

MSWAC Advisory Committee Meeting

Jan. 14, 2026 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting (Zoom and King Street Center)

<u>MSWAC Members</u>		<u>King County Staff</u>	
Troy Linnell	Algona	Kelsey Bailey, SWD staff	
Joan Nelson	Auburn	Ali Blum, SWD staff	
Jon Gire	Bellevue	Sylvaine Bucher, SWD staff	
Ella Williams	Bellevue	Theresa Curry Almuti, SWD staff	
Carston Curd	Bothell	Shawn Carter, SWD staff	
Sycora Powell	Burien	Kristin Elia, SWD staff	
Elizabeth Wonder	Burien	Bonnie Fluckinger, King County Executive staff	
Shellie Bates	Covington	Brian Halverson, SWD staff	
Terrance Mayers	Federal Way	Christine Kim, SWD staff	
Rob Van Orsow	Federal Way	Patty Liu, SWD staff	
Sam Tarvin	Issaquah	Casey Mellnik, SWD staff	
Tony Donati	Kent	Michell Mouton, WLRD staff	
Gena Jain	Kirkland	Amy Ockerlander, SWD staff	
Carly Joerger	Kirkland	Yolanda Pon, Public Health – Seattle & King County	
Daniel Becker	Mercer Island	Terra Rose, King County Council	
Alana DeRogatis	Mercer Island	Hannah Scholes, SWD staff	
Dan Marcinko	North Bend	Caitlin Singer, SWD staff	
Micah Bonkowski	Redmond	Rebecca Singer, SWD Director	
Jesse Dunbar	Redmond	Andy Smith, SWD staff	
Aaron Moldver	Redmond	Chris Stubbs, SWD Deputy Director	
Amy Tsai	Redmond	Adrian Tan, SWD staff	
Meara Heubach	Renton	Cailyn Torpie, SWD staff	
John MacGillivray	Renton	Isabelle Trujillo, SWD staff	
Eric Perry	Renton	John Walsh, SWD staff	
Genevieve Rubinelli	Sammamish	Julie West, Public Health – Seattle & King County	
Mason Giem	SeaTac	Levon Williams, SWD staff	
Colleen Minion	Tukwila		
Paige Scheid	Shoreline	<u>Guests</u>	
Mason Giem	SeaTac	Laura Belmont, SCA	
Jared Hill	Woodinville	Joe Camero, Waste Management	
		Emilie East --	
<u>SWAC Members</u>		Jeanette Jurgensen, Bin There Consulting	
April Atwood, Marketing and Education		Kevin Kelly, Waste Management	
Jay Blazey, Manufacturer		Han Kirkland, Waste Management	
Alissa Campbell, Waste Industry		Linda Lagunas, City of Renton	
Cynthia Dampia, Community Representative		Brad Lovaas, WA Refuse and Recycling Association	
Amy Lam, Local Elected Official		Phyllis Poke --	

Bill Louie, Citizen Representative	Chris Reigelsperger, Waste Management
Tyler Morgan, Agricultural Representative	Katie Stickels, Dept. of Ecology
Laura Mork, Local Elected Official	Rick Vahl, Waste Connections
Leah Tischler, Public Interest Group	Brian Vandenburg, Waste Connections
Heather Trim, Recycling Industry	Hans Van Dusen --
Wendy Weiker, Chair, Waste Industry	

Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Weiker (SWAC) and Vice Chair Gire (MSWAC) called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

An in-person member moved to approve the November SWAC minutes. Louie seconded. Minutes passed unanimously.

An in-person member moved to approve the November MSWAC minutes. An in-person member seconded. Minutes passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Stickels shared several items.

1. Waste Reduction in Schools Community of Practice Meeting

Join Ecology on January 29th from 11:00am-12:00pm for the first community of practice meeting to discuss waste reduction in schools! This will provide time for interested parties to meet and discuss waste reduction ideas, barriers, issues, and success stories from around the state. We will use future meetings with this group to invite subject matter experts to present on topics to address the group's needs and make connections to help break down barriers. To register, visit [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#).

2. Recycling Reform Act Service Provider Registration

The Recycling Reform Act requires service providers to register with Ecology by January 31st, 2026. The service provider registration portal is now available on [Ecology's website](#). Organizations that manage residential packaging and paper products for the purposes of recycling, composting, or reuse and want to be reimbursed for their costs should register as a service provider.

