



Earth Action Committee

Minutes – February 10, 2021

Zoom Call

Board Members: Pamela Lee, Leah Stamper, Laura Wright, Roger

Member-Employees: Emily Walter, Kiya Villarreal

Members: Diane Ryerson, David Dahler, Walt Paniak

1. **Welcomes and Review** – At 6:45pm the meeting was called to order.

2. **Approve January Minutes**

Approved by consensus.

3. **Member Comments**

- Diane – Attended the Feb. board meeting and reviewed the Strategic Plan. Notice there is a goal to reduce greenhouse emissions. Is hopeful that the Eureka refrigerants can be upgraded to greatly reduce greenhouse emissions. The Eureka refrigerant can be upgraded without changing out the entire system. Another way to reduce energy consumption would be to add doors to refrigerated cases.

4. **Onsite Composter/Digester** – reported by Kiya

The composter is now built and can now be shipped to install it at the Arcata store.

5. **CalRecycle Commission Meeting** – reported by Kiya

An emergency letter was secured from the Statewide CalRecycle Commission with an “URGENT REQUEST TO INCREASE CONVENIENCE TO REDEEM BOTTLE DEPOSITS” to Governor Newsom, Senators, and Assembly Members and the newly appointed Director of CalRecycle. While the issues are not solved yet our local CRV group counts these as victories along the bureaucratic process. Thank you HWMA, Recology, Assembly Member Jim Wood’s office and staff for their dedication and support.

The \$100/day out of compliance CRV fee started on January 10 and is charged to both stores. The Co-op has not yet received an invoice.

6. **Plastic**

How can we educate shoppers to purchase/use less plastic? How can we get producers to reduce their use of plastic?

- Roger – would like to see a display that shows all plastic that comes to the store in a months’ time.
- Pamela – suggest doing a postcard campaign to write to companies and encourage less plastic use.
- Emily – I like plastic challenges where people collect all the plastic they use in a week, to see how it adds up. It’s very impactful to see your own plastic habits in order to see how you can change them. It seems when it comes to plastic packaging that is used during the shipping process, that staff can get more involved with contacting vendors about their plastic use.
- Kiya – we could look at revamping our vendor letter and using it again to encourage vendors to reduce their use of plastic in all aspects of their businesses.
- Roger – likes all the ideas being discussed.

7. **Sustainability Officer Update**

Kiya reviewed the attached Sustainability Update.

- We are close to an agreement on a new durable container option that could be used by shoppers in the bulk section.
- We plan to promote our alternative transportation cards more as spring nears.
- Local Makers Line – we are moving forward with purchasing reusable cotton rounds and unpaper towels made by local sewists that will be sold in bulk per item,

7. Next Agenda Items

- Composter Update
- Tesla Power Bank Update

8. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting is March 10, 6:45-8pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:29pm

Minutes by Emily Walter

EAC Sustainability Update

Covering January 2021

In-store:

Store managers have been working with the Sustainability Officer and have come to an agreement on the style of bulk durables that could work for our store. Discussion will progress after acquiring availability and pricing information.

The deposit payment has been made and final contract has been signed for our very own food digester. The digesters arrival is still TBD but will be before June 2021, which is the required starting date of enforcement of the City of Arcata single-use ordinance. Having our own commercial composting system will allow us to move away from our reliance on petroleum plastics which has become an inevitable uptick of use during COVID in all areas of our Prepared Foods.

We are working on promotions for the Alternative Transportation Stamp Card and the Customer Composting Program. We are still brainstorming a name for the composting program and accepting suggestions!

Local Maker's Line – Sewists have been contacted. We are looking for additional Sewists to be added to the "supplier" list to discuss standard agreements of minimums and unit prices.

Legislation/Community:

The CRV (California Redemption Value) system has been more than struggling amidst COVID. The faults in the Bottle Bill of '86 have been getting wider and the Northern California area has been greatly impacted. The North Coast Co-op has taken part in forming an alliance with other locally owned grocers and our still standing recycling centers to create the Grocery CRV Working Group to work together and use our strength to get some solutions on the table for our community. The CRV Working Group has successfully gotten letters of support from City of Fortuna and City of Arcata with City of Eureka on its way to joining soon! Early February has shown us another victory in securing an emergency letter from the Statewide CalRecycle Commission with an "URGENT REQUEST TO INCREASE CONVENIENCE TO REDEEM BOTTLE DEPOSITS" to Governor Newsom, Senators, and Assembly Members and the newly appointed Director of CalRecycle. While the issues aren't solved yet our group counts these as victories along the bureaucratic process. Thank you HWMA, Recology, Assembly Member Jim Wood's office and staff for their dedication and support.

CalRecycle's Director Wagoner is part of new legislations being proposed which would have effects on monies available in the future for reaching CA landfill diversion goals.