

MSWAC Advisory Committee Meeting

Aug. 13, 2025 – 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	Nori Catabay, SWD staff
Emily Warnock	Bothell	Theresa Curry Almuti, SWD staff
Sycora Powell	Burien	Brian Halverson, SWD staff
Shellie Bates	Covington	Erin Hislop, SWD staff
Chris Searcy	Enumclaw	Ryan Kellogg, Public Health – Seattle & King County
Brian Spindor	Enumclaw	Christine Kim, SWD staff
Rebecca Kovar	Federal Way	Eliza Kruszynski, SWD staff
Sam Tarvin	Issaquah	Patty Liu, SWD staff
Tony Donati	Kent	Casey Mellnik, SWD staff
Carly Joerger	Kirkland	Mark Monteiro, SWD staff
Dave Marschall	Kirkland	Amy Ockerlander, SWD staff
Penny Sweet	Kirkland	Nina Olivier, SWD staff
Halley Kimball	Maple Valley	Yolanda Pon, Public Health – Seattle & King County
Daniel Becker	Mercer Island	Kerwin Pyle, SWD staff
Alana DeRogatis	Mercer Island	Fanny S. Gonzalez, Public Health – Seattle & King County
Micah Bonkowski	Redmond	Hannah Scholes, SWD staff
Jess Dunbar	Redmond	Caitlin Singer, SWD staff
Aaron Moldver	Redmond	Rebecca Singer, SWD Director
Amy Tsai	Redmond	Andy Smith, SWD staff
Meara Heubach	Renton	Chris Stubbs, SWD Deputy Director
Genevieve Rubinelli	Sammamish	Isabelle Trujillo, SWD staff
Mason Giem	SeaTac	John Walsh, SWD staff
Sarah Bruemmer	Shoreline	Matthew Weintraub, King County Haz Waste
Colleen Minion	Tukwila	
Jared Hill	Woodinville	
		<u>Guests</u>
		Jay Blazey, Cedar Grove
		Carolyn Bowie, Dept. of Ecology
		India Brine, WA Refuse and Recycling Association
		Alissa Campbell, Recology
		Zach Dugovich, Pacific Public Affairs
		Jena Gain, City of Kirkland
		Katie Jerauld, Dept. of Ecology
		Jeanette Jurgensen, Bin There Consulting
		Kevin Kelly, Snohomish County Solid Waste
		Han Kirkland, Waste Management

		Brad Lovaas, WA Refuse and Recycling Association
		Cullen Naumoff, Dept. of Ecology
		Chris Reigelsperger, Waste Management
		Phillip Schmidt-Pathmann, The Institute for Energy and Resource Management (IeRM)
		Rick Vahl, Waste Connections
		Kaylie Wallin, Republic Services
		Wendy Weiker, Republic Services
		Dan Weston, Dept. Of Ecology
		Hans Van Dusen --

Call to Order and Introductions

Vice Chair Gire called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Hill moved to approve the July MSWAC minutes. Giem seconded. Minutes passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Jerauld shared one item. Public comment.

1. **Battery Stewardship Program Rulemaking Proposal** - The Department of Ecology is proposing a new rule, Chapter 173-905 WAC - Battery Stewardship Program to guide implementation of Washington’s new extended producer responsibility program for batteries: [WAC-173-905 - Washington State Department of Ecology](#). Beginning July 2027, the program will improve battery recycling in Washington by providing free and convenient battery collection opportunities for all Washington residents. The rule clarifies certain elements of the law, such as definitions, goals and performance targets, collection and management standards, reporting requirements, and fees a battery stewardship organization pays to Ecology to administer, implement, and enforce the program.

Comments on this rulemaking are due by Sept. 10, 2025, 11:59 PM. Please submit written comments online through the Battery Stewardship Rulemaking Public [Comment Portal](#).

Ecology will host public hearings on the rule proposal.

- Public Hearing #1 on August 28, 2025 from 1:00-4:00PM. [Register for Meeting](#).
- Public Hearing #2 on Sept. 3, 2025 from 6:00-9:00PM. [Register for Meeting](#).

