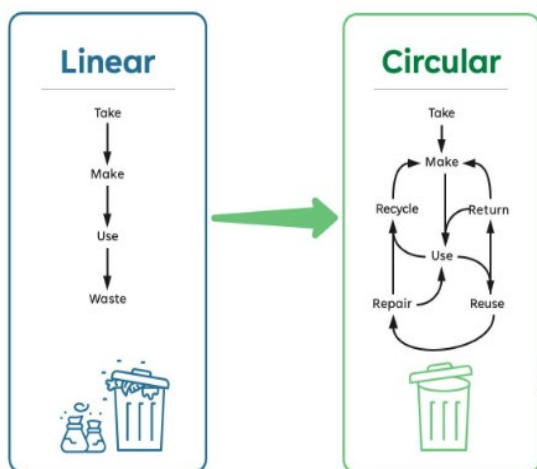


# Washington's Recycling Development Center 2024 Work Plan

## The Recycling Development Center

The Washington Legislature established the Recycling Development Center (RDC) in July 2019 ([Chapter 70A.240 Revised Code of Washington](#)). The law tasks the RDC with facilitating research and development, marketing, and policy analysis to bolster recycling markets and processing in Washington. The RDC is a partnership between Ecology and the [Washington Department of Commerce \(Commerce\)](#) with a [14-member advisory board](#) whose expertise ranges across sectors and specialty.

Figure 1 - Linear vs Circular Economy (NextCycle Washington)



RDC efforts work to establish Washington's [circular economy](#) where materials are reused and redesigned, products are less resource intensive, and 'waste' is remanufactured into new materials and products. A circular economy tackles climate change, biodiversity loss, waste, and pollution by decoupling economic activity from the consumption of finite resources.

Since 2019, the RDC efforts brought together stakeholders, provided market research, assisted hundreds of local businesses, and developed innovative partnerships to actively engage in the development of a circular economy.

## RDC 2024 Work

The RDC team includes staff at Ecology and Commerce who, in collaboration with the advisory board, will focus on **convening** discussions, supporting **innovations**, conducting **research**, and providing business **assistance**.



## Convene

**Bringing people and ideas together to move market development forward.**

The RDC facilitates quarterly advisory board meetings, hosts summits on specific topics, and tours businesses.

**Quarterly Advisory Board Meetings:** At these meetings, Ecology and Commerce provide updates and facilitate expert presentations on recyclable materials, market challenges, and opportunities.

[Advisory Board meetings](#) for 2024 are open to anyone, held via Zoom from 9 am to 11 am Pacific Time, register to join any of the remaining quarterly meetings on [April 10, 2024](#), [July 10, 2024](#), and [October 9, 2024](#).

**Glass Summit:** Zoom meeting will be hosted in May 2024 to follow-up on the [May 2023 glass summit](#).

**Material Focused Webinar Series:** The RDC is planning a series of webinars focused on issues around Textiles for the fall of 2024. Stay tuned for more information.

**Recycling Market Directory:** The RDC is developing a directory of entities involved in recycling. More information on this effort will be shared at upcoming advisory board meetings.

**Facility Tours:** Tours of Washington operations focused on waste prevention, recycling, recovery, and reuse will be scheduled throughout 2024.

# Washington's Recycling Development Center 2024 Work Plan



## Innovate

Supporting innovations in waste prevention, recycling, recovery, and reuse.

The RDC manages the [NextCycle Washington](#) program contractor, supported by US EPA grant funds. NextCycle Washington provides support to innovators working on waste prevention, recycling, recovery, and reuse.

**NextCycle Washington:** NextCycle Washington will award 10 project teams the opportunity to participate in the 6-month business accelerator. The teams will be announced in late spring 2024.

NextCycle Washington teams receive consulting and technical support to develop their business plan, refine their project pitch, identify partners/funding, and present their pitch in a public event, August 2024.



## Research

Providing data and conducting research into recyclable materials and markets.

Market development research reports are available at the [advisory board website](#).

**Market Research Reports:** The [recyclable paper](#), [glass](#), and [plastic packaging](#) market research reports will be updated and republished in 2024. Additional research reports will be developed for agricultural plastics, textiles, and other materials of interest.

These research reports will be used to identify additional actions the RDC can provide like material summits or webinar series.



## Assistance

Providing information and business assistance.

Reach out to the RDC team to ask questions or talk about project ideas.

**Recycling and Waste Data:** Reach out to the RDC team to discuss [Ecology's data](#) on recyclable materials and what is in our waste stream.

**Business Assistance:** Visit Commerce's [Choose Washington website](#) to see the services and support they provide which includes property searches, county data, community comparisons, industry data, permitting, regulations, utilities, incentives, transportation, innovative partnership zones, foreign trade zones, workspaces, accelerators, key sectors, and much more.

Visit [ChooseWashington](#), call 206-256-6100, or email [info@choosewashington.com](mailto:info@choosewashington.com)

### For More Information

Visit the [RDC website](#) or reach out to the [RDC team](#) for more information.

- [Ecology Recycling Development Center](#)
- [Commerce](#)
- [Advisory Board](#)
- [NextCycle Washington](#)
- [recdevcenter@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:recdevcenter@ecy.wa.gov)
- [info@choosewashington.com](mailto:info@choosewashington.com)



Kara Steward  
[kara.steward@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:kara.steward@ecy.wa.gov)  
564-999-0555



To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-7600 or email at [SWMPublications@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:SWMPublications@ecy.wa.gov), or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-8336