

West Coast Climate and Materials Management Forum (The Forum) Background

What we do: *The West Coast Climate and Materials Management Forum is a collaborative partnership of western cities and states, co-led by EPA Regions 9 and 10, that works to develop and share ways to integrate lifecycle materials management policies and practices into [climate action plans](#).*

Our Vision: Western communities working together using materials management to drive climate action.

Our Mission: The Forum identifies areas for collaborative efforts and strategic actions to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions using materials management lifecycle approaches. We work to:

- **Provide** state, local and tribal governments with tools for climate action and sustainability planning
- **Influence** national and regional policies on climate change
- **Advance** priority climate and materials management research

Our Workgroups: The Forum is supported by 5 workgroups, listed below, that work to **provide specific and actionable materials management** tools for policy makers, program managers, and elected officials to support informed choices, provide information to the public, and drive immediate climate actions. EPA Co-leads: Ashley Zanolli and Shannon Davis

1. Research (Leads: Babe O’Sullivan, City of Eugene and Shannon Davis, EPA Region 9)

Workgroup Goal: To develop, communicate and coordinate actions around a research agenda to support the above priorities.

Focus Areas:

- Synthesize preliminary literature review of research priorities for state and local audiences and shop research agenda to academia for applied research connections.
 - Research priority topics include: comparing waste prevention strategies, changing consumer and producer behavior, upstream impacts and design, optimal waste management pathways, measurement of materials management in GHG inventories, recovery options for materials with weak recycling markets, LCA of organics diversion and disposal, economic price elasticity and product pricing.
- Seek and leverage collaborative opportunities to advance the research agenda.

2. Inventory (Leads: David Allaway, OR Dept. of Environmental Quality and Shannon Davis, EPA R9)

Workgroup Goal: To work towards the development of state, community and city level GHG inventories and action plans that incorporate consumption- and/or systems-based approaches.

Focus Areas:

- Published: Climate and Materials Management Resource and Toolkit for State and Local Climate Action Planning. The toolkit is currently available at: <http://captopoolkit.wikispaces.com/>
- Workgroup members are involved concurrently with development of ICLEI community-scale GHG emissions accounting protocol and reporting standards.
- Lessons learned from Consumption Inventories conducted in San Francisco, OR, WA, and King County.

3. Materials Management Strategies Workgroup (Leads: Bill Smith, City of Tacoma, and John Davis, Mojave Mountain and Desert Recycling Authority)

Workgroup Goal: To develop a framework, including tools and practices, that connect product stewardship – both for recovery and waste prevention – with GHG emissions reductions and to engage in innovative and impactful materials management projects.

Focus Areas:

- Published: A report identifying the materials with the greatest GHG emissions reduction potential through materials management strategies of recycling and composting. The report highlights potential benefits of materials management, including emissions reductions, cost savings, and job creation.

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3. (cont'd) Materials Management Strategies Workgroup

- Our analysis indicates that the priority materials with the greatest GHG emissions reduction potential through materials management in OR, WA and CA are:
 - Carpet
 - Food Scraps
 - Dimensional Lumber
 - Core Recyclables (including aluminum cans, steel cans, corrugated containers, magazines, newspaper, office paper, and PETE, HDPE and LDPE or mixed recyclable plastics)
- Produce a white paper evaluating the potential for using product stewardship policies to achieve product lifecycle GHG emissions reductions.
 - This report will be completed in June 2012.
- Identify materials with high life cycle impacts. This may include materials such as carpet, food scraps, dimensional lumber, and some core recyclables.
- Identify the best management strategies to reduce the life cycle environmental impacts of these materials. These strategies may include product stewardship, green procurement, end-of-life handling, increasing recycled content, and product design changes.

5. Communications (Lead: Saskia Van Gendt, EPA Region 9)

Workgroup Goal: To develop communication tools and positive messaging to advance materials management actions.

Focus Areas:

- Completed: fully scripted presentation explaining how material conservation actions reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and is designed for local and state governments to be able to educate policy makers, inform climate action planning, and help support projects that minimize the impacts from materials. The presentation is available at: <http://1.usa.gov/Climaterials>
- Create tools for an educational campaign to inform policymakers at the agency and political level, as well as the public, about the role of materials management in climate action planning and GHG emissions reductions.
- Twitter and Wikipedia page.
- Refining key messages and developing Forum branding.
- Develop communications plan for dissemination of Forum products nationally.

6. Consumption (Lead: Leslie Kochan, ODEQ is replacing Vicky Salazar, EPA Region 10 in May 2012)

Workgroup Goal: To identify key opportunities to address the upstream GHG reduction potential inherent in reducing and shifting consumption.

Focus Areas:

- Completed: Monthly educational Speaker Series wrapped up in Nov. 2011 with about 600 attendees for each webinar. Received 2011 WSRA Recycler of the Year Award for Public Agencies
- Completed: Internal White Paper to clarify government roles and create a common language for talking about consumption.
- Collaborative Workspace is on-line.
- Community Food Consumption Pilot Toolkit to reduce household food waste will be rolled out in June 2012. Pilot will be implemented by several partner communities starting in the Fall.
- Consumption Webinar Series highlighting upstream work from State and Local partners
- Focus on sustainable consumption/purchasing in our own organizations

For more information and to access our Forum products including presentations and research reports, please visit our website at: www.epa.gov/region10/westcoastclimate.htm

To access our Climate and Materials Management Resource and Toolkit for State and Local Climate Protection, visit: <http://captoolkit.wikispaces.com/>