

MSWAC Advisory Committee Meeting

Feb. 12, 2025 – 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting (Zoom and King Street Center)

<u>MSWAC Members</u>		<u>King County Staff</u>	
		Pat McLaughlin, SWD Director	
Troy Linnell	Algona	Sylvaine Bucher, SWD staff	
Joan Nelson	Auburn	Ali Blum, SWD staff	
Jon Gire	Bellevue	Nina Olivier, SWD staff	
Shellie Bates	Covington	Brian Halverson, SWD staff	
Don Vondran	Covington	Theresa Curry Almuti, SWD staff	
Chris Searcy	Enumclaw	Lindy Honaker, SWD staff	
Rob Van Orsow	Federal Way	Erin Hislop, SWD staff	
Rebecca Kovar	Federal Way	Christine Kim, SWD staff	
Sam Tarvin	Issaquah	Patty Liu, SWD staff	
Tony Donati	Kent	Mark Monteiro, SWD staff	
Jenna McInnis	Kirkland	Annie DeCosta-Klipa, SWD staff	
Penny Sweet	Kirkland	Amy Ockerlander, SWD staff	
Fernanda Serrano	Maple Valley	Zaineb Nejati, KC Auditor’s Office	
Halley Kimball	Maple Valley	Nat Bennett, DNRP	
Alana DeRogatis	Mercer Island	David Pierce, SWD staff	
Dan Marcinko	North Bend	Hannah Scholes, SWD staff	
Micah Bonkowski	Redmond	Yolanda Pon, Public Health - Seattle & King County	
Aaron Moldver	Redmond	Ryan Kellogg, Public Health	
Amy Tsai	Redmond	Fanny Silverio-Gonzalez, Public Health	
Meara Heubach	Renton	Matthew Weintraub, Haz. Waste Mgmt. Program	
John MacGillivray	Renton	Andy Smith, SWD staff	
Mason Giem	SeaTac	Chris Stubbs, SWD Deputy Director	
Sarah Bruemmer	Shoreline	Adrian Tan, SWD staff	
Colleen Minion	Tukwila	Kerwin Pyle, SWD staff	
		Eberley Barragan, SWD staff	
		Janine Blaeloch, SWD staff	
		John Walsh, SWD staff	
		<u>Guests</u>	
		Leann Krainick	
		Laura Belmont, SCA	
		Carolyn Bowie, Dept. of Ecology	
		Katie Jerauld, Dept. Of Ecology	
		Alissa Campbell, Recology	
		Robin Freedman, Waste Management	
		Kaylie Wallin, Republic Services	

	Carla Johnson, Republic Services
	Jeanette Jurgensen, Bin There Consulting
	Han Kirkland, Waste Management
	Brad Lovaas, WA Refuse and Recycling Association
	Laura Moser, Waste Management
	Casey Mellnik
	Eric Perry, City of Renton
	Chris Reigelsperger, Waste Management

Call to Order and Introductions

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

Meeting Minutes

Searcy moved to approve the minutes from January and Nelson seconded. Members voted to approve.

Public Comment

Leann Krainick commented that she and her husband run a dairy farm in Enumclaw and they have had a problem with services from Waste Management (WM). They use a six-yard dumpster and also have a recycling container. Their bill for the recycling increased to \$72.00 per month, every other week, while their neighbors pay only \$16.00 for the same size (96- gallon) container. WM has said they consider theirs to be a commercial account with grandfathered recycling service. Ms. Krainick had two requests with which she would like MSWAC support:

- (1) Restore commercial recycling services
- (2) Help WM understand the need to treat customers equitably and charge commercial and residential customers the same price for recycling, encouraging businesses to recycle.

Ms. Krainick noted that she and her husband are community leaders in sustainable practices, including feeding their cows food waste. Andy Smith offered to contact her and help facilitate dialogue with WM.