Ecology will be hosting office hours to provide a loosely guided walkthrough of the registration process and answer any questions.

- Friday, January 16th, 1:00pm: [Office Hours Registration #1](#)
- Thursday, January 22nd, 10:00am: [Office Hours Registration #2](#)
- Thursday, January 29th, 11:00am: [Office Hours Registration #3](#)

3. Recycling Reform Act Advisory Council Kickoff Meeting

The first Recycling Reform Act advisory council meeting is scheduled for February 5th from 10 am - 12 pm. The first meeting will include member introductions, an election of council chair and co-chair, presentations on the Recycling Reform Act and the recycling refund reports, and what's to come. To register, use this link: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#).

4. Recycling Refund Model Study

The first study on a recycling refund program, or deposit return system, is now published. This study evaluates and models what convenient access to redemption sites could look like with consideration for public transportation, colocation opportunities with recycling facilities, and strategies to reduce transportation burden on rural and underserved communities.

- [Recycling Refund Model Study - ERG Report to Legislature](#)
- [Recycling Refund Model Study - Ecology Report to Legislature](#)

5. Solid Waste Facility Rulemaking

The Department of Ecology is starting the rulemaking process to amend Chapter 173-350 WAC, Solid Waste Handling Standards, and Chapter 173-351 WAC, Criteria for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills. This rulemaking will address a new landfill permit approval process and new enforcement tools. Staff will also consider clarifications, corrections, and other changes to solid waste facility standards. Please note that this rulemaking is distinct from another rulemaking process Ecology is conducting and will not include standards for organic materials management facilities.

To stay informed about this rulemaking, please:

- Review [CR-101 Notice of Rulemaking](#)
- [Visit our rulemaking webpage](#)
- Subscribe to the [Solid Waste Handling Standards email list](#) to get rulemaking updates and receive the latest information on opportunities to participate.

SWD Updates

Singer provided the SWD update.

Tonnage Update

The cumulative garbage tonnage through December was slightly above tonnage from 2024 (840K tons in 2024 vs. 844K ton in 2025).

Please note that the Black River (Republic) tons are included in the tonnage. The total tons disposed at Cedar Hills, excluding Black River, came to 834k tons.

The recycling tonnage collected and diverted at transfer stations is at 27k tons through November.

Please note that the transfer Station recycling tonnage data for December is still being finalized.

December flood event

Singer thanked partners and shared that there were valuable lessons learned that the team could work through together. She emphasized that using SWAC and MSWAC to develop a regional approach to managing storm disasters would be extremely helpful, as there is currently no comprehensive playbook—only fragmented pieces. She noted the need for a collective effort to better understand how to stand up and support the communities we serve. Singer thanked everyone again and added that SWD will continue offering free debris collection for several more weeks, recognizing that many communities are still assessing the extent and impact of the storm damage.

King County is in the recovery phase following the Dec. 5–22 flood event. Multiple divisions are supporting the recovery effort, including the Water and Land Resources Division, which continues to manage levees and ensure structures are stabilized. SWD is focused on managing incoming debris, particularly construction and demolition materials from flooded homes.

We've had successes in coordination and have more work to do as a region to be better prepared for future disaster debris events:

- SWD convened a hauler forum and coordination meetings with city partners
- SWD created a Debris Management Resource Library to help cities plan and implement debris collection opportunities, which was shared with cities and partners. In tandem, SWD is working internally to prepare for larger natural disaster, such as an earthquake, including assessing whether there is sufficient landfill capacity available to accommodate a major event.
- Some cities organized collection events for their communities
- SWD mobilized free drop off at four transfer stations, the Skykomish Drop Box, and two sites in unincorporated King County.

Free Flood Drop-Off: Transfer Stations

- Bow Lake, Shoreline, and Enumclaw: Saturdays and Sundays from Dec. 20 to Feb. 8 (extended from end date of Jan. 11)
- Algona: Sundays, Dec. 27 and Jan. 3

The Office of Emergency Management anticipates that cleanup and recovery efforts will extend for more than a month, and we want to help provide services wherever possible during that time.

Upcoming Opportunities: Free Flood Debris Disposal

- Bow Lake, Shoreline, and Enumclaw Transfer Stations: Saturdays and Sundays through Feb. 8
- Skykomish Drop box: Jan. 16-18 (tentatively)
- Drop-off event serving Snoqualmie Valley Farmers: TBD (Jan./Feb. and March/April)

Many areas in the Snoqualmie Valley remain underwater, and as waters recede, we will be able to assess cleanup needs and determine how we can contribute to the recovery effort. We expect to have more information in the coming weeks.

