

**MSWAC Advisory Committee Meeting**  
 Jan. 15, 2025 – 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
 Hybrid Meeting (Zoom and Renton City Hall)

<b><u>MSWAC Members</u></b>		<b><u>King County Staff</u></b>
Jessica Griess	Algona	Nat Bennett, DNRP staff
Joan Nelson	Auburn	Ali Blum, SWD staff
Jon Gire	Bellevue	Grace Buckman, SWD staff
Ella Williams	Bellevue	Shawn Carter, SWD staff
Tamie Deady	Black Diamond	Theresa Curry Almuti, SWD staff
Emily Warnock	Bothell	Erin Hislop, SWD staff
Shellie Bates	Covington	Christine Kim, SWD staff
Don Vondran	Covington	Patty Liu, SWD staff
Chris Searcy	Enumclaw	Mark Monteiro, SWD staff
Rob Van Orsow	Federal Way	Amy Ockerlander, SWD staff
Nina Rasmussen	Kenmore	David Pierce, SWD staff
Tony Donati	Kent	Hannah Scholes, SWD staff
Carly Joerger	Kirkland	Fanny S. Gonzalez, Public Health - Seattle & King County
Jenna McInnis	Kirkland	Andy Smith, SWD staff
Penny Sweet	Kirkland	Chris Stubbs, SWD Deputy Director
Alana DeRogatis	Mercer Island	Adrian Tan, SWD staff
Jake Jacobson	Mercer Island	Isabelle Trujillo, SWD staff
Jeff Brauns	Newcastle	John Walsh, SWD staff
Micah Bonkowski	Redmond	
Aaron Moldver	Redmond	<b><u>Guests</u></b>
Amy Tsai	Redmond	Laura Belmont, SCA
Meara Heubach	Renton	Carolyn Bowie, Dept. of Ecology
Linda Knight	Renton	Alissa Campbell, Recology
John MacGillivray	Renton	Joe Camero, Waste Management
Mason Giem	SeaTac	Robin Freedman, Waste Management
Sarah Bruemmer	Shoreline	Jeanette Jurgensen, Bin There Consulting
Colleen Minion	Tukwila	Han Kirkland, Waste Management
Jared Hill	Woodinville	Brad Lovaas, WA Refuse and Recycling Association
Mike Millman	Woodinville	Laura Moser, Waste Management
		Eric Perry, City of Renton
		Julie Purcell, City of Renton
		Chris Reigelsperger, Waste Management
		Rick Vahl, Washington State Recycling Association
		Wendy Weiker, Republic
		Kaylie --

### **Call to Order and Introductions**

Chair Sweet called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Knight moved to approve the December MSWAC/SWAC minutes. Searcy seconded. Minutes passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment**

Blum shared that Katie Jerauld, Department of Ecology, provided written public comments that she would share with members via email following the meeting.

### **SWD Updates**

Stubbs provided the SWD update.

Stubbs shared that our conversation about rates has moved to February to accommodate a lengthier discussion on the 5-day hauling and tipping pilot.

### **Tonnage update**

Overall tonnage slowed slightly in November, but it is still up 0.31% through November (768K tons in 2024 vs. 770K ton in 2023) compared to last year at the same time. That's an additional 2,400 tons increase from last year at this time.

Transactions (698K through November) continue to rebound from a slow first quarter. We are ahead of last year at this time by +24,000 transaction (an increase of 3.54% over last year at this time) and almost 8,000 more transactions this November compared to last November.

Yard waste tonnage (over 17K tons through November) is now ahead of this time last year (+362, an increase of 2.15% over last year at this time). This November, we saw just shy of 1,400 tons more of yard waste than we did last November. That extra tonnage is from the bomb cyclone. We anticipate seeing a fuller picture of the impact of the bomb cyclone when December is accounted for.

### **NERTS Update**

SWD is reviewing the draft final EIS. We anticipate issuing the Final EIS in February 2025 and a siting decision will follow.

### **SWD Division Director Search**

We are in the middle of searching for a new SWD Director and are anticipating that this position will remain online through January 27. We are looking forward to introducing the new Director in March.

### **Federal Way signs Re+ Proclamation**

On Jan. 7, the City of Federal Way signed a Proclamation in support of Re+. We are delighted that Federal Way joined 25 other cities in demonstrating their support of Re+ and the vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities in a waste-free King County.

All of this work is part of our division's commitment to [King County Strategic Climate Action Plan](#) goals, which include 20 county projects gaining Zero Energy or Living Building Challenge certification by 2025, and an overall 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from county operations by 2030.