Katie Jerauld of the Department of Ecology providing the following updates:

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan Virtual Meetings

The Washington Climate Partnership (WCP) is hosting a series of virtual meetings to request public input on a new Washington state Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP). Seven meetings, from February through April, will cover each "sector" of the state economy: https://waclimatepartnership.org/en/get-involved/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery. The first meeting will be on the Waste and Materials Sector on February 27, 2025. To register for the first meeting, please use this link: https://wastatecommerce.zoom.us/meeting/register/MajN_0uLQoSkdRSXShJAjQ#/registration.

Pollution Prevention Assistance Partnership Applications

Ecology is accepting Pollution Prevention Assistance (PPA) Partnership Applications between January 6 and February 18, 2025, for jurisdictions that wish to be considered for partnership. Partners provide outreach and technical assistance to businesses. For more information, please visit the PPA website: <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Pollution-prevention-services/Pollution-prevention-assistance>. You can find the application here: <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/ECY070592.html>. Please send completed applications or any questions to Andrew Maher at andy.maher@ecy.wa.gov.

Food Waste Prevention Week

Food Waste Prevention Week is April 7-13, 2025. Become a partner to inspire action and drive real results in reducing food waste. Whether you're resharing or creating a social media post, hosting or attending an event or webinar, sponsoring or spreading awareness, your involvement can make a big impact. You can register for a Partner Info Session on February 18, 2025: <https://www.foodwastepreventionweek.com/>.

MSWAC Chair Elections

Every February, elections are held for the Chair and Vice Chair positions. Two nominations were received: Penny Sweet for Chair and Jon Gire for Vice Chair. Blum asked if there were any additional nominations, and there were none. Hill made a motion to elect Sweet, Van Orsow seconded, all voted in favor, with no abstentions. Searcy moved to elect Gire as Vice Chair, McClinnis seconded, and all voted in favor with no abstentions.

SWD, SWAC, Other Updates

Director McLaughlin offered the following updates.

MSWAC New members – Maple Valley

Amy Shaw, the previous MSWAC representative from the City of Maple Valley, is moving back to her home state of Colorado. Halley Kimball and Fernanda Serrano are representing Maple Valley until Amy's vacated position is filled.

Tonnage update

Tonnage in 2024 was up slightly (0.52 percent or 4,400 tons) over total tonnage in 2023. (839K tons in 2024 vs. 835K ton in 2023). Transactions held steady in December. As previously reported, transactions were low in early 2024 but have since rebounded. We finished the year up four percent (+29,000 transactions) from 2023. Due in large part to the bomb cyclone in November, yard waste tons were up just over 1,200 tons for 2024. That's an almost a seven percent increase from 2023.

SWD Director Recruitment Update

- First- round interviews were completed last week
- Second- round interviews are being held this week
- Partner Meet & Greet scheduled February 27 from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
- Facility Tours March 6.

Community Repair Events

We have a series of [eight community repair events](#) taking place at various locations throughout King County between March and September. At these free events, skilled volunteer "fixers" repair and mend small household and personal items.

CHRL Tour – City of Kirkland

On January 30, we hosted Mayor Curtis, several Councilmembers including Councilmember Sweet, and staff from the City of Kirkland at a tour of our landfill. We appreciate the opportunities to share the great work our team does every day with our partners. We are looking forward to hosting a team from the City of Federal Way at our landfill later this month.

You can reach out to Blum if you'd like to set up a tour of our facilities for the staff or the elected officials in your city.

Chair Sweet commented that the tour of the landfill gave the City of Kirkland staff a better understanding of its operations and thanked McLaughlin in particular for devoting so much of his time. McLaughlin said the Ops team takes pride in its work and enjoys sharing.

SWAC Update

No update.

5-Day Hauling Pilot

Director McLaughlin offered the following updates.

Overview: We made a lot of progress compared to the first two weeks of the 5-day pilot, keeping most of our stations open without service disruptions. We also managed challenges related the recent inclement weather in the region. Fortunately, we were able to maintain normal operations throughout last week's weather, with only one brief delayed start at the Houghton and Algona transfer stations.

We recognize any closures are disruptive to haulers, cities, and customers. We are continuing to implement process improvements to maintain normal operations as much as possible as we continue to implement this pilot.

Approach to upcoming Presidents Day holiday: Last week, we held our second/city hauler forum to share our recommended actions leading up to the Presidents' Day holiday. Our goal is to provide more predictability and advance notice of service impacts around planning for this holiday.