Heubach noted that the County asked cities to complete a survey indicating whether they had staff available to support recovery efforts or potential disposal locations. She asked whether, given what is anticipated ahead, there is any expectation that cities that responded affirmatively will be asked to provide resources.

Blum explained that the intent of the survey was to help match jurisdictions that need assistance with collection events with those that are able to provide support. While several cities indicated they could help, she has not yet received any requests from jurisdictions seeking assistance. As Singer noted, the County is still considering additional collection events in the Snoqualmie Valley, and in that case, the County may reach out to cities to request staffing support.

Cedar Hills Renewable Gas to Energy (CHARGE) Facility Update

King County Council approved legislation authorizing the Environmental Attribute Purchase and Sale Agreement between King County and Karbone. In December, King County executed this agreement.

Operations continue to go well at the CHARGE Facility. Selling environmental attributes associated with the biomethane produced at CHARGE will generate additional revenue that can be used to offset debt and other costs associated with operating the facility. The agreement also supports the decarbonization of the natural gas supply system in King County and in other geographic areas that purchase environmental attributes from King County.

SWD sells the product gas and some environmental attributes to Puget Sound Energy. This agreement will result in significant financial benefit for SWD and King County ratepayers. We are working to improve our internal systems and landfill layout to capture more gas for sale. Overall, operations are running smoothly and performing as expected.

Gire asked for a round of applause for the County for effectively managing the complexity of the issue. Singer praised Stubbs and his team for their strong work, noting that their efforts helped ensure the process went as smoothly as possible. Stubbs acknowledged the large team that dedicated significant time and effort to the work and specifically recognized Lindy Honaker for her leadership and coordination across the different councils.

2026 Solid Waste Rates

As a reminder, the new 2026 solid waste rates went into effect on Jan. 1. The new solid waste disposal rate supports essential services, capital projects, and environmental progress on climate change mitigation, recycling, and waste reduction efforts.

The two primary drivers of the rate are the capital program—including needed new infrastructure—and asset management to maintain and support existing facilities. Singer emphasized that the priority is ensuring existing facilities remain safe, functional, and operational. Where upgrades are needed, SWD will continue to make those investments to support ongoing operations.

Construction on the South County Recycling and Transfer Station (SCRTS) facility is nearing completion. Van Orsow and Nelson joined a tour a few months ago, which highlighted the progress being made. In contrast, the current Algona facility faces daily operational challenges, as it has exceeded its useful life. SWD is eager to bring the new facility online to avoid service disruptions.

SWD provided official notice to cities, haulers, and interested parties on Sept. 30, with public outreach efforts—including digital engagement, signage, and flyers—beginning in mid-October. Outreach is ongoing, and SWD is now developing the 2027 rate. Last year, only a single-year rate for 2026 was adopted; this year, work is underway to determine what the 2027 rate will look like.

RRA Service Provider Registration due Jan. 31

We have folks from Ecology at the meeting who can share more, but I wanted to highlight that the Recycling Reform Act (RRA) service provider registration on Ecology's website is due Jan. 31, 2026. SWD will be registering for our transfer station recycling collections and recycling collection events.

A reminder that a public place where a government managed collection receptacles as of Aug 1, 2025, are also eligible e.g., streets, sidewalks, plazas, city halls, libraries, public parks, bus stations, etc. Reimbursement starts in 2030.

Van Orsow asked who the best County contact would be for questions. Singer advised reaching out to Andy Smith, Ali Blum, or Amy Ockerlander.

Gire added that the Department of Ecology is also offering multiple office hour sessions to address questions.

New Resource: Climate Friendly Recipes

I am sharing a fun and helpful resource that was recently published by our partners in Public Health. This cookbook highlights how to make "climate-friendly" choices when preparing food and meals and features vegetarian and low meat recipes.

SWD's Food too Good to Waste and Re+ Zero Waste Action guides are highlighted too.

You can view the [cookbook here](#).

SWAC Update

No update.

MSWAC Update

No update.

Operations Update

Carter provided this update.

This update provides a recap of operations for November and December. Staff have done a good job managing waste flow and hauler lines at Factoria during the week.

