

Maine Climate Council Materials Management Task Force

March 18, 2024

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Meeting held via Zoom (not recorded)

Please refer to [MMTF webpage](#) for additional information about the Task Force.

Present (via Zoom):

- Staff/Facilitator: Megan Mansfield-Pryor, Maine Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future
- Maine Climate Council Intern: Wilson Haims
- Invited Attendees Presenting:
 - Mark Turner (US EPA)
 - Katherine Blauvelt (Industrious Labs)
- MMTF Members in attendance:
 - Greg Williams (Agri Cycle)
 - Jamie Garvin (ecomaine)
 - Lane Gould (BGS)
 - Mark Draper (AWS)
 - Carla Hopkins (DEP)
 - Abbie Webb (Casella)
 - Travis Peaslee (LAWPCA)

Meeting Minutes

- 1:00p.m. to 1:15pm: Introductions of Task Force Members and Guests
- 1:15-3:00pm: Discussion of methane scoping work that will look at opportunities to reduce methane and opportunities to capture non-fossil methane. The study will not be done in time to inform Task Force, but strategies around methane should be formed with flexibility to work with study results and avoid duplication in trying to determine specific actions without data on where the biggest impact and potential lie.
- Presentation by Katherine Blauvelt of Industrious Labs:
 - Methane is a powerful GHG, so reductions can help slow the worst effects of climate change.
 - Closed landfills emit methane for a long time; an example was given of a landfill that closed in 1990 that will continue to produce significant methane through 2040.
 - The highest and best practice is keeping food out of landfills.
 - Also, mitigating methane from waste that has already been placed in landfills, both closed and open.
 - Some states have chosen to exceed federal standards to regulate methane from

landfills, others have enacted restrictions on sending food to landfills, another took a voluntary approach asking landfill and oil-and-gas super emitters to work on reductions with success (they received philanthropic funding to support the work).

- There are many funding opportunities (slide in presentation provided summary) to help support the work on reducing methane through various strategies and many examples to look to from work other states have done.
- Landfill operators on the call discussed their experiences and how their gas capture systems function, how they monitor for leaks, etc.
- Group moved into discussion: costs of landfill gas capture (which ranges from 1-3 million), how contents of landfill impact methane emissions, cost-benefit of landfill gas capture, potential policy approaches and funding sources.
- Mark Turner of EPA provided an overview of methane sensing technology: new sensors provide 24/7 monitoring and continual adjustment for optimum performance of LFNG, carbon mapping is identifying fugitive emissions, and what approaches other states and Canada have taken.
- The group agreed a general starting point is to focus on reducing methane in place and increasing diversion of organic waste. The group discussed several ideas, including creating a fund for voluntary efforts to monitor and reduce emissions and provide technical assistance, as well as having an analysis showing where the biggest “bang for the buck” in reducing emissions is needed to help make good decisions. Need to consider PFAS was also discussed.
- The group discussed methods and costs of diverting food from landfills, including transportation cost concerns, and options such as backyard and community composting, anaerobic digestion, and animal feed. Needs identified included more connection across regions, more collaboration, and equitable access to diversion programs. A statewide needs assessment for recycling infrastructure will be conducted as part of the EPR for Packaging Program (currently in rulemaking), and that could provide information relevant to other programs.
- The group wrapped up with the understanding that the conversation would be synthesized for the full Task Force to review and discuss during the Friday, March 22nd meeting.
- 3:00pm: Meeting Adjourned

Reminders:

- Detailed informal meeting notes including timing of discussions are provided in the [March MMTF folder](#), which is accessible to all members and to the public upon request.
- Reach out to Megan Mansfield-Pryor (megan.mansfieldpryor@maine.gov) for any additional input.