To maintain operational efficiency, we're taking several actions to proactively manage waste coming to our stations over the Presidents Day weekend. We've also made changes to improve efficiency throughout our system in response to recent disruptions.

Regional Policy Committee Briefing

The Solid Waste Division has been invited to provide a briefing to the Regional Policy Committee (RPC) the afternoon of February 12 on the 5-Day Hauling Pilot and our work around long-term planning for waste disposal. Any interested members can watch online this afternoon at 3 p.m. The RPC is a body made up of members from the King County Council, Seattle City Council, and local elected officials.

Searcy asked whether haulers going to the landfill are paying the standard rate; McLaughlin said they pay the Regional Direct rate, which is less.

Searcy asked about revenue lost as a result of refuse being processed by Republic and through Regional Direct; McLaughlin replied that SWD does not have the tonnage numbers yet—it will erode the cost savings, but it will not continue through the pilot.

Van Orsow asked about the after-event report expected for the bomb cyclone; Blum said she is still scheduling that and expects it to be available March 18.

Introduction to Unincorporated King County and Title 10 Update

Smith, Kim, and Scholes provided this update.

SWD wants to update Title 10 provisions on a more regular basis. It encompasses a smorgasbord of polices, including what and when to report. Some of the code still needs to be updated and SWD will be seeking input from MSWAC members and perhaps letters of support.

The first tranche will be *administrative policy* changes: one example is the low-income discount, which has been in effect since 2017 but is not consistent with the RCW. Another change would be in the environmental reporting schedule: the current schedule is very difficult to meet, and SWD hopes to move it to a month later in the calendar.

Kim presented on the *transformational policy* changes. Significance and relevance of Unincorporated King County policies:

- Unincorporated King County areas are subject to specific rates and regulations established by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) and King County.
- Hauler tariffs/rates are granted by the WUTC
- King County Title 10 provides the regulatory framework, including minimum service levels
- Tariff areas are mapped, and areas and tariffs are available of WUTC website

Highlights of proposed changes to Title 10 include removing Vashon Island from the unincorporated service area requirements and banning yard waste and mattresses from the top-load stations. Chair Sweet asked how these changes will be communicated and Scholes said that flyers are being distributed.

Single Family Organics changes will include:

- Require UTC service area single-family customers to actively manage food waste – either through collection subscription or on site.
- Work with cities outside of the Organics Management Law Organics Recovery Collection Areas boundaries to adopt ordinances so there is consistency throughout King County.

2026-2027 Rate Early Look

Honaker presented.

Honaker noted that the rate determines the budget. This look at rates is preliminary; she is still refining key variables and will return in March and April with updates.

- Forecast reflects policy and implementation assumptions
- Waste Characterization Study provides composition of current tonnage
- Legislative mandates and benchmarks are factored in, as well as actions such as: mixed-waste processing (MWP), organics, EPR, Sort-It-Out, etc.

Some findings:

- Re+ extends the landfill life by 2.5 years and reduces GHG
- 200k more tons are projected from 2025-2031
- Fixed annual charge has diversified the revenue base—non-tonnage revenues have increased

Capital project costs are driving the revenue increases, and the cost of borrowing and inflation are also expected to increase. Honaker provided a timeline for the rate, including support letters needed in May and Council adoption of rate in September.

Some actions affecting the model are still pending:

- NERTS siting Q1-2025
- MWP feasibility report
- Permanent facilities project
- Long-term disposal decision in 2026
- Awarded a \$2 million grant from Ecology under the Climate Commitment Act

It is anticipated that there will be less federal funding available.

There was a pause for questions. Gire commended SWD for obtaining the Ecology grant. A member asked about Mixed Waste Processing (MWP), which showed in tonnage metrics but not capital cost. Honaker said MWP will take time, and costs are pushed out to the future until we are closer on the planning horizon. Van Orsow asked whether MSWAC would be receiving the MWP report and Walsh said yes, it will be available in the next couple of months. Tsai asked why EPR was

considered. Honaker said SWD is modeling its impact, which is expected to begin in about 2030. While in the out-years, it is being modeled because it is part of Re+.