In December, a storm event beginning on Dec. 1 resulted in a one-day service impact at Bow Lake when a generator went down. There were no other impacts to commercial haulers in November or December. Minor service disruptions were also experienced at Houghton and Algona for the public. Work at Algona remains ongoing, and maintenance staff are stationed on-site to respond quickly to issues as they arise. The Houghton packer is beginning to show signs of failure, and SWD is currently in the process of specifying a replacement machine to move forward with procurement as soon as possible.

Current Construction: Transfer Station Impacts

- Complete: Vashon Tipping Floor Resurfacing Project
 - Reopened to commercial customers
- Underway: Factoria Tipping Floor Repair and Resurfacing – Dec. 1 to mid-Feb.
 - Remains on schedule
 - Monday-Friday: Open for commercial and closed for self-haul
 - Saturday-Sunday: Open for self-haul and closed for commercial
 - Exception made for holiday make-up days: Saturdays Dec. 27 and Jan. 3
 - Yard waste self-haul closed throughout the construction period
 - Household hazardous waste services will remain open during normal hours

Upcoming 2026 construction projects:

- Enumclaw Tipping Floor Resurfacing Project
 - Anticipated timing: late 1/2026-3/2026
 - ♣ Originally scheduled to begin in early January, the work was delayed due to flood debris collection at compactor sites
 - Minor impact anticipated; we anticipate top-loading for portion of project
 - ♣ This project is less intensive than the work at Factoria and will be completed in phases, with half the floor addressed at a time. While operations may slow slightly, there is expected to be little to no impact on public or commercial customers
- Bow Lake Compactor Rebuild
 - Compactors (2) are in need of repair or rebuild
 - Anticipated timing: 3/2026-5/2026
 - ♣ During this time, one compactor will be rebuilt while the other remains in operation. The operating compactor will be fully inspected and repaired as needed to ensure it remains functional throughout the project
 - Minor impact anticipated

- ♣ We often run off one compactor

- Renovation of South Process Area at Bow Lake Transfer Station
 - Timing TBD; contract is currently out for bid
 - ♣ We will share additional details once more information is available
 - Impact TBD; impacts will likely be contained to recycling area
 - We plan to redesign the area and install a basic structure to improve usability for customers, enhance safety for employees, and address Public Health concerns related to open bins in the recycling area
- Generator Tie Ins for Compactor Sites
 - During the October 2024 bomb cyclone, all of our sites switched to generator power; however, compactors at the compactor sites could not operate on generator power. In response, we initiated a project to install tie-ins that allow mobile generators to be connected at those sites in the event of a power outage
 - Anticipated timing: 3/2026 - 6/2026
 - No anticipated impact for haulers or the public
- SCRTS Access Road via Broadway
 - Anticipated timing: Q2
 - Impact TBD; potential congestion and wait times for haulers and public closure
 - ♣ We anticipate a three-week period during which public access will be diverted and traffic will be reduced to one lane, requiring the use of flaggers. Flaggers will help manage access for commercial haulers and site tractors; however, self-haul traffic will not be able to intermingle with commercial traffic during this time
 - ♣ More details to come in the coming weeks

Operations Updates: Staffing

- Hiring transfer station operators to transition from Algona Transfer Station to the South County Recycling and Transfer Station (SCRTS)
 - SCRTS will require approximately twice the staffing level of Algona
 - We began the hiring process last year and expect to be fully staffed before SCRTS enters the commissioning phase
- Hiring truck drivers to lessen reliance on overtime
 - The first drivers are expected to come onboard at the end of January, with the full new drivers in place within the following few months.

Gire thanked Carter for the update.

Designated Recyclables List Presentation and Discussion

Scholes presented on this topic.

Code requires that we discuss this issue with all interested parties, which is why it is being raised now. While this code has been in place for some time, future implementation will look somewhat different. Currently, both the County and individual cities can establish their own recycling lists, which has resulted in limited alignment. With the passage of the Recycling Reform Act, we are moving toward greater statewide consistency.

At this time, we do not intend to make significant changes to our recycling list, as we want to align with the statewide list that is expected to be implemented in the coming years.

Recycling Reform Act (RRA) Timeline:

- 2026 – Ecology will distribute a survey to assess what materials jurisdictions are currently collecting as part of a statewide needs assessment. This information will help the Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) develop its plan. Once the PRO plan is finalized, an official statewide recycling list will be established. Ecology is responsible for supporting jurisdictions in formally adopting the list, which must be adopted in order to receive reimbursement.
- Dec. 2026 – ECY publishes statewide lists
 - Comingled curbside collection
 - Separate curbside collection
 - Public space collection
 - Alternative collection
- Jan. 31, 2029 – ECY will provide the amendment template for local governments to adopt statewide lists

The County is updating its Comprehensive Plan this year, which requires a designated recyclables list; however, this list will be updated to align with the official statewide list once it is finalized.