## **Hauler Forum**

On Monday, Jan. 13, SWD is hosted a Hauler Forum to meet with our hauler partners to discuss some of the unprecedented recent disruptions at our transfer stations and how we can support our hauler partners, especially as we move into initiatives like the 5-day hauling and tipping pilot.

We are grateful to our hauler partners for participating in this forum and for their insights and feedback.

Knight wanted to understand the hauler's concerns and the tone of the discussion. Stubbs explained that the haulers' main concern is that they need advance notice, as changes are easier earlier in the day. A communications plan is being drafted and will be shared with haulers for feedback. Knight added that involving cities in the conversation would also be important.

Searcy questioned if it's the right time to change Division Directors with the NERTS decision and asked if McLaughlin will be making the siting decision. Stubbs confirmed that McLaughlin will make the decision.

Van Orsow asked about the county's steps to involve cities in a post-storm debrief. Blum said early planning is underway for how to engage cities. We are aiming for a February meeting with impacted cities, and we'd start with MSWAC members but it's open to bring other people.

## **Thank you to Vice Chair Knight**

Stubbs thanked Knight for her years of service. She has been a member of MSWAC since the inception of MSWAC and has served as Vice Chair since 2018.

Knight shared her experience and love of working for regional committees.

## **MSWAC Update**

No update.

## **MSWAC Chair Elections (Voting in February)**

Chair Sweet lead this. She shared that the committee would be seeking nominations for a new Vice Chair and that Jon Gire, City of Bellevue, accepted the nomination. Other nominees are welcome to come forward. Elections for the Chair and Vice Chair will take place at the February meeting.

## **Operations Update: 5-Day Hauling and Tipping Pilot**

Stubbs provided this update.

On Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025, King County will launch a year-long pilot for a 5-day waste hauling and tipping schedule at Cedar Hills Regional Landfill for the Solid Waste Division. Currently, SWD transports waste from transfer stations to the landfill daily. The pilot is in response to the continued significant decline in waste product received at our stations during weekend operations. This pilot better aligns SWD's functional operations with when most of the tonnage is coming into our system.

By optimizing staff time and equipment use through this effort, our aim is to reduce operational expenditures by \$3 million annually and, as a result, decrease the amount of revenue need and apply downward pressure to the rate path.

The change further aligns the Solid Waste Division with its Re+ efforts as we endeavor to keep valuable materials out of the landfill and reduce climate impacts. As a result of this shift, landfill and transfer station neighbors will experience reduced weekend impacts including less truck traffic and heavy equipment operations (CHRL in particular).

We anticipate the new schedule will also result in reduced wait times and create more space for commercial haulers at our transfer stations. Waste received on weekends is primarily received from self-haul customers and is mostly “dry,” containing fewer organic materials that are likely to cause odors. This reduces risks of odors and bird nuisances. Currently, waste is routinely stored at transfer stations over weekends when needed.

Stations without compaction equipment (Algona, Houghton and Renton) will store waste in closed containers to ensure it is not exposed. During the week, a “first in, first out” approach will be taken to ensure the oldest waste is removed first. Our remaining five transfer stations (Bow Lake, Enumclaw, Factoria, Shoreline and Vashon) feature modern amenities including advanced environmental controls to reduce odors and other impacts, as well as enclosed station layouts.

To prepare for this change, Operations began diverting commercial traffic from our older top-load stations the week of Jan. 13. We are drawing down our waste inventory to ensure that all top-load stations will be empty at the start of 5-day operations.

We are working with Waste Management (WM) regarding the South Sound cities re-route that began on Jan. 13. WM identified that having some of the top load stations closed would be a significant challenge to them since they already activated their rerouting. We made accommodations for WM to continue delivering loads to the Algona Transfer Station from Jan. 13-17 to ease the temporary burden during the transition phase of their re-route and SWD’s pilot project.

Commercial haulers will still be able to deliver loads to the transfer stations on weekends and holidays.

Sweet expressed concern about the impact of top load stations on the haulers. Stubbs replied that this week, we are positioning ourselves for this implementation and while the Jan. 20 holiday complicates the 5-day pilot launch, drawing down waste inventory this week reduces the risk of service disruptions. This approach addresses haulers request for advance notice to better plan.

McInnis appreciated the south end traffic accommodation at Algona and asked about commercial traffic at Houghton. She’s heard that haulers still had limited notice about changes this week and next, and since Houghton serves Redmond and Kirkland, closures could delay trucks by 1.5-2 hours per load. The concern is that haulers may not complete service as expected due to limited notice, potentially impacting customers this week.

