

Hillsboro Sustainability Task Force Meeting Summary

June 28, 2018, 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Insomnia Coffee Company (Third and Main Location)

317 E Main St, Hillsboro, OR 97123

Attendees: Anthony Martin, Evan Aldrete, Jeff Pazdalski, Ryan Stee, Carol Brown, Kelly Xu, Kristel Griffith, Laura Schaefer, Mac Martin, Carl Krutka, Scott Dreher, Linda Everett, Heather Robinson, David McInay, Peter Brandom, Jason Robertson, Dacia Bakkum

Guests: Gregor Morrison (Washington County), Emily McBroom (Insomnia), Lindsay Kemp (City of Hillsboro)

Absent: Tom Arnold, Max Ebnother, Bob Grover, Adam Haslam, Mary Moerlins

Summary

Welcome + Introductions

Heather Robinson welcomed the group and asked for a round of introductions.

Spotlight: Insomnia Coffee Company

Evan Aldrete, owner of Insomnia Coffee Co. and Dapper & Wise, shared some background on the two companies and some of the ways they incorporate sustainability into their operations.

The first Insomnia location opened in 2007. There are currently four locations – 3 in Hillsboro and 1 in Cannon Beach. The two companies employ nearly 100 people.

Sustainable measures at each location include:

- Durable utensils, water cups and coffee mugs
- Repurposed (upcycled) furniture (bakery case at Downtown location used to be entertainment center!)
- The Baseline location achieved the Recycle at Work award status when it opened for going above and beyond “regular recycling”. Insomnia is on their way to achieving a Green Business Leader status
- Participated in the Westside Transportation Alliance Bike More Challenge
- Planning to launch a durable coffee mug promotion in the summer to discourage the use of one-time-use, disposable cups.
- Visits coffee farms all over the world to meet the farmers. Sustainable farming practices (use of pesticides, fungicides, etc.) are taken in to account when considering purchases.

A BIG thank you to Evan for hosting the meeting in their gorgeous conference room at the Downtown location! The room is available for rent and comes fully equipped with a large screen and A/V capabilities.

Evan took the group on a tour of the 8,000 sf facility including the area where the coffee beans are roasted. Did you know it only takes 8-9 minutes to roast coffee beans?

Green Business Leader/Award Program

Gregor Morrison with Washington County Solid Waste & Recycling reviewed their goals and the programs they offer to local businesses.

Program Goals:

1. Increase waste prevention and recovery
2. Reduce materials lifecycle impacts from business operations
3. Deliver services equitably & reduce barriers to participation

Programs:

- Food Waste Reduction assistance to businesses. Help restaurants and business find ways to
 - a. Prevent food waste
 - b. Donate edible food to local food pantries
 - c. Separate food scraps from the waste stream for collection
- Recycle at Work
 - a. Focuses on the three R's – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- Green Business Leaders/Green Business Award
 - a. Provides assessment and coaching
 - b. Offers free supplies such as recycling and composting bins, signage, etc.
 - c. Assistance setting up new or improved recycling and composting systems
 - d. Provides staff training

For more information and to apply for a Green Business Award visit WashingtonCountyRecycles.com/GreenBusiness

Washington County Solid Waste & Recycling hosts a quarterly round table to discuss local “hot topics”. Contact Gregor (Gregor_Morrison@co.washington.or.us) for more information and upcoming dates.

Community Sustainability Revolving Grant Fund

Peter Brandom gave an overview of the City's internal Sustainability Revolving Fund. The Fund, established in 2011 and seeded with \$50K, was designed to help provide financial resources for energy saving and other cost saving projects related to the City's sustainability goals. Savings from avoided costs are added back to replenish the fund. Since 2011, 9 internal projects have been funded including LED lighting retrofits, propane mowers,

HVAC controls, bike maintenance stations, ground moisture sensors and fleet tracking GPS technology. The fund currently has approximately \$100K.

The City recently purchased and will begin converting 4,470 streetlights to LED. All of the streetlights will also have controls and be individually metered. Controls will notify staff when a streetlight is out, improving maintenance repair times. Major energy savings are expected with the conversion to LEDs. The City hopes to capture these savings and increase the amount in Revolving Loan Fund to create a community resource that Hillsboro nonprofits, for profit businesses, HOA's etc. can utilize for energy, water, and other savings measures.