Metal and glass will be part of the RRA. This is mostly for unincorporated King County.

Material	Description	KC List	ECY List
Glass bottles & Jars		Yes	No
Aluminum & steel cans		Yes	Yes
Aluminum pressed foil	Foil, roasting trays, pie tins	No	No
Scrap metal		Yes	Yes
Aerosol containers	Steel or aluminum	Yes	No
Metal paint cans		No	No

Paper will be included under the Recycling Reform Act. In the Comprehensive Plan, this information will be presented in a more detailed Excel spreadsheet. One key exclusion is paper cups with plastic lining. Ecology has also recommended taking an even more conservative approach to accepted materials.

(In-person attendee) wanted to know why the County is not expecting paper cups with lining. Scholes responded that this reflects our current practices, and no changes will be made until the statewide list is finalized.

Morgan asked about mixed media mail packaging. Scholes said that material would likely be accepted, as there are many different types of paper packaging entering the market. Morgan followed up asking if mixed media mail packaging fell under poly-coated paper because it is frequently used by retailers. Scholes answered yes, though it is a gray area, and we are relying on Ecology’s definitions.

Material	Description	KC List	ECY List
Paper cans with metal lids	Coffee, nuts, baking powder	Yes	Yes
Corrugated cardboard	Not waxed	Yes	Yes
Kraft paper, magazines, glossy paper, newspaper, gift wrap, office paper etc.		Yes	Yes
Pizza boxes	Minimal grease	Yes	Yes
Paperboard packaging	Cereal, cracker boxes etc.	Yes	Yes
Cartons: aseptic and gable top	Plastic, paper, and aluminum layers in aseptic	Yes	No
Paper cups	Non-compostable	No	No
Polycoated paper and packaging	Freezer boxes, ice cream cartons, takeout food containers	Yes	No
Molded pulp packaging	Egg cartons	Yes	Yes

Plastic will be part of the RRA.

Material	Description	KC List	ECY List
Bottles, jugs, jars (#1 & #2)		Yes	Yes
Bottles, jugs, jars (#5)		Yes	No
Plastic caps (screw on)		Yes	Yes
Plastic tubs	Dairy containers etc.	Yes	Potentially
Plastic cups	Cold beverages	No	No
Plastic tubes	Toothpaste, sunscreen	No	No
Plastic buckets	HDPE 5-gallon buckets	Yes	Yes
PET thermoforms	Clamshells, clear berry containers	No	No
Blister packs	Variety of resins	No	No
Rigid plastic containers (#3-#7)		No	No
Plastic tub/container lids	Snap-on lids, take out beverage container lids	No	No
Multimaterial flexible packaging	Potato chip bags, coffee bags	No	No

The RRA will cover all paper and plastic products but there are a few things that we accept that aren't plastic and paper.

Non-RRA materials – these materials won't be included in UTC service levels

Material	Description	KC List	ECY List
Bulky rigid plastics	Laundry baskets, lawn furniture	No	No
Batteries	Lead acid, button, dry cell (alkaline/carbon), NiCad/NiMH/Lithium	No	Potentially
Motor oil		No	Potentially
Cooking oil		No	Potentially

Dampier wondered how curbside is regulated and if this created a revenue for the County. Scholes replied that there is no associated revenue. If a resident places an item in the wrong bin, the service provider has processes in place to notify the customer about the issue. In some cases, the driver can see the contents, or a camera may be used, and an "oops" tag can be applied to explain what went wrong. While these systems help, they are not perfect, and it is still possible for items to end up in the wrong bin.

(In-person attendee) asked how to read this information and wondered if it meant that there would not be glass recycling in 2029. Scholes answered this list was developed with input from Ecology staff, but it was not created through a formal process, and it does not necessarily mean glass would not be on the list in 2029. Under the RRA, a formal process will be established, including a committee and public comment period, to gather data and input from stakeholders across the state. (In-person attendee) followed up asking if the way to influence what is on the list is through the advisory board. Scholes said that King County is not on the advisory committee. Alissa Campbell with Recology was part of the meeting and said that she will be representing MRFs on the advisory council.