Knight agreed with McInnis, noting Renton’s advantaged position in waste delivery due to being situated between Factoria and Bow Lake. While Renton was notified about the pilot, the drawdown and redirection of commercial loads to other transfer stations were not discussed. SWD may not fully realize the communication cities have with haulers and the public. While self-haul won’t be impacted, drivers may share issues with customers, which could reach cities and snowball. Knight recommended and emphasized the need for earlier, clearer and often communication from SWD.

Stubbs acknowledged that SWD has learned from city and hauler feedback and will communicate diversions as early as possible, though some situations may lack early notice. Even in those cases, we’ll communicate with haulers and cities as soon as possible. As mentioned before, communication protocols for cities and haulers are being developed, and we will request feedback on them. Regarding McInnis’ questions, operations changes have been made to support diversions from top load stations to compactor sites.

Monteiro added that the main goals are to keep sites open and protect floor space for potential contingency plans, ensuring we can store trash and not disrupt service for commercial haulers. Next week, a diversion decision may be

made based on storage and operational capacity, and we will communicate that decision to cities and haulers once it's decided. There has been extensive planning, driver rescheduling, and logistical improvements, which we believe will benefit everyone in the long run. He acknowledged that transitioning to a new model may face challenges, but he believes that the plan is solid. Despite the holiday weekend, operations are ready, with hauling resuming Tuesday and full-strength operations by Wednesday. After the holiday, we will review our performance and plan for February's President's Day. We don't know if it will be the same until we analyze driver numbers, tonnage, and load totals from Tuesday-Friday. This is the first time running outside of tabletop exercises, and while those went well, unforeseen variables may arise.

Stubbs noted that we added additional transfer station and equipment operators at our compactor sites to manage the extra waste, with 80-90% floor capacity and no significant wait times. Monteiro added that funneling waste through the compactor sites improve efficiency, though it's inconvenient for hauler's travel times. The goal is to reduce wait times during the first 90 days of the pilot, and while things are going well, we won't know for sure until Jan. 24. We appreciate everyone's flexibility and patience, and we are trying to be as transparent as possible. We aim to haul safely and efficiently, minimizing disruption to haulers and the public.

Donati asked how the 5-day tipping schedule impacts weekday traffic along Maple Valley Highway and if it's a concern. Monteiro replied that SWD will add more drivers, increasing from 28-30 to 38-40, which isn't a significant change compared to the normal 130 drivers from commercial haulers and King County traffic. With the landfill cycles, the total may reach 150+, but the impact will remain minimal. He noted that while Monday and Tuesday will be busy as those are the days we clear the sites, traffic and tonnage should level out by Wednesday, with only a 10% increase.

Gire commended King County for the \$3M in saving, appreciating the efficiency and hoping for continued collaboration to ensure it benefits everyone.

Nelson wanted to echo McInnis' and Knight's frustration with communication and was glad a communication plan is in development. Along with the communication to the haulers and cities, Nelson emphasized a need for better internal communication, noting that their hauler had informed King County of a planned reroute, which was originally scheduled for last fall, but delays in repairs at the Algona Transfer Station caused a postponement and they never received a date. If a date had been shared in MSWAC, Nelson could've addressed it. By the time cities were notified, they had already sent postcards and made calls to customers. Cities should have been informed earlier, as operational decisions by King County directly impact the cities' work with their haulers and citizens.

Van Orsow expressed confusion about Monteiro's comments, particularly regarding the repeat of this plan for Presidents' Day and asked if the county plans to make this kind of change regularly. Monteiro responded that the approach depends on when the holiday falls. If it falls on a Monday, SWD has to storage garbage for three days (Saturday, Sunday, and Monday), and Tuesday's hauling depends on staffing levels. This plan is for the current holiday, but it will be reviewed after this first weekend and redone for Presidents' Day. Monteiro clarified that this is not necessarily the approach for every holiday; Presidents' Day will differ as it won't involve transitioning from the 7-10 staffing model to a new, efficient staff model. Any inefficiencies will be addressed and revised for next month.

A member acknowledged that starting on a holiday is not ideal and asked if SWD could share why the pilot is starting on a holiday weekend. Stubbs replied that January was the agreed-upon implementation date with the labor unions, and due to the payroll system, the change could only occur at the start of a pay period, which coincided with the holiday weekend.

