



PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL
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Minutes of the Sustainability Committee Meeting
Thursday 7th March 2024

Via Teams

Present at Meeting:

Paul Rooke	BCA Executive Director
Tracy Brown	BCA Secretariat
Thomas de Freitas	BCA Media & PA Manager
Roxy Rocks-Engelman	Cafédirect (Sustainability Chair)
Simon Fox	JDE
Jai Popat	Lavazza
Mary Child	Nespresso
Cavin O'Driscoll	RicCoffee (UK) Ltd (Part of Meeting)
Frank Tanner	Taylors of Harrogate

Speaker:

Gareth Morton	ecosurety
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1. Apologies for Absence

Andy Gibbons	Costa Coffee
Tasmin Hoque	JDE
Emma Dita	Lavazza

2. Competition Law Rules

It was proposed that the meeting would run under the revised FDF competition law compliance rules previously distributed.

3. Notes from the Last Meeting

The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

4. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

5. Presentation – Flexible Plastics Fund – Gareth Morton - ecosurety

Presentation Attached Separately

Gareth Morgan works on ecosurety compliance scheme. Part of their mission is to go above and beyond compliance. ecosurety were also involved with the set-up of Podback.



Flexible Plastics Fund was set up a few years ago now. The drivers were the UK packaging waste reform, PPT, EPS, DRS and Recycling Collections.

Not a lot of plastics is collected, hence why the fund was set-up to understand how we were going to collect it.

RRE asked whose responsibility for kerbside collections was it not the local councils. GM noted that the costs would be the responsibility of the producers, and the costs are going to be astronomical. Depending on what happens to DRS, some may go down that route. Flexibles are more difficult to recycle, and knowledge on how to collect and recycle is almost non-existent.

The ultimate ambition is for all forms of flexibles to be collected for recycling at the kerbside in the future. In the meantime, we need to understand if the public is willing to recycle. The recycling industry also needs to see that sufficient material can be collected to make future investment worthwhile. Currently there is not the equipment to handle items at scale. SF noted that these materials are a range of materials and is there a definition of what is meant by these materials. GM noted that their view is if flexible and plastic it is in, as the consumer is not likely to understand the different types of packaging.

GM noted that there are many organisations who are supporters and been funding since 2021 and funding likely to continue to at least 2025.

The aims of the FPF are to return post-consumer flexible plastic film as food grade plastic and to shift to recycling at scale from kerbside collections.

Retails Collections, to harness the existing collection infrastructure and to help develop new technologies. Finance support is based on output/success.

GM noted that they have their first successful partnership with Aldi. The eco2Veristas platform can use AI waste recognition technologies to identify and categorise waste/recycling.

Household Collections – The FlexCollect Project – the biggest project in the world. A series of pilots being run with 9 authorities. It is funded and managed by a consortium.

In 2022 they started with 2 pilots, in 2023 another 5 pilots and 2024 another 2 pilots, end of March 35,000 households involved.

Key findings that participation has been very good. More material collected on weekly collections vs fortnightly collections – we are not sure why. Coloured bags are a useful tool, simplifies sorting and contains material, with a seamless integration into collection systems. Most of the material collected 90% is recyclable, with up to 10% contamination. GM noted about the issues with ink coverage.



GM noted with the recycling trials they are looking at different technologies, mechanical and chemical recycling.

Recycling trials have been run with companies such as Berry, Meplas, Plastecowood, jayplus, impact recycling etc.

Terminology was tested a bunch of words with the public, the terms that came out best was plastic bags and wrapping.

Leaflets were used to target the public, delivered with bags, along with follow-up leaflets.

Household satisfaction levels were high, and the comms were appreciated.

What's Next?

- The 2 remaining pilots launch this month.
- Planning for the industrialisation phase roll outs by Summer 2024
- Further and more extensive sorting and reprocessing trials to explore end markets.
- Continue data gathering.
- Produce the project final report in Spring 2025

GM noted that we are leading the way across the world.

GM added that reports are available to download.

PR asked the weekly vs fortnightly collections, those in urban areas they may be an issue of space. Is there any push back from local authorities for weekly collections.

PR noted that there is a Govt turnaround from the 7 bins that some people already have but will this have a negative impact or confusion going forward.

GM noted there is a slight disconnect from central vs local government. It is more cost effective to do fortnightly collections, with some looking at every third week. It is unlikely that they will do weekly collections apart from food waste. TdF asked what conversations are being had with collection authorities. GM noted it is adding angst conversations about making decisions, the added issue is with DRS will or will it not happen, there are just so many uncertainties. The other factor is HMRC's consultations on mass balance and plastic tax.