Stickles said this is an initial effort to develop a list, with Ecology creating a more final and comprehensive version. When this list was developed, it was done with the assumption that materials would not be commingled.

(In-person attendee) wanted to know was whether local jurisdictions will be required to align with the statewide RRA list once it is released. Scholes replied that the statewide lists need to align to get that reimbursement. From the industries, it is just Recology and Cedar Grove representing on the advisory committees.

Blazey said there were recommendations on how to recycle but some areas haven't adopted it. Part of the template includes a section on commercial recycling, which is not required under the RRA. Blazey encouraged King County to review and update their "Beyond the Bin" tab, particularly regarding the commercial list. Scholes noted that this section is being reviewed as part of the Comprehensive Plan. While it was not required to discuss it at this meeting, it will be included when the plan is released for public comment, along with a few updates. Blazey added that SPU is also updating their list, emphasizing that jurisdictions have flexibility, but greater alignment is beneficial.

Gire asked whether the update would affect bills for the UTC and ratepayers. Scholes does not expect any changes since the list itself is not being modified. However, if the statewide list later requires the collection of additional materials at the curb, that could result in changes.

Multi-Family Organics Management Plan Presentation and Discussion

Scholes and Bailey led this discussion.

HB 1497 – OML 3.0 requires multifamily organics plan. A program and timeline for required organics collection for new construction in ORCA areas.

Earlier versions of the bill included stricter requirements, but it has since shifted to allow jurisdictions to develop their own plans as long as they meet the minimum requirements. The King County team would like to bring everyone together to create the plan for King County.

Current multifamily organics programs

- About 16% of multifamily properties in King County currently have organics service
- 8/37 cities in King County offer embedded or subsidized compost cart service for multifamily properties
 - Programs typically include technical assistance and free tools such as signage, countertop containers, and/or biobags for residents

We know that multifamily properties in King County have trouble with organics.

Gire asked if the blue line on the graph represented organics and Scholes said yes.

Timeline for other organics service requirements

Single family and businesses

- Jan. 1, 2025: businesses generating 4 cubic yards --> Jan. 1, 2026: businesses generating 96 gallons --> April 1, 2030: single-family residents and businesses generating 50 gallons in ORCA areas

Proposed programs & timeline for King County – multifamily organics service

Multifamily service requirements will go into effect between 2030 and 2040 across King County. We have some time to build out what this means but we will take into account the things below:

- Building up to the service requirement, we will consider and incorporate program elements such as:
 - Code and contract updates: Building code space requirements, service level code/contract updates
 - Sequencing/prioritization of properties – new construction, ORCA areas, higher generators, etc.
 - Development of a waiver process and options for alternative collection (dehydrators, self-haul, shared service)
 - Development of a contamination reduction strategy
 - Alignment with regional outreach
 - Inclusive and equitable outreach and implementation - language/culture/income etc.

Timeline Rational

Multifamily service requirements will go into effect between 2030 and 2040 across King County. We believe this 10-year window will allow more flexibility for the different cities and allow them to get up to speed.

- 10-year window allows for flexibility in varying city circumstances
- After single-family and business requirements go into effect, allows for staff time to focus on multifamily sector
- Takes advantage of the culture shift following single-family and business requirements
- Allows time for lengthy code-update and contract renegotiation processes
- Allows time to prioritize budget for staffing and other program needs

The goal is to establish a high-level framework, even without all the details, to guide future work.

Gire shared that Bellevue is appreciative of the support and ongoing education provided by Ecology and the County, and expressed interest in Blazey’s perspective on multifamily composting and how it could be implemented.

Blazey said that multifamily composting services are currently available and encouraged jurisdictions to begin setting them up. While the service can be challenging, it is feasible. Cedar Grove drivers monitor bins and, as an open-market business, the company can work directly with buildings to provide education and outreach. Blazey encouraged starting sooner rather than later, noting that composting will eventually be required. Cedar Grove already serves multifamily properties in many jurisdictions, but successful programs require ongoing effort at the generator level. He emphasized that encouraging service at multifamily buildings is critical, as much of that food waste currently goes to the landfill.

Mork thanked Blazey and noted that this presents an important opportunity to divert material from the landfill. She shared that Shoreline is highly engaged and actively working to ensure composting occurs whenever possible.

