



# West Coast Climate & Materials Management Forum

APRIL 2017

## Thank You & Good Luck



It is with both great pleasure and sadness that we announce the departure of Shannon Davis from the US EPA's Pacific Southwest Office and as a Co-Lead for the West Coast Climate Forum. Shannon has been a force to reckon with at the EPA for the last 11.5 years. She was one of the leaders in shifting the waste management focus to sustainable materials management, including co-authoring "Sustainable Materials Management: The Road Ahead".

She started as a Forum Co-Lead in 2009. During her tenure, Shannon helped develop the Climate Action Toolkit and West Coast Forum Website. She enlightened us through her work on the research summaries, and revealed the true cost of purchasing in the governmental sector with the Climate Friendly Purchasing Toolkit. Shannon has inspired our partners through the webinar series and challenged her

colleagues to think and work upstream, and has done so in a constantly supportive and inspiring manner.

In the world of materials management, we all throw spaghetti at the wall, but an amazing amount of what Shannon throws, actually sticks! Although we are losing Shannon as a Co-Lead for the Forum, we are excited that she will continue to lead in her new role as Materials Management Manager at Oregon DEQ where she will help implement the 2050 Vision to produce and use materials responsibly.

## Climate Friendly Purchasing Toolkit: A Year in Review

Starting in May of 2016 the West Coast Climate and Materials Management Forum started a year-long campaign of webinars to educate users on the Climate Friendly Purchasing Toolkit. The Toolkit allows public agency program and purchasing staff curb their supply chain related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.



## GHG Emissions from Public Institutions



### Why a Climate Friendly Purchasing Toolkit?

It can be quite startling to find that 35-55% of an institution's GHG emissions come from their supply chain - or the things they buy. The toolkit provides resources



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(measurement tools, case studies, etc.) to assist those who want to reduce their impact on the environment through the items, and services they purchase.

In developing the toolkit, Forum partners researched six areas with the biggest GHG impacts: Flooring, Diesel Fuels, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Construction, Food, and Professional Services (contracts). There is also a Trends Analysis tool which allows institutions to compare themselves to other similar organizations.

Learn more about the Toolkit [here!](#)

### Webinar Series

Webinars are available on: Toolkit Introduction; Food; Asphalt and Concrete; Fuel and ICT; and Professional Services. Listen to past webinars [here!](#)

During the course of the webinar series the Forum team has been tracking who have participated, and how they plan to use the toolkit. Local governments made up more than half of the participants; however, state, tribal, federal governments were also represented along with private industry, non-governmental organizations (NGO) and self-employed.

Most participants planned to use the information to build support for changing their agencies' purchasing practices, to identify best practices and to share this information with their purchasing departments.

### We Want Your Feedback!

As we continue to improve, and expand the toolkit we want to hear from you -- the users! We'd love to hear about:

- What barriers you are meeting adopting the toolkit?
- If you'd be interesting in partnering with the Forum in utilizing the toolkit?
- What improvements would you like to see to the existing toolkit?
- What would you like included in the expanded toolkit?
- Any other comments or suggestions you may have

If you have comments on the questions above, please, reach out to us- we'd love to hear from you. Send an email to: [Beshk.Sebastian@epa.gov](mailto:Beshk.Sebastian@epa.gov)

## Circular Economy Opportunities to Collaborate with Private Sector and Economic Development



The Circular Economy aligns with other frameworks in its goals to eliminate waste and optimize how we use our natural resources. A notable difference is that Circular Economy principles resonate with the private sector – primarily product designers, manufacturers, and retailers. The [Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#), a global catalyst for the Circular Economy, encourages companies to reduce waste by redesigning products and business models to the point where waste is designed out of products. The Foundation has taken strides to emphasize the important connection between government agencies, and the private sector to their stakeholders. In many cases engaging economic development departments in

materials management for the first time to facilitate a new breed of public-private partnerships.

At a two-day workshop this March in Seattle, the Foundation convened private and public sector participants in roundtables, field trips, and networking to share their initiatives and exchange ideas. Many speakers addressed the economic, carbon, and resource conservation benefits of moving beyond focusing on end-of-life, and the importance of quantifying these co-benefits to communicate the overall advantages of working higher on the hierarchy. However, a clear tension is that reducing consumption can be perceived as a conflict with private sector’s drive to increase sales.

Conversations often touched on changing, but not necessarily reducing, consumption. Understanding private sector motivators can inform public agencies as they shape programs and regulatory landscapes that make upstream solutions compelling. Innovative companies are beginning the journey to adapt their revenue models though much is still to be explored. The momentum around Circular Economy presents a promising opportunity for interdepartmental collaboration and public-private partnerships to develop scalable solutions that keep materials in economic cycles at their highest value, and out of landfill.

The Forum is continuing to explore how the circular economy helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions through sustainable materials management.

Explore the Foundation’s initiatives: [IDEO’s Circular Design Guide](#), the [New Plastics Economy](#), the [World Economic Forum’s Urban Biocycles](#) report (PDF), and Arup’s [Circular Economy in the Built Environment](#) report.

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