
- Let Bianca know if you have any issues with meetings being recorded and shared outside of the stakeholder group.
- Take this stakeholder input survey before the next meeting:
 - <https://www.surveymzmo.com/s3/5193726/Food-Waste-Reduction-Education-and-Behavior-Change-Stakeholder-Input>

Department of Ecology Food Waste Reduction Plan Website:

- <https://ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/Reducing-recycling-waste/Organic-materials/Food-waste-prevention/Food-waste-plan>