Campbell commented on the importance of the updated code and emphasized that it cannot be overstated. She cited the City of Seattle as an example, noting that despite having a composting mandate across all sectors, there are still code nuances that take significant time to work through. She added that some multifamily buildings may require exceptions due to space constraints, which can affect how composting services are provided to tenants. These details are important considerations as codes are updated to make composting programs successful.

Lam shared that during the SCA caucus, there was a question about whether the law applies only to new construction. She noted that Blum’s response helped clarify that older buildings may also be affected in the future and asked for further discussion on the topic. Scholes responded that while the minimum requirement applies to new construction, King County’s approach is to go beyond that and include all buildings. Echoing Blazey’s point, she emphasized that food

waste is currently going to the landfill and that creative solutions will be needed to divert it, even when building space is limited. She added that the County's plan will extend beyond new construction.

2026 State Legislative Update

Ockerlander provided this update.

This upcoming session is going to be a short session of 60 days. It started Jan. 12, 2026, and the last day is expected to be March 12, 2025.

Cutoffs are coming fast:

- House of Origin Policy: **Feb. 4**
- House of Origin Fiscal Policy: **Feb. 9**
- House of Origin: **Feb. 17**
- Opposite House Policy: **Feb. 25**
- Opposite House Fiscal: **March 2**
- Opposite House: **March 6**
- Sine Die: **March 12**

Challenges abound:

- \$2.3B shortfall
- Loss of federal funding
- Economic slowdown
- Disaster recovery

Ockerlander said the state is continuing to recover from the largest natural disaster in its history. In addition, as discussed, the Legislature will be addressing issues outside our immediate scope, including immigration and law enforcement concerns, while working to protect communities across Washington State. She noted that these priorities are expected to take up a significant portion of the legislative session.

Solid waste related bills expected (to be confirmed):

- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Textiles (building on HB 1420)
 - Tan and Ockerlander have been closely involved with the legislative sponsor and work groups throughout the interim to help advance this bill. Representative Reeves has released substitute bill language, which is now available.
 - A hearing in the House Environment and Energy Committee is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 15.
 - The bill would require textile producers to establish a Producer Responsibility Organization to implement a program for managing post-consumer textiles.
- EPR for Household Hazardous Waste (HWH) - including vapes
 - This bill will not be introduced this year; however, the hazardous waste team will work with a representative and a senator during the interim to develop it.
- Improving the end-of-life management of Electric Vehicle Batteries (building on HB 1550/SB 5586)
- Increasing Solid Waste Collection Tax (building on HB 2018)
- Deposit-Return System (DRS) for Beverage Containers (HB 1607)
- EPR for Mattresses (building on HB 1901)
- EPR for Sharps (building on Safe Sharps Advisory Group)
- Amending the single-use plastic bag ban (HB 2233)
- New: post-consumer recycled content requirements (2271)

Heubach asked whether the King County Hazardous Waste Program would continue to share legislative updates, noting that past updates on hazardous waste–related bills were thorough and frequent. She added that the group has at times been difficult to reach and relatively quiet. Tan responded that the team plans to resume communications and continue providing updates.

Gire asked whether the County has identified top legislative priorities. Ockerlander said there is no single top priority this year, as there was with the Recycling Reform Act. Generally, the County is prioritizing extended producer responsibility (EPR)–related legislation and working to ensure proposed bills meet the needs of the County and its residents. She noted that the plastic bag ban is a lower priority due to its limited impact on the system, and that some bills will simply be monitored. Ockerlander added that significant legislative movement is not expected this year following passage of the Recycling Reform Act, as some legislators may want to see how implementation unfolds before advancing additional major programs. However, these issues remain long-term priorities.

Mork echoed Heubach’s comments, noting that K4C previously provided regular legislative information, and asked whether K4C communications would resume. Ockerlander said this is still unclear due to recent staffing changes associated with the new executive, and more information will be available as roles and processes are finalized.

Member Comment

(In-person attendee) wanted more information on when the Haz Waste Program grants will be available. Blum said she will follow up and provide an answer.

Van Orsow commented that MSWAC needs to elect a chair. Blum said that as members may know, Penny Sweet will no longer be serving as MSWAC Chair and elections will be held soon. If you’re interested in serving, please reach out to Blum or Gire.

(In-person attendee) raised a question about whether cities, as service providers, have worked with their haulers to determine the cost of recycling programs embedded in city contracts. Stickles said to go to the Ecology website and find Dan who will be able to answer questions like this.

Weiker said that the Solid Waste Division hosted a utility summit and encouraged people to review the [provided link](#).

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.