Blazey introduced himself as the general council at Cedar Grove Composting, the county's only commercial compost facility. He explained that Cedar Grove's mission is to responsibly divert food and yard waste from landfills. With nearly 30 years of composting experience in Maple Valley, they are committed to achieving the best environmental outcomes for both their customers and the community. They process a significant amount of the organic material from the cities represented at MSWAC.

He noted the series of new organics management laws and urged all cities to get involved at any level during the current informal comment period. While he acknowledged the many positive developments in the rulemaking, he wanted to flag two key concerns that Cedar Grove is currently discussing with other composters and stakeholders.

1. Inbound contamination - There is a proposal to increase restrictions on contamination at facilities and in finished compost. While this sounds good, there are concerns that the new requirements will result in significant capital costs. Although the rule is intended to place the financial burden on haulers, there's a concern that these costs will be passed on to customers, similar to tariffs. They want to ensure that any changes are supported by solid data and evidence.
2. Source Separation - Source separation is a fundamental part of the region's diversion strategy. However, some new concepts and rules for technology seem to move away from this. These new technologies allow for large volumes of commingled packaging, food waste, and recyclables to be hauled and processed with minimal standards. They want to ensure that these standards are reviewed to protect the integrity of the current system.

Please let Blazey know if you have any questions or would like to schedule a tour.

Sweet thanked Blazey for his comments and said that this is an issue that will receive significant attention.

SWD Updates

Singer provided the SWD update.

Tonnage update

Garbage tons through June are slightly above the last two years. (418K tons in 2024 vs. 421K ton in 2025). The Black River (Republic) tons are included in the tonnage. We are trying to push out our review further to get a bigger picture.

Recycling tonnage collected and diverted at transfer stations is at 14,400 tons through June. This is on par with year-to-date tonnage in June of 2024 (14,487 tons), but lower than the tonnage to date in 2023 (15,584). Transfer station recycling includes yard waste, clean wood, glass, cardboard, mixed paper, scrap metal, textiles, mattresses, appliances, bicycles, tires, mixed containers, and plastic.

Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Plant Acquisition

On July 22, King County Council unanimously passed an ordinance that authorizes the County to purchase the renewable natural gas plant located at CHRL. The County has until Aug. 29 to sign the agreement to purchase the plant and settle the pending federal litigation between the County and BEW.

Settling this litigation allows the County to put landfill gas to beneficial use instead of flaring it and losing the environmental and financial benefits.

We are working to identify a third-party operator to operate the plant, and plan to have someone aboard by the end of August. We are doing an internal campaign to rename the new facility.

Once operational, gas from the RNG plant produces the energy needed to meet the natural gas needs of over 17,500 homes in King County. That also means that an equal amount of non-renewable energy – fossil fuels like natural gas, coal, or oil – does not need to be consumed. By minimizing the release of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, operation of the plant has positive climate impacts for the people living in King County and beyond.

Operating the plant also has financial benefits for the Solid Waste Division and the ratepayers of King County. Selling the biogas produced by the plant is anticipated to be revenue positive.

We are also working on legislation authorizing the County to sell the biomethane and environmental attributes to Puget Sound Energy.

Singer shared her excitement to have this opportunity for SWD.

Vashon Compactor Rebuild Completed

SWD recently completed the rebuild of the Vashon Recycling & Transfer Station municipal solid waste compactor.

The compactor is used to compact, load and transfer approximately 30 tons of waste per hour into transfer trailers which maximizes payloads for long haul transfer. Originally slated for replacement, Ops and Engineering determined that the structural integrity of the compactors was in excellent condition so instead, they pursued a complete refurbishment of the compactor major components.

This new approach SWD, and ratepayers, approximately \$900k to \$1M.

Giem inquired whether the county's takeover of gas capture would allow SWD to more quickly capture methane from food waste. He noted that food waste decomposes rapidly, leading to an early release of this potent greenhouse gas, and he is trying to quantify the environmental impact of this process.

Singer responded that the initiative focuses on the entire landfill, not strictly on food waste. She explained that the landfill is already equipped to trap the gas, and once the county takes over, we will be able to immediately capture and sell the methane. She noted that while gas production will eventually decrease over a 20-year period, they will be able to capture it in the interim. However, she was not certain about the specific relationship between the county's takeover and the quicker methane release from food waste.

Giem remains curious about the speed of methane capture. Singer offered to connect with him offline to discuss it further. Giem shared the [EPR report](#) on methane gas released from food waste at landfills.

