**DOG Meeting**

Dumpster Outreach Group

**June 21, 2023, 10 am - noon**

Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center

1625 118th Ave. SE**. Bellevue**

**In attendance**:

Matthew Joseph

Chris Jarrett

Meiring Borcherds

Zachariah Van Ry

Meara Heubach

Kayla Gratton

Melanie Hodge

Mathew Eyer

Cory Roche

Thania Barrios

Dakota Gwynn

Anne Dettelbach

Laura Haren

Dan Hotovitsky

Lisa Werre

Dan Taylor

Brook Ensor

Aaron Hussmann

Paige Scheid

Laurie Devereaux

Anne Melrose

Susan McCleary

Anne Dettelbach

Samantha Howe

Christopher Jerrett

Diana Halar

Tally Gruelich

The meeting is run by Laurie Devereaux from Bellevue. The meeting started with sign-ins and the chance to vote on time allotted to the day’s topics, followed by brief introductions.

**How far we have come:**

Research that lead to DOG started in 2017. A 4-day Dumpster Summit in 2020 produced 4 marketing plans. There was a big pilot program launched in 2021. Reports are available online at [Dumpster Outreach Group – Washington Stormwater Center (wastormwatercenter.org)](https://www.wastormwatercenter.org/permit-assistance/municipal/dumpster-outreach-group/) Thank you to Washington Stormwater Center for hosting the info on their website. Laurie wanted to honor all those involved since the early days, many of whom were at this meeting.

**Permit Language for Behavior Change Review**

Laurie reviewed her concern for permit language related to evaluating behavior change and shared her emails with Abby from Ecology agreeing that “closure of lids” as an indicator of behavior change.

**Implementing DOG – How is it going in the field?**

* 4 jurisdictions are using consultants, to include Grey & Osbourne, Stacey Clear, BEA, and Aspect . They were provided information from our previous surveys.
* Laurie D. shared a “Prevent Water Pollution” Bellevue municipal code booklet in 9 languages. (She could share the process of creating this in an upcoming STORM meeting.)
* The introduction letter is helpful. It should be sent out prior to an in-person visit and the chance to talk more about it. It can be used as a reminder also.
* Stickers are important and helpful. Chocolate doesn’t hurt either.
* Property managers are important, they can be reminded about illicit discharge issues and help inform businesses about potential source control inspections.
* Remind businesses of benefits of closing the lid - less smell, rodents and no rain inside
* Aaron will post the sticker graphic with Russian translation fix to WSC website.
* Remind restaurants that the Health Department will care about dumpsters also.

Challenges:

* Homelessness is a big challenge – living around them and leaving trash. If dumpsters are locked, trash is left outside. Locks being glued or broken.
* Safety around dumpster at bars at night decreases care of the area.
* The area is too muddy to care for.
* Try to discuss dumpster care with employees who actually take out the trash, not just management, go straight to the source.

Potential partner - Waste Haulers: Solid Waste Dept.

* Opportunities to write dumpster health/upkeep, appropriate size, how often picked up, age of trucks used etc. into contracts.
* Dumpsters full of water from open lids create a weighing/weight problem for them also.
* Soaking recyclables can cause contamination that reduces the recyclability.
* Performance fees can be recorded and used as leverage verses fining/imposing.
* Build a relationship with the hauler, if possible, perhaps you can help businesses talk to them and ask them not to pin lids for businesses and to fix dumpsters.

AI – Paige will share their contract language when finalized.

How to facilitate lid closure?

* Hydraulic lid lifts did not work - are damaged by pickup trucks.
* Buzzer if lid is left open?
* Is there a vector control department?
* No trespassing signs.

**Integration with Source Control Inspections/PPA**

* Ask source control inspectors to keep dumpsters on their radar.
* Add dumpster lid closure and dumpster area housekeeping to inspection checklist
* It does make their inspections longer, more diluted, but equals fewer total inspections in number.
* Where is your spill response, is a good way to start conversations?
* Make business inspections a priority.
* Share inspection times with Health Depart. Coordinate?
* Ecology offers powerful backing.
* Olympia is doing dumpster outreach to sites that are ranked low priority or low risk on their source control inventory and sharing information about source control inspections and municipal code.

Further potential Partners:

* WSRA – WA. State Recyclers Assoc. – all haulers. Table at their conventions.
* Solid Waste
* Downtown Associations
* Rotary’s
* Property management groups

**Data Collection and evaluation**

30 jurisdictions collected information on over 12,000 dumpsters in the pilot study. It is robust and could be used as a good reference in annual reports. It is located on the website. A future study would be great also. Would need consistency in data collection. How best to evaluate? Checking lids two days before inspection, 2 days after and then at 6 mos. was recommended. Others have done 1 week, 1, 2, 3, 6 and 9 month follow ups. Aaron mentioned a Percent Change Calculator he had used to calculate increases in lid closure rates. Deviations in process from the original pilot should be noted. A control group is needed for future studies. Pre and post evals would be best.

How to collect evaluations? MBS? Pro –

Evaluation – Talley mentioned they had developed a Power BI app they use on a tablet in the field with a few questions for clients.

(Does she want to share this?)

“Make me” restaurants are challenging. (Restaurant rating linked to dumpster area’s condition?)

**Permit reporting:**

* Use original pilot study as a baseline.
* Pilot proved concept, you do not have to continue to monitor every dumpster
* A new eval would be good perhaps in March 2025 after the new permit language is released.
* Indicate target audience.
* Was behavior adopted – how best to measure?
* Use data (lid closure rates) to drive changes in communication timing, signage
* Share what motivated changes.
* Record changes to improve programs.

**Lesson Learned:**

* Mailing Intro Letter prior to visiting helped followed by a time to meet.
* Metal signs are hard to install in a parking lot, strip mall area by dumpsters .
* Talk to those who take out the trash: managers, desk and maintenance staff.
* Promote the importance of what the dumpster area looks like behind a restaurant as a reflection of the quality of the food/restaurant.
* Find multiple touch points (people to talk to)
* Leave the pledge with instructions.
* Have a tip sheet with dumpster and other related BMPs.
* Email managers before visits, schedule time for visit.
* Check translations for accuracy with co-workers or community members before finalizing

**Challenges:**

* Haulers are ok with leaking dumpsters as it eliminates the weight of excess water from lids being left open.
* Try to speak to supervisors of hauling routes.
* Transcreate materials
* Multifamily units – add to source control inspections?
* Strip malls – many businesses
* Too short to close the lid – steps?
* Discuss proper sizing of dumpsters, appropriate pick-up intervals.

**Future of DOG:** Laurie Devereaux would like to step down from leading the group. Thank you to Laurie for her years of leadership. She is looking for someone to lead or two people to co-lead. Think about it and let her know if you are interested. Anne Melrose said she would council with the WSC to see if it is a role she could play.

Laurie’s next task – maybe used cooking oil!

This group would like to meet one more time before the next permit is issued, perhaps February 2024. It would be nice to maintain the group and meet again sometime after the permit is released.

Meeting adjourned at noon. Some participants stayed for a short social lunch.