RRE asked is there something that industry could do, the BCA raising concerns with Defra. GM stated that anything that the BCA could do to ask Government to give clarity especially with DRS would be extremely helpful. PR noted that he felt that this is something that we could do as long as we were in line with the FDF.

Action: BCA



SF asked what this means for a business's financial position, and will this be looked at, GM confirmed that his colleague will certainly be looking at the financial implications through the whole system.

FT noted that Taylors use Terracycle, would ecosurety be able to work with them. GM noted that currently they have not considered this but is certainly open to this, ecosurety are very happy on the transparency piece.

GM added that if any company would like to consider being part of the Fund, please feel free to contact him.

PR summarised that we will share the presentation and any further questions that may arise.

Action: BCA

6. Deforestation

- **Current Position on EU Legislation**

PR referenced the recent webinar run by the ECF/ICO on the Information System Pilot Scheme. There are several challenges remaining especially around data collection, not opportunity to upload data only manually. There is some concern on the format that the system will allow is challenging.

FDE ran an internal workshop, DG Enviro had no plans at this time to run further pilots.

PR noted that he is going to pull together a summary document and will put this out within the next couple of weeks.

In terms of the number of MS with no confirmed competent authority stands at around 11. Many are still not clear on their responsibilities.

There have been conversations and some pressure around delaying or amended implementation.

PR noted that there is a new Commission due to take place later this year.

There is due to be another Q&A from the Commission. Guidance from the EU is expected by the end of June, this will be on topics rather than specific commodities.

PR noted at the DG Enviro meeting, a question was raised around the plethora of schemes that are coming forward offering businesses the solutions to EUDR. The point was made by the ECF within these are several schemes focussed on one area such as geo-locations, legal aspects legal rights etc. and others trying to cover everything. DG have said that we will be releasing a template that those third parties are to fill in to allow them to plot what areas of EUDR that they are covering, but we are aware there is no compulsion for them to do this, although some will feel this is a good way to represent their credentials.

- **Current UK Position**



PR noted that we are still hoping to get several retailers together to discuss EUDR as well as other issues, this is progressing slower than we hoped. Efeca has been looking at putting together a specific coffee group, we are looking to find a suitable date, the FDF will also be looking to attend this.

BRC are looking at putting a group or extending their existing group, looking at UK specific legislation, no dates yet.

Defra Officials have stated that the UK will move forward with their initial tranche, coffee is not included within this. Defra have given a clear steer that a second tranche will not be brought in until around 2026.

PR added that we had written to the Environmental Audit Committee, following their recent report on planned UK legislation, copying in Defra, to explain the position for coffee and our overall support, and we had received a reply from the Rt Hon Lord Benyon.

PR asked what the implications are from having this regulatory gap and would there be any benefit for coffee to strive to meet requirements and be ahead of the curve. SF added that JDE would be supportive of the work undertaken by Defra, but we need to be more realistic of the challenges faced by small holder farmers.

FT stated understanding EUDR following the ECF webinar there are so many challenges, and it would be extremely difficult. Would it be worthwhile that other commodities join and state the complexities that there are. FT added that he sees so many organisations claiming that they have the solutions. PR noted that it was raised at an ECF meeting, about approaching other commodities, but there seemed to not be a huge amount of interest. PR added that coffee has its own specific issues as do other commodities and he will certainly raise this back to the ECF again. RRE wondered if we think about sustainability beyond compliance, would it be possible to collaborate given all the ambiguity around this and explore how we might do things differently and even discuss with other commodities. Also was there an update from the ICO working group, and do they have a perspective as to what we are not aware of currently. PR noted that this is why we wanted the Parliamentary drop-in session for industry to talk about all the projects that they are already working on. How we put this together, PR will put together something and circulate. Regarding the ICO, they have been bringing in people working within the EUDR space as well as outside parties. The Chair is keen to link this to produce income, but this has not been raised in the recent meetings, PR noted that he may have an offline conversation with the Chair.

7. Environmental Labelling

• Update on UK Government Position – Food Data Transparency Partnership

PR noted that there is not too much more to report since our last meeting. Our concerns around how the information would be presented by weight or consumed basis. The report produced and circulated sort of fudged. The report has gone into Defra's Food Transparency Partnership.



- **IGD – Report and Labelling Toolkit Development**

PR added that there is an IGD meeting next week where he hopes to get further update at that time.