MSWAC and SWAC members toured Strategic Materials Inc.

The tour emphasized the problem of recycling contamination, which highlights the need for our communities to learn how to recycle right. This is especially important for recycling businesses, which often find it difficult to find a place for the end materials. The facility is actively looking for clean glass and has mechanisms in place to process it.

Singer thanked everyone who participated in the tour.

Reminder: WRR Grant LOIs due

Letters of Intent are due by August 19 for SWD's WRR Grant Program, the allocation-based grant program for cities in King County's solid waste system. Applications aren't due until October, but submitting Letters of Intent allows SWD to determine the grant allocation for each city.

Progress continues on SCRTS

In late June, a weekend closure of West Valley Highway South allowed crews to successfully complete the installation of a new culvert beneath the roadway adjacent to the facility site. This culvert is designed to support stormwater drainage in the area by protecting roadways and nearby infrastructure from flooding, and will help aid in fish passage.

The highway has reopened to traffic and a single-lane closure is now in place as the installation of remaining underground utilities in the roadway takes place. Curb placement also began last month near the existing Algona Transfer Station and is progressing northward along West Valley Highway South.

At the transfer building, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing work is now underway inside. Interior framing in the administration building is complete, and crews are installing window framing at the household hazardous waste building.

Work also continues to progress as crews prepare for the construction of the scale house, which will weigh vehicles entering and exiting the transfer station. Pits have been cleared to make way for the installation of the industrial scales and underground electrical and communications systems are being installed to support the payment and traffic systems that the building will house.

SWD in the Community

- Auburn Farmers Market – SCRSTS outreach: 8/10 & 9/14
- Algona Day - SCRSTS outreach: 8/23
- Thrift & Threads Festival (Redmond) - SCRSTS outreach: 8/24
- Repair Event (Renton Library) - Community repair event: 9/6
- Federal Way Farmers Market – SCRSTS outreach: 9/27

Sweet, who has been around solid waste for a long time, commented that the quality of materials entering facilities has not improved much over the years. She expressed concern about the direction of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and its impact on the community, asking if anyone was actively addressing the issue.

Singer responded the county needs to reimagine a solution for communities. She stressed that the county cannot do this alone and that uniformity is needed across the region to ensure the same standards are delivered to everyone. She believes the public wants to be part of the solution but lacks the proper guidance.

Sweet agreed with the sentiment but added that there is also an element of inherent human laziness to consider. She stressed that as they move forward with EPR, we need to find a solution. She added that we had this conversation when “China Sword” happened and not much has changed.

Singer responded that she believed the solution lies in early education. Drawing on her own experience as a child in Oregon, she described a system where she was taught to clean and prepare recyclables, a habit that remains with her today. She feels that current recycling methods have created a system that lacks accountability. Singer concluded that they must find a way to put accountability back on the general public and is open to suggestions on how to do so, acknowledging that this will be a difficult process with some growing pains.

SWAC Update

No update.

Operations Update

Stubbs and Monteiro provided an overview of the July operations at the transfer stations.

SWD response during service disruption caused by out-of-state hauler labor actions:

- SWD launched Incident Command System (ICS) for daily planning and internal coordination prior to any action being taken
 - The ICS is a structured framework that we use for a coordinated response. It includes an incident commander and representatives from key sections like communication and operations to ensure a smooth and efficient effort. This allowed us to hold daily planning sessions.
- Operations team began site preparations and completed extra special hauls
 - We began preparing the system in advance by completing site maintenance and special hauls, including moving rock, bark, and equipment. We also cleared out recycling, clean wood, and yard waste hauls to

free up our drivers. We took these steps because we anticipated a surge in garbage tonnage and wanted to ensure our resources could be fully dedicated to hauling garbage when it was needed most.

