

# LGAC MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** 04/05/2024

**Time:** 10:00 am

**Attendance:**

**Presenter:** Adélaïde Terrien, MARR Program Manager

**Local Government Representatives:**

Tom Watkins, Capital Regional District  
Uli Wolf, Regional District of Central Kootenay  
Andrew Doi, Metro Vancouver  
Darren Murray, Regional District of North Okanagan  
Tal Bogdonov, City of Vancouver  
Ba Belton, Regional District of Kootenay Boundary

**Absence:**

Patrick Donaghy, Mount Waddington Regional District (Chair)  
Lucinda Phillips & Calvin Jameson, IZW TAG  
Janette Derksen, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako  
Meagan Hatch, Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers Canada  
Greg Wilson, Retail Council of Canada

**MARR Observers:**

Michael Zarbl, MARR Executive Director  
Chris Campbell, MARR Director of Operations  
Liza Bobanova, MARR Program Coordinator

Time	Item
10:03 am	Welcome
10:04 am	Agenda adoption
10:05 am	<p>Update on Collection Network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>As of April 1, 2024, MARR has 214 active sites.</li><li>Since the last LGAC meeting, 3 new sites have joined MARR from the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District</li><li>MARR has a presence in 26 out of the 27 Regional Districts. The only one that is not yet part of MARR Network is the Regional District of Northern Rockies, which has expressed interest in joining, but there have been some delays getting the final approval. Another Regional District that is pending is the Peace River Regional District, where MARR has a private site registered.</li></ul> <p>Chris Campbell highlighted challenges with Northern Rockies and Peace River Regional Districts due to bylaw restrictions. Peace River is awaiting approval to remove a bylaw on white goods at transfer stations, expected in June.</p>
10:07 am	<p>Collection Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Total Units collected through 2023: 359,734 representing a 10% increase compared to 2022.</li></ul> <p>Chris Campbell noted that growth in units aligns with expectations from added sites, indicating organic network growth.</p> <p>Michael Zarbl added that despite a decline of over 100,000 units in new appliance sales in BC in 2023, the MARR team achieved higher collection numbers. Additionally, Bill Paton's field reports indicate increased awareness of and compliance to MARR program guidelines at collection sites.</p>
10:10 am	<p>Update on Substances of Concern Programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>15,212 ODS units serviced (693 kg of ODS collected)</li><li>582 mercury switches recycled</li><li>0 PCB capacitors collected so far</li></ul>
10:12 am	<p>Pemberton Transfer Station - MARR ODS Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Adélaïde Terrien discussed the recent visit to Pemberton Transfer Station by Field Agent and herself.</li><li>Two employees at the station passed the HRAI certificate for safely ODS extraction.</li><li>The purpose of the visit was to review theoretical knowledge and operational procedures.</li><li>Employees showed enthusiasm and successfully collected ODS gases during the training, while also gaining knowledge on removing mercury switches and PCB capacitors.</li></ul>

Time	Item
	Chris Campbell highlighted the success of the program in addressing service gaps and emphasized the importance of using third-party AC technicians for regular operations due to their proficiency and safety practices.
10:14 am	<p>Collection Events and Marketing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seton Lake Band (Tsal'alh) collection event was completed in Q1 2024</li> </ul> <p>Adélaïde Terrien mentioned the increase in collection events planned for 2024. She promoted the consumer website <a href="http://largeappliance recycling.ca">largeappliance recycling.ca</a> and encouraged everyone to visit the blog section for program updates and information on collection events and training.</p>
10:15 am	<p>2024 Projects</p> <p>Roll-off Bins for Remote Communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Michael Zarbl discussed a new initiative involving roll-off bins placed in remote First Nations communities to collect large appliances for recycling. The project aims to support smaller communities in managing waste without the need for extensive paperwork. Tracking technology will be implemented to ensure the bins are used appropriately and efficiently.</li> </ul> <p>Finding a solution for Fridge Plastics Recycling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Michael Zarbl discussed ongoing efforts to find a solution to recycle plastics from refrigerated appliances.</li> <li>Highlighted ongoing efforts to separate plastics from refrigerated appliances, but challenges include high costs due to manual sorting.</li> <li>Mentioned the current collaboration with the CRD site and a local plastic recycler.</li> </ul> <p>Ministry of Environment Plan Approval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Michael Zarbl discussed the delayed approval of the stewardship plan by the Ministry of Environment. He mentioned upcoming meetings with MOE officials to discuss plan reviews and address concerns about plan backlogs and operational efficiencies.</li> </ul>
10:27 am	<p>Roundtable – Comments</p> <p>Darren Murray raised concerns about the risks associated with compressor oil leakage during bailing and transport of materials downstream.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Michael Zarbl clarified that the compressor oil used is mineral-based and considered less harmful than petroleum-based oils. However, any leakage into the environment is still undesirable. He referenced European practices where dedicated refrigerator recycling plants effectively handle oil removal from discarded appliances. There is interest in exploring the feasibility of establishing refrigerator recycling plants in British Columbia. He shared insights from European practices, emphasizing the effectiveness of such plants in safely removing refrigerant gases and mineral oil, as well as separating materials for recycling.</li> </ul> <p>Darren Murray also inquired about the feasibility of salvaging parts from large appliances dropped off at collection sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Michael Zarbl supported the idea of appliance repair and reuse but cautioned about potential liability and safety issues. He recommended checking with health and safety departments and legal advisors to address liability concerns associated with salvaging parts. Additionally, he highlighted the importance of using licensed technicians for repairs to mitigate risks effectively.</li> </ul> <p>Andrew Doi shared concerns about battery management, particularly regarding fire risks associated with lithium-ion batteries. Discussed ongoing efforts to educate consumers about proper battery disposal and potential impacts on waste management systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chris Campbell shared insights into emerging technologies like lithium-ion battery-powered appliances and the need to adapt waste handling procedures accordingly.</li> </ul>
10:47 am	End of the LGAC meeting. Next meeting will be organized in September 2024.