Peter presented the group with a draft document (see attached) and asked for feedback. Input/questions from the group included:

- How does equity and diversity factor in to the selection process? Will underserved areas be prioritized? (under consideration)
- People aspects of sustainability should also be considered – not just the energy/cost savings
- Outline eligible projects
- Consider matching funds – applicant would have “more skin in game”
- Offer some smaller award amounts to encourage behavior change (ex. purchasing durable dishware and utensils for breakrooms) that don't necessarily require repayment
- Funds could be used to offset budgeted costs vs. covering all of them (gap funding)
- Can these funds be matched by other city funds – e.g. storefront improvement program? (yes)
- Are the funds available to home owners? (not at this time)
- How will external organizations replenish the fund? (savings would potentially be repaid over of time)
- Will assistance be provided to community groups (filling out application, etc.)? (yes)
- Consider awards larger than the current \$10,000 cap where exceptional outcomes can be achieved

The current budget cap for the Revolving Fund is \$250K but could potentially be increased.

Partner Survey Updates

Jason Robertson provided an overview and highlights from the annual partner survey.

- Environmental Sustainability Plan Project Status
 - a. Proposed Projects: 58
 - b. Not Started: 8
 - c. Started: 11
 - d. Implemented One-Time: 2
 - e. Implemented Ongoing: 37

Actions Not Started

- **E4:** Home Energy Score Pilot (Earth Advantage)
- **E7:** Supply Energy Efficiency Info (City)

- **E12:** Convert biogas to natural gas for fleet use (CWS)
- **RC3:** Eco-Course Certification (Salmon Safe)
- **RC18:** Idling-Reduction Campaign (HSD)
- **RRR10:** Incent Building Deconstruction (City)
- **RRR11:** Incent or fast-track structures that meet recovery goals (City)
- **RRR13:** Green building/energy-efficiency kiosk (City)

Action Implemented One-Time

- **E18:** Transit-Oriented Development Policies
- **RC16:** Backyard Burn Ban
- **RC13:** Duplicative action should be removed as well
- **RC5:** Meter installation will be IOT next year

Energy Highlights

- **E3:** PGE has expanded energy tracker technology to commercial users
- **E8:** City recognized as #1 partner in EPA Better Building Challenge for energy (26% since 2009) and water (11% since 2012) reduction
- **E15:** Chamber working with Prosperidad to expand internships, other workforce training opportunities to help keep workers local.
- **E17:** WTA's Commuter Kickback / Bike-Share Pilot projects have increased transit use, reduced SOV trips and been well-received at work sites.

Resource Conservation Highlights

- **RC5:** City completed 9th of 10-year program to install automated water meter readers. Expedited info helps eliminate leaks / streamline billing.
- **RC12:** City also increased budget for executing ICI customer water savings projects
- **RC14:** Hillsboro School District has now instituted food scrap collection programs at all (minus one) Hillsboro-area schools.
- **RC17:** Since burn ban, 265 wood stove replacements completed in Washington County (94 in Hillsboro), eliminating 100 tons of harmful particulate matter.

Resource Recovery + Renewal

- **RRR7:** Washington County worked with City to identify new recycling opportunities / Genentech to recycle 80% of current waste stream.
- **RRR9:** Washington County + City "tire-recycling" events netted 1,000 tires (otherwise expensive and leads to downstream dumping problems)
- **RRR15:** Over 100 commercial enterprises have enrolled in voluntary food-scraping program, diverting 1,000 tons of food waste from landfill.
- **RRR20:** Reed's Crossing confirmed for South Hillsboro development, ensuring critical natural areas will be preserved and accessible to public.

Member Updates

- The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) is working on a sustainable shopping initiative and have been conducting surveys at community events to gauge community support for a potential ban on the use of plastic bags. Of the responses they've received so far, 80% of respondents are in favor of reducing plastic bag use in the community. The YAC created a "Better Way to Bag" logo which was printed on reusable bags. The bags will be distributed to survey respondents at local community events this summer. The group has also reached out to Surfrider Foundation, the City of Forest Grove, and will be meeting with 350.org in July.
- 11 Washington County employers participated in the Bike More Challenge including Washington County, Insomnia Coffee Co., and the City of Hillsboro. Kudos to David McIlroy for logging the most trips!
- 350.org Washington County launched a free film series on climate change. The first event was on March 10 at Bag&Baggage, the second film screening was held June 16th in partnership with Washington County Solid Waste & Recycling. About 50 people watched "Just Eat It: A food waste story" and participated in a discussion about wasted food. The next film in the series will likely be shown in the fall.
- David McIlroy gave a shout out to City Public Works and Sustainability staff for their efforts around the 53rd Avenue Community Center which is on Energy Trust's Path to Net Zero. The center will be constructed from locally sourced cross-laminated timber.

Public Comment

None.

Next Meeting

- October 4, 2018, Kaiser Westside Medical Center (3-5 pm)