- Regular communication with Republic Services and cities
 - Goal was to understand what operations would look like so we could adjust our operations accordingly and started communication channels with cities, particularly those that were directly impacted by the republic services disruption.
 - Our goal was to understand how the disruption would impact operations so we could adjust accordingly. We started communicating with cities, particularly those most affected by the Republic Services disruption.
- Friday, 7/18 & Saturday, 7/19, had a high volume of self-haul customers, collection events, and picketers resulted in extended wait times.
 - Self-haul customers were confused and came to our facilities for free collection events, rather than go to designated sites in certain cities. This confusion slowed down our operations at the scale house, as operators had to spend extra time explaining the situation to customers who were deciding whether to pay for their refuse.
 - The collection events were effective at helping us contain and process waste from curbside and commercial hauling, allowing us to manage it sooner.
 - It was difficult to calculate and project tonnage for the following week because the data we had was not timely and complete.
 - The picketers, who began their protest at our Renton facility, didn't impact us significantly. Although they temporarily disrupted operations at Renton by blocking commercial haulers, preventing our trucks from servicing other sites, their presence was manageable. The situation was complicated by the fact that only one of our scales was working, which further slowed throughput.
- On Saturday, 7/19:
 - Due to picketing activity and Renton's single entry/exit point, commercial haulers were diverted as they were unable to access the station. The decision also considered high projected system-wide and self-haul volumes. The station remained open for self-haul customers all weekend.
 - Extended at Bow Lake, Factoria, and Houghton (40 additional customers bringing 11 tons).
 - There was a 38% increase in self-haul customers, which may be a conservative estimate.

SWD response after service resumes:

- Reopened Renton Transfer Station to commercial haulers
- Implemented diversion plans to maintain system-wide functionality
 - Diverted Republic Services from Bow Lake to Cedar Hills Landfill from 5 a.m. to noon on 7/23
 - ♣ This is one of our last-resort contingency plans. We do not make these recommendations lightly; we always do our best to keep our services operational and manage issues within our own system.
 - ♣ We are applying the lessons learned from the 5-day project to our current planning efforts, particularly as we look at our operations for Monday coming out of the weekend. For example, in supporting the floor replacement at a SPU facility, we're seeing a 25% increase in self-haul customers and a high number of daily transactions. Over the weekend, we processed a significant volume of over a couple hundred transactions per day, which puts a heavy burden on our employees.
 - Diverted Republic Services to Black River from noon on 7/23 to 6 p.m. on 7/24.
 - ♣ Due to our pre-planning efforts, such as sending haulers to the landfill, we were able to minimize the disruption. This is a last-resort contingency plan that we only implement as an alternative to completely closing our facilities.

- o Recorded an average of 14% increase of incoming tonnage to transfer stations on 7/21-7/25, even with Black River diversion.
- SWD drivers worked 56 overtime shifts and numerous transfer station operators and drivers extended hours to operate the system with minimal disruptions.
 - o During the disruption, our management team, including Singer and Stubbs, came in on their days off to show support for staff. They spoke with both customers and employees, thanking them for their patience and apologizing for the inconvenience. This was a clear message that we're moving from the 5-day project to a "shoulder-to-shoulder" approach, working with each other rather than against each other.

SWD lessons learned:

- Timely, transparent communication is critical, especially across jurisdictions
 - o Advance communication about collection events and service adjustments is critical for SWD to allocate resources, plan for facility throughput, and coordinate internally.
 - o **Key takeaway:** partners should work together to formalize expectations for timely communication, especially regarding major service changes, tonnage projections, or community events during disruptions.
 - ♣ This information allows us to plan for resources, ensuring we have enough for both the next day's operations and the week ahead. There is a room for improvement, and we can do even better in the future.
- Emergency planning should include scalable contingency measures
 - o More robust contingency planning is needed for longer disruptions or overlapping impacts
 - o **Key takeaway:** future planning should include pre-defined contingency measures that cities, haulers, and the County can activate quickly, such as backup collection sites, hauling adjustments, and cross-jurisdiction coordination frameworks.

Giem added in the chat there are extended delays predicted at Bow Lake Transfer Station on Aug. 13 that were not communicated to the cities.

Gire, who comes from an impacted city, shared his appreciation for Monteiro and the Operations staff. He noted a complete turnaround from earlier in the year, as SWD was prepared for this event. SWD had resources and overtime shifts in place and drivers bought into the need.

He especially commended Operations for immediately addressing the issue and its system-wide impacts. Gire added that after many days without collection service, residents needed the system to be stable during the recovery period, and SWD delivered on that.

Donati commended SWD for extending hours at all transfer stations, particularly Bow Lake, and thanked SWD for its partnership.

