

FOREWORD

This *2011 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan* (the plan) presents proposed strategies for managing King County's solid waste over the next 6 years, with consideration of the next 20 years. The plan was prepared by the Solid Waste Division (the division) of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks in accordance with Washington state law Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 70.95.

State law delegates authority to the county to prepare a comprehensive solid waste management plan in cooperation with the cities within its boundaries. An Interlocal Agreement (ILA) is required for any city participating in a joint city-county plan (RCW 70.95.080(2)). This plan was prepared in cooperation with 37 King County cities with which the county has ILAs (all cities in the county except for Seattle and Milton). Participants in development of the plan included the division's two advisory committees – the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee. The planning process is discussed in more detail in Chapter 2, *Solid Waste System Planning*.

This plan updates the 2001 solid waste management plan and builds upon the *2006 Solid Waste Transfer and Waste Management Plan* that was approved by the King County Council in December 2007. The plan presents draft policies, recommendations, and goals in the following areas: solid waste system planning, waste prevention and recycling, collection and processing, the transfer system, solid waste disposal and landfill management, and system financing. A cost assessment, as required by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC), is provided in Appendix A.

The preliminary draft of this plan was issued for public comment from October 8, 2009, to February 4, 2010. Copies of the plan were provided to King County cities, Unincorporated Area Councils, the King County Council, and the private-sector solid waste management companies and were made available for public review at all King County libraries. The plan was also posted on the division's Web site for review by the public and other stakeholders. Throughout the public review period, 21 comments were received. Following this review, the division prepared a Responsiveness Summary, which provides responses to the questions and comments received and indicates where the plan was revised to incorporate any modifications to the text. The Responsiveness Summary is provided in Appendix C. A copy of each comment received, in its entirety, is provided following the summary.

After consideration of comments, the preliminary draft plan was revised for review by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the WUTC. A final draft plan will be released following their review and any required revisions, and completion of an environmental review under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

The ILAs state that the plan will be adopted when the following has occurred:

- The plan is approved by the King County Council
- The plan is approved by cities representing three-quarters of the population of those cities taking action within 120 days of receipt of the plan

The Regional Policy Committee, acting as the Solid Waste Interlocal Forum, may make a recommendation on the plan or forward it to the cities without a recommendation. After adoption, the final draft plan will be submitted to Ecology for review and approval. The plan becomes final upon approval by Ecology.

Schedule for plan completion

October 8, 2009	Release preliminary draft plan
October 8, 2009 – February 4, 2010	Preliminary draft review and comment period
February 4, 2010 – January 2011	Revise preliminary draft to incorporate comments
April 2011 – up to 120 days	Ecology review of preliminary draft
Dates tbd	Revise preliminary draft to incorporate Ecology's comments
Date tbd	Release final draft
Dates tbd	King County Council process
Dates tbd	Regional Policy Committee review
Dates tbd – 120-day period	City adoption process
Date tbd	Submit final draft to Ecology
Dates tbd – up to 45 days after final draft submittal	Ecology approval period