Honaker continued with presentation on the Environmental Reserve Fund (ERF) and insurance.

- The ERF Reserve for liabilities not covered by System rates or insurance.
- Minimum of 30 years post closure.

SWD maintains a separate Pollution Liability policy for Cedar Hills Regional Landfill with \$50M limit. The policy is renewed every five years. Last cycle the cost was \$1M. The policy excludes PFAS, post closure, and reclamation costs. It does not cover the transfer stations or other closed landfills. The cities have been added as additional insureds to the existing policy at no extra charge.

Sweet noted that all of this will require further discussion.

Re+ Grant Update

Bucher, Barragan, Decosta-Klipa, and Olivier presented.

Circular economy 2022-2023:

- 14 funded projects for \$2.3 million
- 80% of funds for paper, plastics, and organics
- 60% of funds for prevention and reuse
- 40% of funds awarded to nonprofits
- 600+ reported tons of diversion; greater long-term potential
- Over half of projects had a strong equity focus

2024-2025:

- 14 funded projects for \$2.2 million
- 75% of funds for paper, plastics, and organics
- 84% of funds for prevention and reuse

City Grants 2023-2024 went to the Cities of Algona, Bothell, Kirkland, Bellevue, Redmond, Renton, Kent, Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, Tukwila, Burien, and Maple Valley. The 2026-2027 cycle will grant a total of \$400,000.

NextCycle WA grants include Circular Accelerator, six-month program designed to support and advance promising circular businesses and projects and Renew Seed Grants, mini-grants up to \$10,000 for early-stage projects for businesses, community-based organizations, tribal governments, and research institutions that further King County's Circular Economy and Zero Waste Goals.

Long-term Disposal Update

Liu presented.

For the draft report comment review, there are two categories of comment: those that will be incorporated into the study, and those that will receive responses but will not be included in the study. The draft report and responses to comments will be available on the Extranet. The final report is expected to be available in April 2025.

The LTD Study FAQ is a companion piece to the study for both ILA partners and general public. The FAQ is not meant to summarize the study. It will be published on the KC website with the LTD Final report.

State Legislative Update

Scholes and Tan provided this update. Details may be found in the handout provided to members.

- **HB 1150 / SB 5284 Recycling Reform Act** (EPR for Packaging & Paper Products)
- **HB 1607 / SB 5502 Recycling Refund Act** (*Deposit Return-System (DRS) for Beverage Containers*)
- **HB 1071 / SB 5058** Implementing strategies to achieve higher recycling rates
- **HB 1154** Changes to issuing permits for solid waste handling facilities
- **SB 5045** Including Electric Vehicle Batteries in the Battery Stewardship Law
- **HB 1550 / SB 5586** Improving the End-of-Life Management of Electric Vehicle Batteries
- **HB 1483 / SB 5423** Right to Repair – Digital Electronic Products
- **HB 1826 / SB 5680** Right to Repair – Mobility Devices
- **HB 1497** Organics Management (*building on 2024 bill*)
- **SB 5175** Delaying Solar Panel Stewardship (*Agency Request*)
- **HB 1422** Amending Safe Medication Return (*Agency Request*)
- **HB 1462 / SB 5438** Promoting use of reclaimed hydrofluorocarbons
- **HB 1420** Extended Producer Responsibility for Textiles
- **HB 1901** Extended Producer Responsibility for Mattresses

Note that:

- The major change for the substitute bill for **HB 1150 Recycling Reform Act** limits the reimbursement that producers must provide to service providers (including local governments) to no less than 50% of net costs by 2030, 75% by 2031, and 90% beginning in 2032.
- **HB 1550 / SB 5586 Improving the End-of-Life Management of Electric Vehicle Batteries** is preferred to **SB 5045 Including Electric Vehicle Batteries in the Battery Stewardship Law**. EV batteries are larger than the batteries in the Battery Stewardship Law, have warranties, and are sold in cars and other vehicles through dealerships – it would be better to have a separate program for EV batteries.

Member Comment

None.

Adjourn