Monteiro replied that, as Gire noted, this was a complete turnaround from the past. Employees were willing to stay on short notice, which is something the SWD cannot mandate. Three sites remained open, with both Bow Lake and Factoria extending their hours for multiple days. This was possible because not only did the Transfer Station and Scale Operators agree to stay, but there was also enough available space on the floors and in empty trailers. Monteiro emphasized that the cooperation with labor was a huge difference from their previous operating model.

Campbell from Recology thanked Monteiro for his presentation and the updates on the challenges from July. She then shifted the discussion to current issues, noting that there are delays at the transfer stations today. She wanted the

committee to hear about the county's solutions for reducing or eliminating these delays and closures, which she described as a significant operational challenge.

Weiker from Republic Services echoed Campbell's comments and thanked both Monteiro and Stubbs for their hard work and close communication with jurisdictions during that unanticipated event. She also thanked the cities that partnered with Republic, acknowledging their patience and helpfulness in communicating throughout their organizations to get through the tough days.

Sweet added her thanks to Monteiro and Stubbs for their collaboration.

Heubach commended King County's swift response when the Renton Transfer Station's recycling reached capacity. She noted that while the focus was on garbage, the disruption highlighted that recycling was also an issue, as collection had not occurred for 12 days. She suggested that future strike plans consider how other waste streams like yard waste and recycling will be handled to accommodate self-haul customers.

In hindsight, it would have been beneficial for Renton to secure pre-approved staging areas for roll-offs at different locations for when transfer stations exceed capacity. While using the Black River facility was an option, they lacked the necessary permissions from the county and public health. This is a point the county should address in future contingency plans.

Lastly, the unexpected closure of the Renton Transfer Station on Saturday was a major challenge. The city had planned a nearby collection event for the day and learned the night before that none of the hauls could be taken to the station. Fortunately, that event ended up working out, but the previous event had to be shut down early by police due to traffic impeding access to a nearby hospital.

Singer responded that she heard Heubach's concerns and agreed they need to improve two-way communication. She explained that during the event, a significant volume of information came from many different sources. In the future, she will ensure that everyone is brought together in a single space to improve cross-communication, which will allow the team to be more prepared for what cities are planning and enable them to shift and maneuver more effectively.

In Bellevue, Gire said they activated four sites that accepted all three waste streams. The city saw enthusiastic participation, with 223 tons of material collected. He was hopeful this effort would relieve pressure on the transfer stations once regular collection resumed.

From the city's perspective, Gire expressed his appreciation for the county's work, acknowledging the difficulty of managing high volumes of vehicles. He highlighted the amazing efficiency of the transfer stations and shared that Bellevue was able to process up to 14 cars per minute. He also credited Republic Services, calling them great partners who worked with the city's transportation department to make their sites effective and efficient. Lastly, he thanked the other impacted cities for their cross-jurisdictional communication.

Heubach commented that while Bellevue had four collection events that included all waste streams, this highlighted how differently cities were impacted. She pointed out that Renton, which is the only city in County to have an every-other-week garbage collection schedule, only received two garbage-only collection events and had to work with a subcontractor and their own staff to create a third. Sweet added to Heubach's point, emphasizing how helpful it would have been to have all that information available at the time.

Seattle Public Utilities Assistance

From Aug. 4-30, SWD will accept self-haul loads from SPU customers at King County transfer stations (Bow Lake and Renton). SPU is replacing the floor at their South Transfer Station and must close to self-haul traffic.

Multiple coordination meetings have occurred between King County and SPU. Operations is making staffing adjustments to ensure maintaining good customer service to our existing customers.

Due to increased volumes, we have 3 scale operators working across two sites, with two on the swing shift at Bow Lake to manage the additional traffic and provide breaks and relief for the primary scale operators. We are currently seeing about a 25% increase in volume on weekdays.

Beginning August 13, we're launching a new swing shift operation to help relieve pressure on the day shift. As mentioned by Campbell and Weiker, we're seeing higher volumes this week due to recent recycling and support commitments. While the six new drivers we've hired have helped, we are still highly dependent on overtime, averaging 10-12 drivers daily. Today, we only had six, which will impact our ability to clear loads at Bow Lake and Factoria, the two stations that, along with Houghton, are the biggest drivers of our system.