8. ECF Update

- **Green Claims Draft Legislation Update**

PR noted that not much has changed since the last meeting. It is tightening the basis for claims. The Green Claims Directive will go forward to the new European Parliament. The new Parliament is likely to be less green than the current one.

The Green Washing Directive based on more consumer facing information, it likely to be adopted ahead of the EP elections.

- **Single Serve Units, LCA's & PEF's**

PR noted that the ECF has spoken about PEF this for several years, Covid and several issues have pushed this down the line. It is complicated and time consuming.

SF noted as a community we did not have a standard way of measuring things. We did some work on SSU vs Non SSU within that working group, and a Life cycle assessment was done. We concluded that we need to get to a common basis where we measure things, and as a sector how we report. How you want link how you do your corporate reporting to your life cycle assessment, so we have the greenhouse gas protocol coming up and how we see that and how we treat those claiming carbon credits for insetting and for trees grown on coffee farms and how that project-based reporting links to value chain reporting under the greenhouse gas protocol.

SF noted that it will not be a formal PEF as per the EU legislation as that process is not open to us, but a shadow PEF, that it is an agreed methodology by which we would commonly work on doing footprints.

What is the minimum amount of primary data that would be expected and how you would represent a product within the total footprint, that is built on work done together as consortiums, work done in the USA and Vietnam and Indonesia. Most lifecycle assessments to date are done on public data, which is out of data, we therefore need coffee to be correctly represented.

SF noted that there has been a workshop, the previous workstream fell apart everyone was working to my product is better than your product. We are now much more in agreement to make sure the coffee industry is properly presented. We want to be in a position to represent a cup of coffee as consumed to the consumer. We are trying to take the politics out, and we realise we are not competing but trying to create a standard where we approach in the same way. At the workshop a draft was completed as to what that guidance should read, we are out to a technical provider to make sure everything has i's dotted and t's crossed. Any Member who is part of the ECF, please feel free to reach out to Eileen if you wish to take part. We have selected the third party that we wish to use just a bit of work to be done to understand the gaps. We then hope to produce documentation by the end of May, and we don't expect more than a 6–9-month exercise and then third-party validation after. SF noted that he feels quite positive as to where we are currently within the working.



PR asked how long this process will take, and how in the UK the output will be just as important to those in Europe. SF noted that it should be how the coffee sector should look and report itself, if a UK or European business to report you have some basis for the data. At the end of the day, it is about having a minimum of doing your methodology and what you want to make a claim, but please proceed with caution if you are making a claim about a competitor. PR noted that we will circulate the slides that detail more of the aspects.

SF noted that they will not be setting a benchmark. If you want to make a claim you need to set this against your own claims standard.

- **Single Serve Units**

PR noted that in the last couple of days there has been an agreement between the Council and Parliament around Forced Labour, and Single Serve Units. Both now must go forward to the full European Parliament. The ECF have not seen the detail text of either of these, we will keep an eye on this and hope to have more detail.

- **EPR**

PR noted that some of you may have joined the Defra EPR update. Defra reported around 5,000 large producers have enrolled but less than half have registered details and been validated. The helpline has not been inundated so far. If you are in the position of trying to put data together, please use the services available.

PR added that the new Scheme Administrator is now in place, and the FDF are leading on this. FDF are very clear that this needs to be wider with other sectors represented.

9. AOB

PR added if any Members feel that we should be looking at any subject matters please do reach out.

PR stated that he had been talking with Sustainable Food Lab, Christina Archer, who Chairs one of the ICO working groups, she has been doing some work in Germany mainly around work on Income Levels and if any of this work could be replicated within the UK. PR noted that he will try and catch up with her next week, this will likely be an issue that we will look to pick up on and perhaps have her come and present.

RRE asked about the recent survey that was sent out by the BCA where feedback could be given, PR noted that the deadline has passed, this was discussed with the Comms Committee this morning and a more detailed report will be put to the Exec Committee on Monday 11th March. A summary will be sent out following this meeting. PR noted that coming out of this was some broadening out of some aspects including work around carbon.

PR noted that the next meeting was down as a Teams only, we may review if this might be well be a Hybrid meeting. PR also asked if any Member would be willing to host the meeting, please do contact us.

10. Dates & Times of the 2024 Meetings



Date	Meeting	Location
Thursday 4 th July 2024	Sustainability Committee 11.15a.m. – 1.15p.m. Hybrid Meeting	Venue TBC
Thursday 14 th November 2024	Sustainability Committee 11.15a.m. – 1.15p.m. Hybrid Meeting	Venue TBC