Searcy asked for an overview of SWD's process with the bargaining unit and whether only one unit was impacted. Stubbs said that he was not deeply involved in the bargaining unit discussions but noted that the labor union voted to

approve this year-long pilot project. He believes there's cooperation and the division is confident that this pilot will work. On paper, it works, but we will need to remain flexible and adapt to the situational needs as they arise.

A member wanted clarification that there will be no hauling from transfer stations to Cedar Hills on Saturday, Jan. 18 and Sunday, Jan. 20. Stubbs said that is correct.

We recognize that these changes present challenges for both haulers and our city partners. We have undertaken work to help make this pilot run as smoothly as possible and reduce the number of service disruptions at our transfer stations. We appreciate the feedback from cities and partners.

### **Comp Plan Chapter Review Process**

Liu presented this.

We are currently updating the chapters and will send them to our consultants after MSWAC and SWAC review. Once handed off, we've been asked to have no further changes to avoid delaying the EIS, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2026. After final updates, Liu will send the Comp Plan through the final process, aiming for adoption in 2028.

Previous participation

- November 2022
  - SWD presented list of recommended updates.
  - Sought feedback and additional updates from SWAC and MSWAC
- March 2023
  - SWD presented final list of updates, including suggestions from advisory committees.
  - SWD provided explanation for suggested updates not moving forward.

Advisory committee update examples

- Address the option to reserve landfill space for future/emergency use.
- Narrative on organics management law and how it will impact the system.
- If the region pursues a food waste ban, how would this be enforced?
  - We are waiting for guidance on the ban from Dept. of Ecology

Comp plan chapters – the names may change but the content will remain the same. Committee members will review chapters 2-7.

1. Introduction
2. The Existing Solid Waste System
3. Forecasting and Data
4. Sustainable Materials Management
5. Solid Waste transfer and processing
6. Landfill management and solid waste disposal
7. Solid waste system finance

We will update a chapter every month and ask for feedback. For each chapter:

1. SWD update and review chapter
2. Provide advisory committees with chapter
3. Subgroup meeting
  - a. Purpose: discuss and come up with proposals on policies to bring to MSWAC
4. Discuss at advisory committees (1-2 months for each chapter before sending it to consultants)
5. SWD to edit chapter

## 6. Hand chapter off to SEPA consultants

The tentative schedule

- April – Chapter 7 (Landfill and disposal)
- May – Chapter 6 (Transfer and processing)
- June – Chapter 4 (Materials management)
- July – Chapter 7 (Finance)
- August – Chapter 2 (Existing System)
- September – Chapter 3 (Forecasting and data)

The first three chapters are the heaviest and Liu expects the full two months to be used for each chapter. The others should be more straightforward.

Liu added that the SWD team is working on a FAQ for the LTD study. This will be sent out soon by Blum.

Sweet asked if the old Comp Plan would be redlined. Liu said she's been using the old Comp Plan as a template, and the new version will feel familiar to those who were involved in the 2019 update. Submitted materials will be in plain text.

Tsai inquired about the timeline for submitting edits. Liu clarified that edits must be finalized to avoid delays. For example, the first chapter will be sent to consultants in May, with one chapter sent each month after. Chapters should remain static until the SEPA process is complete, before moving to official adoption.

### **State Legislative Update**

Scholes and Tan provided this update.

The 2025 legislative session started on Jan. 13 and will be a long session of 105 days. The last day is expected to be April 27, 2025. With long sessions, we tend to see more bills.

For those that are newer to the process, you can get email notifications on the status of a bill by visiting [leg.wa.gov](http://leg.wa.gov) and insert the bill number. If you don't know it, click "Go to Bills" to browse through prefiled bills, bills by topics, etc., and once on the bill page, click "get email notifications" and enter your email.

2025 Legislative Session – solid waste related bills. Those that have been filed, have numbers.

- **HB 1150:** Recycling Reform Act (EPR for Packaging & Paper Products). In previous years, this was known as the WRAP bill. This is our highest priority to get passed this year.
  - Sponsored by Rep. Liz Berry. The Senate version is sponsored by Senator Lovelett. Both sponsors are hosting a press event on Jan. 16.
  - The NW Product Stewardship council is hosting a Q&A on Jan. 17.
  - This is following Minnesota's bill but is still very similar to previous years.
  - Extends recycling to all residents with curbside garbage at no costs (funded by producers)
  - Increases recycling & reuse. Materials must be sent to verified responsible markets.
- **HB 1071/SB 5058:** implementing strategies to achieve higher recycling rates within Washington's existing solid waste management system.
  - Sponsor: Rep. Jake Fey
  - Statewide recycling lists for residential curbside and drop-off collection and a statewide needs assessment.
  - Post-consumer recycled content requirements for plastic PP tubs, PET thermoforms and single-use cups.

