

PRRP Glass, Plastic & Metal Containers Team Meeting

Tuesday, December 11, 2012 from 12:00 am to 1:30 pm

EPA Offices, Guaynabo, PR

Attendees:

- * Isaili Diaz (Team Chair)
- * Mick Barry
- * José Cardona
- * Laura Cardoso (EFC Liaison)
- * Nanysma Guerra
- * Miguel Lopez
- * Chuck Riegle

Team Goals:

Draft a Bottle Bill

- It has been presented in PR 6x
- The most recent proposal was in ~2001 but it was not edited from the previous time
- Look at other deposit models:
 - Use Hawaii + Connecticut (**Chuck**) legislation as examples
 - Include all containers from the get go (ie: energy drink containers..etc)
- Aim to communicate with distributors before communicating with legislators
 - Bottle bill legislation + communicating with the collection centers goes hand-in-hand
- Aim to make the process sustainable.
- Use jobs as a premise.
 - * *Agenda Ciudadana*: Pardia is developing a sustainability plan

Consider both a local and an alternative market for glass (& plastic, metals)

- PR uses 400 million glass bottles/ year in PR
- Option 1: Keep the product on island:
 - Establish a purpose for keeping it on island.
 - Ie: Could the glass be used as “glassphalt” (glass + asphalt) and used in roads and/or in a road bed? There was a study currently conducted on this to support the use for glass for this purpose. (**Laura to find research and send to Isaili**)
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 - Need bottle production facilities
 - Building a glass facility may take time. Iowa had a bottle bill for 25+ years but there still is no glass center.

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- Option 2: Recycle the raw materials + export the product (ie: aluminum..etc)

Develop infrastructure

- Improve collection at the municipal level.
 - Communicate with the municipalities
 - Cool City training program
 - Use Guaynabo, Carolina & Caguas as leaders/ examples
 - Replicate the model of having schools be collection sites (**Collaborate with the Internship program + Education and outreach team**)
 - Get interns more involved with the community (not just schools)
 - Create the *ethic*

Make it mandatory to recycle certain recyclables/ Create a hierarchy of recyclable materials

- Recycling should be Plan A and incineration should be Plan B
- Work with waste energy
- Develop parameters (hierarchy) of which materials would be the most important to recycle
 - Use the work “excluded” (not “ban”)
- Legislation may be unique to the location (if there are water table issues...etc)

Team goal (to be edited and posted to webpage) (**Isaili + others**)

The goal of the PRRP Glass, Metal and Plastic Containers team is to assist in developing a system, which allows for the recouplement of the maximum amount of raw materials and manufacturing of the best quality products, and to develop a long term strategy for glass, metal and plastic containers recycling in Puerto Rico.

Short-term team goals:

- Get a copy, read and edit previous bottle bills & draft a new one
- Use and market the term “raw materials” (not ‘recyclables’)
- Create a hierarchy of materials to be recycled (vs. incinerated)
- Focus on source separation and curbside collection of recyclables (improve collection)
- Identify numeric targets

Follow-up Items:

- * Send CT bottle bill to Isaili + team (Chuck Riegle)
- * Send stats on recovery rates in Iowa (Mick Barry)
- * Post list of recyclers to web page (Laura)
 - <http://www.prrcycles.org/glass-metal--plastic-containers.html>
- * Organize & create agenda for the next meeting (Isaili)
 - Tentatively set for January 15, 2013
 - Create GoTo Meeting teleconference # if necessary (Laura)