



The July 29 windstorm caused a few small incidents at SWD transfer stations, resulting in a couple of brief closures. Emergency generators at the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill were turned on as a precaution until the storm subsided. Transfer stations have seen a surge in yard waste in the weeks that followed the storm.

Last week SWD launched an online toolkit for cities, which includes outreach tools, bill inserts, and television and radio ads. The toolkit has been shared with city recycling coordinators, and can be accessed at <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/garbage-recycling/outreach.asp>. It is intended for use by cities, and is not a public webpage.

Polystyrene blocks and coolers, as well as plastic wrap and bags are now accepted at the Shoreline recycling and transfer station. SWD is doing a “soft launch” to test out the feasibility of managing and transporting these materials to Styro Recycle in Kent. If successful, the service will be expanded to other stations.

Mary Jane Goss noted that recyclable materials brought to transfer stations do not count toward a city’s individual recycling goal.

Sabrina Combs expressed her appreciation for expanded recycling options at transfer stations. Bothell considers it a partnership that makes recycling easier for citizens and provides tracking data.

In response to member requests, an overview of how the Comp Plan and SWD’s Business Plan fit together and line up in time will be provided at the October meeting.

## **SWAC**

Chris Eggen provided an update from the August SWAC meeting. The committee passed a motion on the Transfer Plan Review Part 2 Final Report with a vote of 12 to three. If acted on, the resolution would have implications for the division’s budget and work plan.

## **Other**

The City of Bothell is working with the Brightwater Center and IslandWood to host Ecotober on October 17. The event will engage attendees in hands-on learning about sustainability, including the opportunity to explore a recycling truck. Learn more at <https://islandwood.org/event/ecotober-2015-brightwater-center>.

Sponsored by the cities of Bellevue, Bothell, Kirkland and Redmond, the Ecolunch Eastside program includes a free reusable lunch kit and guide to help families make lunches with less waste. Survey results from last year’s participants show a significant reduction in use of Ziploc bags and individually packaged items.

The City of Renton is hosting its 25<sup>th</sup> annual recycle event on September 12.

The City of Lake Forest Park set up a yard debris recycling container at its City Hall, making it available for a week after the wind storm.

### **Process and Timeline for Researching Alternative Disposal Technologies: Presentation**

Morgan John presented [the process and timing for researching alternative disposal technologies](#).

- John noted that the study is focused on the 850,000 tons currently going to the landfill every year, and should not affect the county's current recycling stream.
- SWD Director Pat D. McLaughlin explained that the study is part of the division's long-term waste disposal planning, and will seek to explore the value that could be extracted from the county's waste stream.
- Eggen reported that discussions at SWAC indicate that these technologies have the potential to improve resource recovery.

### **Transfer Plan Report: Discussion**

- McLaughlin noted that since last month's meeting, the diverse concerns expressed by cities have led the division to recommend that MSWMAC not take action on the Transfer Plan Review Part 2 Final Report and instead focus its efforts on the Comp Plan and the region's policy issues, which include its long-term disposal, recycling, and rate strategy. An adopted Comp Plan will help address the cities' shared interest in an equitable distribution of impacts and the pursuit of environmental goals. McLaughlin added that a Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station would be retained as an option, but that starting the siting process immediately is not practical or appropriate. He noted that the division has an excellent history in terms of environmental and legal compliance, and is committed to remaining in good standing with host cities.
- Brian Roberts underlined the need to define the region's vision for its transfer station system. McLaughlin agreed that a holistic approach is essential, adding that policies in the Comp Plan would provide this direction.
- Joyce Nichols noted that support from the County Council and from the cities is essential for implementing the proposed mitigation strategies and reaching the county's recycling goal. Nichols advised that the division take the time to test the strategies, consider the concerns expressed by cities, and develop a plan for addressing them. She noted the risk of losing the goodwill of the cities if the untested strategies are moved into the Comp Plan.
- Meg Moorehead explained that the Transfer Plan Report recommendations would be included in the Comp Plan on a policy basis. The Comp Plan includes a six-year capital plan with a 20-year outlook.
- Paula Waters noted Woodinville's support for the transfer plan recommendations, which include studying mitigation strategies. She noted that disposal tonnage is likely to continue to decrease with recycling and alternative technologies, and that Shoreline is not at full capacity. Building the station would be very expensive, and all alternatives should be considered.

- Several members stated that it is prudent to begin the siting process in order to provide a contingency plan. McLaughlin explained that the division has learned from past experiences that it is problematic to acquire property before it is clear how that property will be used. Needs of the system, host city interests and regulatory elements change with time. He noted that bigger policy questions about the future of the regional system must be addressed first to inform the infrastructure needs. In addition, a premature siting process can alarm communities and potentially have damaging effects.
- Several members acknowledged that the transfer station siting process can create concerns among community residents.
- Designing and building a transfer station takes about five years. A more significant scheduling variable is the siting process which can add substantially more time.
- The division's standing commitment is to close Houghton when there is replacement capacity.
- Several members questioned how disagreements around the transfer plan would be resolved within the context of the Comp Plan.
- Several members expressed concerns that moving the transfer plan recommendations into the Comp Plan may prevent the Comp Plan from being adopted.
- Members briefly discussed creating a Comp Plan subcommittee to accelerate the process.
- Members requested more clarity on how SWD plans to facilitate the decision-making process on regional policy issues.
- Goss made a motion to recommend the [Revised Draft Motion dated September 10, 2015](#). Penny Sweet seconded the motion.
- McLaughlin noted that the motion is data-driven, and agreed that this data will be important and the Comp Plan update process will reveal some of this data. He pointed out that the division wants to be able to act on motions passed by MSWMAC, but that Comp Plan policies need to be established first. He added that it would be infeasible for the division to begin a siting process in 2016 for several reasons, including the County Council's removal of funds for the Northeast station from SWD's budget.
- Eggen made a motion to postpone action for one month and instead to request a roadmap from the division.
- Goss made an amendment to the September 10 motion as follows: "MSMWAC moves that the King County Solid Waste Division prepare a work plan to undertake the following *in concert with proceeding with the Comp Plan process*:" Sweet seconded the newly revised motion.
- Waters noted that the last bullet of the motion has not been discussed. She also underlined that it is not clear that a Northeast station is needed, as some have stated, and there is some evidence to show that it may not be needed.
- Sweet asked how the division has responded to SWAC's motion. McLaughlin stated that the division has had discussions with the chair recommending that SWAC withdraw or amend its motion.
- Goss requested that her motion be withdrawn.

## **Comp Plan: Waste Prevention/Recycling: Presentation**

SWD Recycling & Environmental Services Manager Jeff Gaisford presented [70% Recycling: A Case for Change](#). He gave an overview of three possible options for updating the policies in the Comp Plan.

Discussion included:

- If the division were to pursue a single family food scrap educational cart tagging program in unincorporated King County, frequency of tagging would need to be explored.
- Searcy noted the importance of ensuring there is a market for organics.
- Gaisford explained that Option B gives cities and unincorporated areas the most independence in charting their own course of action to reach increased recycling.
- Members requested a more in-depth explanation of options.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.