- o Very similar to last year with some changes. There is a section in this bill that allows solid waste handlers operating in UTC areas to propose low-income discounts – typically counties do this.
  - o Scheduled for hearing on Jan. 16.
- **HB 1154:** Changes to issuing permits for solid waste handling facilities. This would change the facility permitting process for solid waste handling facilities to require approval from Ecology in addition to the current local health jurisdiction.
  - o Sponsor: Rep. Davina Duerr
  - o Amendments to the process of issuing solid waste handling permits.
  - o Changes to the review and approval of landfilling permits.
  - o It had a hearing on Jan. 13. The next step is a vote in the House of Committee on Environment & Energy.
  - o Currently, regulation of these facilities is under public health. The bill would bring consistency throughout the state.
- **SB 5045:** Electric Vehicle Battery Recycling - expanding the state battery stewardship program to include electric vehicle batteries.
  - o Sponsor: Sen. Jeff Wilson
  - o Expanding current Battery Stewardship Law to include EV batteries.
  - o We expect to see another bill related to vehicle batteries that would propose a separate system.
  - o This might seem easy to implement but practically it will be difficult. From a local government perspective, we are exempt from to collect EV batteries. We need to work with end-of-life vehicle batteries, but this approach may not be the most feasible.
- **SB 5175:** Delaying solar panel stewardship (state agency request)
  - o Sponsor: Sen. Sharon Shewmake
  - o Delays the effective date of the Solar Panel Stewardship and Takeback Program until 2029.
  - o Establishes a photovoltaic module advisory committee that would develop recommendations the law. Stewardship plans were due earlier this year, but many producers didn't submit their plans which would put them out of compliance.
  - o Scheduled for hearing on Jan. 15.
  - o We concerned about the continued delays, but it seems worth it in this case.
- Amending safe medication return (state agency request)
  - o The changes would allow the Department of Health to better manage and secure funding for the program.

Other bills we are tracking:

- HB 1107: Concerning environmental impacts of fashion.
  - o Had hearing on Jan. 13.
- HB 1134: Promoting resource conservation practices in public schools.
- SB 5033: Concerning sampling or testing of biosolids for PFAS chemicals.
  - o Returning bill.
- Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) refrigerant gases recycling
- Ban single-use vaping devices.

A member asked about King County's position on HB 1154. Scholes explained that while the county supports state Environmental regulations, we have concerns about the added layer of bureaucracy, especially in places where there isn't an issue. We will work with the sponsor to address these concerns.

Tsai wanted to know if HB 1071 would impact EPR if passed. Scholes said if it was passed, it would delay the EPR bill by a couple of years, requiring a needs assessment and approved program plan before implementation. Even if the needs assessment happened, there would still be a need for additional information.

McInnis asked if HB 1071 included funding and if King County or the NW Product Stewardship Council is creating a one pager for cities explaining the preference for one option over the other. Tan responded that we could create a one-pager. The bill requires producers to register but does not expand recycling services or improve transparency.

Searcy asked about additions to the organics bill. Scholes explained that Rep. Doglio is working on a new bill, with stakeholder meetings aimed at finalizing it by Jan. 17. The draft Scholes and Tan saw included items like schools funding and colored bins.

McInnis wanted to know about how glass will be addressed in upcoming bills. Tan replied that under EPR, producers would manage glass recycling, not local governments, and set collection expectations. There are 11 counties that don't offer curbside recycling, and while the deposit return system (DRS) hasn't been formally introduced, there has been an information session and it could be a potential approach to recycling. The WRA-supported bill specifies glass should only be collected at drop-off locations, which results in cleaner glass but less glass being collected because people must bring the glass to these locations. Scholes added that in an EPR system, producers would fund recycling and meet established performance targets, reducing the burden on local governments

Tsai stated that Redmond has a strong environmental sustainability plan and asked how solutions can target environmental goals without financially impacting cities with existing bills that aren't aligned with these plans, while keeping focus on the bigger picture.

#### **Member Comment**

Knight thanked everyone for coming to Renton. She expressed that serving as Vice Chair has been enjoyable and supports whoever decides to become the next Vice Chair. A thank you video from Mclaughlin was shown to attendees.

#### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 11:34 p.m.