

**Foam-Free Seattle**  
**Meeting Minutes 4-23-07**

1. Debrief 4-16-07 meeting with Vicky Beaumont of City of Seattle

It was agreed that the meeting with Vicky went well. There were six Foam Free Seattle representatives present, and we were joined about half-way through the meeting by Chris Miller, Real Change reporter.

We discussed the recently completed report, "Seattle Solid Waste Recycling, Waste Reduction, and Facilities Opportunities," and reviewed the section on styrofoam. The problem of polystyrene is not slated to be addressed by the city until 2012. We discussed the impacts of polystyrene use that are not addressed by the study's primary focus on weight. The study is being reviewed by City Council and the Mayor's Office, and policy recommendations will be made by the end of June. On June 7<sup>th</sup> there will be a public comment meeting on the waste reduction study.

We presented Vicky with the specific wording of our ban request, as well as a list of national and local businesses we have contacted that do not use polystyrene. Eric discussed alternatives to polystyrene, and brought along samples. We left some with Vicky.

Vicky will speak with Ray or Chuck and request that they meet with the Mayor to present the ban, and to get his response to it. Vicky will contact Ellie about the date of the meeting to be set up between the Mayor and Ray or Chuck to discuss the proposed polystyrene ban.

2. Suggestions for FFS comments at City Council meeting 4-24-07

Only one FFS member is available to attend the city council meeting. It was suggested that Ellie keep comment brief, as this is our first public mention of the ban before the city council, and at this point, we are not asking them to take action on the issue. She will simply introduce Foam-Free Seattle, state our ban request, and suggest that styrofoam be considered as a high priority, not just from the perspective of the waste stream, but as a significant environmental hazard.

3. Strategy, phased approach

We do not support a phased approach. This was not useful in the eradication of mercury use. Public education and voluntary compliance was not effective, but once a ban and enforcement as put in place, compliance was excellent. One argument is that Seattle is falling behind as a "green city," as so many other West Coast cities have already instituted bans.

We want to build our case for the ban independent of the Seattle's waste reduction study, as styrofoam has significant negative impacts not reflected by measures of weight. For

example, in Seattle's study, the primary focus of waste composition was by tonnage, and therefore polystyrene was not listed as high a priority. We want to present the need for the ban in a more well-rounded way. McDonald's found that, although polystyrene containers made up only 1% of the weight of their trash, it comprised 90% of the volume of materials being sent to landfills. This created a great deal of cost in transport, fuel and dumping costs. Transport created air pollution, and a significant amount of space was taken up in landfills.

Ellie will e-mail Vicky to request the meeting date set up for the mayor to meet with Ray or Chick to discuss the proposed ban. We would like to set up a meeting with the city the next day or soon after to discuss the results of the meeting. As soon as our meeting with the city is set up, we will let everyone in our working group know.

#### 4. New members, update on list serve

Heather will update the list serve and add the new people we got in response to the PCC article. We will not be sending meeting minutes to people on our list serve not active in FFS. We will instead alert them to city council meeting dates, and specific support requests. If they want more detailed information, they can get it on our website. We do not want to inundate people on the list serve with unwanted communications.

#### 5. Outreach to businesses –

We want to make our list of businesses not using polystyrene more extensive. Ellie will type up a list of the businesses we have already called and send it to Sarah. Sarah will generate more names of businesses and we will contact them.

#### 6. Ideas for further public comment, watching city council

An article on Foam-Free Seattle will be coming out in this week's issue of Real Change, due out on 4/25.

Sarah printed out the responses we got on our website to the April PCC article on Foam-Free Seattle, and we read them aloud. The responses were forwarded to Sound Consumer editor, Trudy Bialic.

The next meeting will be set once we meet again with the city, which will be ideally the day after city staff meet with mayor to discuss proposed ban. We do not yet have a location for our meeting. We are considering meeting in a local restaurant.