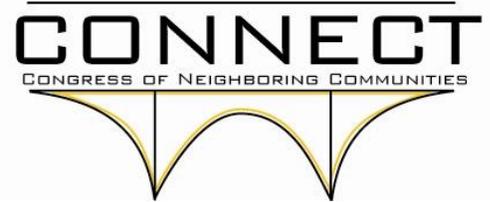


CONNECT Economic and Environmental Development

Working Group meeting

Thursday | February 13, 2020 | 1:00pm
Dormont Rec Center | 1801 Dormont Ave



Municipal Attendees: Judy Miller, Bethel Park; Alicia Carberry, Pittsburgh; Megan Tuñon, Etna; Ben Estell, Dormont; Eric Parrish, Wilkinsburg; Ian McMeans, Mt. Lebanon; Patricia DeMarco, Forest Hills; Andrew Flynn, Mt. Lebanon; Tara Yaney, Edgewood; Rob Zahorchak, Edgewood; Mark Sampogna, Green Tree; Mindy Ranney, Mt. Lebanon; Teresa Bradley, Pittsburgh

Other Attendees: Jim Price, Sustainable Pittsburgh; Eric Giles, Covestro; Holly Stefanski, Covestro; Jenna Caputo, Covestro; Melissa Trbovich, Covestro; Talor Musil, Women for a Healthy Environment

CONNECT/GSPIA Staff: Lydia Morin, CONNECT; Tess De Jong, CONNECT; Ally Walker, CONNECT

Welcome from the host: update on Dormont's recycling

- Successful pop-up events with 3 neighboring municipalities, in collaboration with PRC
- Looking for a more sustainable, permanent model – purchasing glass collection containers and starting an education campaign, how to build a program able to be scaled upwards

Introduction: This working group meeting is the first time we have report-outs from the projects we commissioned back in the launch meeting. How can we look at the recycling issue not only as waste reduction but also as seeing potential economic opportunities?

Covestro Presentation & Feedback

The Covestro team provided our municipal members with education on the recycling process and suggested policy ideas and action items to improve it.

- Project scope and goals: Policies and process to remove items from the waste stream, improvements we can make to the processes of recycling collection and handling, potential markets for the recyclables we collect and separate, which currently have no market (textiles and plastics 3-7)
- Policy areas they explored: bans on certain plastic items, a tax on certain items, tax incentives for starting recycling businesses, restaurant regulations, a bottle bill, grant opportunities, reducing plastic around groceries/produce and best practices for a consumer, improvements to the single stream system, local guidelines for construction and building materials
- Education to the public was the lowest item on the “difficulty” axis and the highest item on the “impact” axis

GSPIA Capstone Review

- There has been a decrease in tons recycled from 2013 to 2018
- As the language of Act 101 does not lay every detail out clearly, recycling that is happening in municipalities isn't necessarily of good quality

- There is confusion about what materials are being accepted, contamination rates are too high, and there is no comprehensive data collective
- Suggestions: remove glass from the waste stream, start a broad public education program, create a municipal-level data collective
- Project team lead Ally Walker will start contract work for CONNECT very soon, in order to add capacity to CONNECT municipalities to start implementing some of these suggestions! She will be able to work part time for about 6 months under Dr. Miller's research fund.

Regional Recycling Research-Based Discussion

- Should we have a collective goal by the time our last recycling contract is up? Can we tightly align what we want to all ask for?
- Do we see it as important for CONNECT to do joint info and data collection? (mostly nods – the group is in favor) We will draft a resolution for the congress.

Plastics Collaborative Update from Sustainable Pittsburgh

- Explained the need for this large group of about 85 organizations – we need a more circular economy. If your municipality wants to be a part of this collective, you can join!
- You can also request to be a part of the Google Drive folder.

Recycling Partnership + City of Pittsburgh Update

- Explained the current process of trying to move to bins instead of bags
- They are also starting to tell residents what they can recycle in terms of common shapes (ex: jugs, jars) instead of the numbers of plastics.

Moving Forward

- We will support PA House Bill 1322 (the bottle bill)
- Explore options for recapture and source reduction by our next E&E meeting, in June
- Sign up for a smaller steering group to be more hands on and dive deeper

E&E Updates

- Governor Wolf's proposed billion-dollar budget to remediate lead in PA
- On 2/11/2020, County Council introduced Act 152 that, if enacted, would levy a deed/mortgage recording fee that would result in a pot of money for demolishing blighted property in Allegheny County
- Wilkesburg has started their own Get the Lead Out campaign
- The Triboro EcoDistrict is starting to work on some of these issues as well

Adjourn 3:02pm