

Plastics Council Meeting Notes - May 21, 2024

Plastics Circularity Council May 21, 2024 - Agenda

Topic 1: Summit for Recycling Conference - June 3, 4, and 5

1:00 pm - 1:05 pm

- Register at [Recycle Colorado's website](#)
- The room block at the Hilton is almost filled, act fast!
- See the full agenda, policy retreat, tours, and networking details at [Recycle Colorado's website](#)

Topic 2: Change Frequency of Plastics Council Meeting

1:05 pm - 1:10 pm

- Change from monthly to quarterly
- Rationale: Meet quarterly as a group to review results of current Council projects, proposed projects, and other major topics. Two initial projects are proposed today.
- Next meeting would be late August, then November (after school starts and before Thanksgiving)

Topic 3: Documenting Colorado Plastics

1:10 pm - 1:35 pm

- Alice will present a Plastics Council project to identify and 'map' the plastics recycling ecosystem in Colorado.
- This relates to the Council's [purpose #1 in the charter](#).
- She will solicit insights, feedback, and participation from the Council members.

Notes:

1. Plastics overview by Yinghua (Alice) Jin of RockyTech. Please reference attached slides.
2. Regarding Colorado (slides 9 through 12 in presentation) - Alice looked at companies in the value chain in Colorado. Collection, sorting, and some converters, and other industry categories. She found these via online searches, and this was the start of documenting per the Council's purpose #1 in the charter. The next step is the proposed Ecosystem Survey to gather more detailed information on the types of plastic, uses in the Colorado value chain, and opportunities.
3. Ecosystem Survey - Alice has prepared a survey. It is simple to fill out. She needs your input to gather information and insights. She is happy to discuss the survey with you, and if any important or missing information. For example, the group discussed revising the value chain with examples and definitions.
4. Call to Action #1 - Are you interested in helping to further refine the survey, and help Alice compile and analyze the information? If so, please contact Alice directly to work

on this project during the summer with the goal to present findings at the next Plastics Council quarterly meeting on August 20.

5. Call to Action #2 - Please contact Alice to populate the survey with information from your organization. Here is the link to the current survey, and Alice's contact information:

- a. Link to [Survey](#)

- b. Full URL

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/16s-e_X8hzKynsW5Tt9oQtRunpVfDjJ2OWilj46RsBqc/viewform?edit_requested=true

- c. Alice Contact Information:

Yinghua Alice Jin, Ph.D. Polymer Chemist Founder and CEO RockyTech, Ltd. Tel: 217-419-2831 Email: jin@rockytechs.com www.rockytechs.com

Topic 4: Streamlined System to Collect & Process Plastics in Colorado

1:35 pm - 2:00 pm

- Adam will present a Plastics Council project to define and create a streamlined system to collect and process materials, and help boost Colorado's economy.
- This relates to the Council's [purpose #3 in the charter](#).
- He will solicit insights, feedback, and participation from the Council members.

Notes:

1. Outside of the Denver metro area it is hard to collect and consolidate plastic material. Adam would like to advance discussions much sooner than EPR 2026 to optimize collection and then distribution to local companies.
2. For example, Direct Plastics has a model to collect material at a 'facility'. Assess the material, and determine the value. A 'solutions-based' approach. This could be a collection of packaging and post consumer for EPR, but there is an opportunity to assess all types of post commercial and post industrial plastics. Set up a program for collection and consolidation of the material, and an efficient way to get a critical mass of material: Find sources, volumes, and critical mass of plastics. Optimize the collection & consolidation. Optimize the freight.
3. Carbon reporting - The carbon difference keeping material in Colorado vs. export is exponentially more beneficial.
4. There was a question on rail freighting vs. truck (over the road). Thoughts and experience here? Adam - Direct is doing an assessment now because they will have to

be on rail to move the end products. Looking at a rail park. Rail is cheaper. 3x the volume at a lower cost, but the shipping and receiving facility needs to be located on rail lines.

5. Call to Action - Get a group of Recycle Colorado members together, set up meetings in the regions with towns, etc. to discuss what the best way to collect plastics may be. Gather data, have discussions now. Are you interested in helping to further refine this project and the next step? If so, please contact Adam directly to work on this project during the summer with the goal to present findings at the next Plastics Council quarterly meeting on August 20.
6. Next Step - Project team to map out areas of Colorado (ex. Where a network is established, where we know people).

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