Lunch and Learn Networking Series – January 2017

Our quarterly Lunch & Learn Networking series offer unique opportunities to learn more about recycling, material management and other environmental issues, while networking with new and familiar people. We held our first Lunch and Learn of the year on January 25th at the Utah Department of Environmental Quality offices where we welcomed Rob Kaplan, Managing Director of the Closed Loop Fund (CLF). The Closed Loop Fund is a social impact fund investing $100M to projects that will increase the recycling of products and packaging. It was a fascinating discussion about the recycling industry, funds available to start recycling programs and hurdles to increasing recycling rates. The discussion offered something for all, whether a private company looking for assistance or a municipality or government organization wanting to improve processes and systems.

Rob Kaplan is passionate about sustainability and hopes to improve social and environmental performance, and advance business objectives using the CLF. Every investment the fund makes in recycling infrastructure must deliver measurable financial and environmental returns. These project investments are loans that must be repaid to the fund. Equally important, each investment must divert significant tonnage from the landfill to the recycling stream. Leveraging pay-for-success as much as possible, each loan must have transparent reporting and clear line of site to repayment to allow for easy replication by other municipalities and companies. The CLF is an investment in recycling by providing zero interest loans to cities and below market loans to companies to establish or strengthen recycling infrastructure. By making these types of investments the CLF is proving that a successful business model exists for single-stream expansion and modernization. The CLF also leverages best practices in communication, education, operations, and public policy. To learn more about the Closed Loop Fund: www.closedloopfund.com.