We are going to try having three drivers on the swing shift, working from noon until 10:30 p.m. We hope this shift will increase our capacity to provide empty trailers at the end of the day. Our goal is to see if drivers can complete 4-5 loads per shift by working during a period with less traffic, even with the landfill's 6 p.m. noise ordinance. We acknowledge there are differing opinions on the potential effectiveness of this plan and that moving three drivers to the swing shift means losing them from the day shift. We will evaluate the investment and risk over the rest of the week to determine if we will continue the operation.

EPR for paper and Packaging Update and Next Steps

Daniel Weston from the Department of Ecology provided this section.

They will be holding a longer webinar on Sept. 9 for anyone who is interested. There will be a longer presentation followed by open ended Q&A, and there will also be more updates at that time as they will be further along in the process.

The Recycling Reform Act (RRA) is an extensive 70+ page law, comprising over 20 sections, designed to establish Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for consumer packaging. It will fundamentally change how residential packaging is recycled in Washington, specifically targeting packaging and paper products sold directly to Washington consumers for private use. This law impacts curbside, drop-box, and alternative collection methods, but explicitly excludes business-to-business sales and packaging found at the back of stores.

The RRA mandates responsibilities from nearly everyone. Consider the packaging of items you purchase, whether online or locally; this is the focus of the Act.

Producers, who have historically been disconnected from the waste management system, are now key to its improvement. Under the new system, producers must join a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO), pay fees, and report on sales within the state. Fee adjustments will incentivize packaging designed for enhanced waste reduction, reuse, and recycling outcomes.

Producers are mandated to join a PRO, which will represent them in Washington. Circular Action Alliance, already the PRO in several other states, will establish the program, collect producer fees, provide funding, implement the program, set up reuse grants, and manage reporting, tailoring their efforts to meet each state's legal requirements. In Washington, they are required to establish a packaging reuse grant program, starting in 2029, with an annual allocation of \$5 million. The PRO will also cover all of Ecology's costs and at least 90% of residents' curbside bin costs. Furthermore,

the PRO must meet performance targets, achieve specific recovery rates, conduct education and outreach, and identify responsible end markets for collected recyclables.

While "producers" commonly brings to mind packaged goods in grocery stores, the definition extends to private label retail brands, brand owners, first importers, and distributors. This law mandates participation from producers of **all** consumer products, encompassing everything sold in hardware stores, electronics stores, shoe stores, and beyond.

From states years ahead in implementation, we've learned that over 2,500 producers are registered with the Circular Action Alliance in Oregon and California. We anticipate a similar number for Washington.

PRO/Producer timeline (sections 103/104)

Date	Who	What
Jan. 1, 2026	Producers	Appoint a PRO
January 2026	Producers/PRO	Attend quarterly advisory council meetings
March 1, 2026	PRO	Register with Ecology
July 1, 2026	Producers	Must join a PRO or register as individual producer-PRO
Sept. 1, 2026	PRO	Submit one-time fee to Ecology (for 25-27) biennium costs
May 1, 2027	PRO	Submit annual registration fee to Ecology
Aug. 1, 2028	PRO	Submit draft plan to the advisory council
Oct. 1, 2028	PRO	Submit draft plan to Ecology
2029	PRO	Fund a \$5M packaging reuse grant program
March 2029	Producers	Noncompliant producers may not sell in Washington
Jan. 1, 2030	PRO	Implement approved plan
July 1, 2031	PRO	Submit annual report to Ecology

This list outlines the responsibilities for Producers and the PRO, organized by due date. Although the Draft Plan isn't due until October 2028, the PRO will engage in outreach and collaboration with registered service providers and local governments in the preceding years. Furthermore, the Advisory Council will actively participate in and provide input on many of these actions.

Ecology's oversight responsibilities include drafting regulations, conducting multiple required studies, and developing consistent statewide recycling lists to standardize recycling practices across the state.

Ecology will register service providers, ensure overall enforcement and compliance, and appoint and facilitate a 19-member Advisory Council, set to be established in January 2026. It will also include a 6-member equity subcommittee, to represent interested parties. This council will review and comment on all aspects of program development and implementation. While there are limited seats for each interested party group, the aim is to ensure the right individuals are in place, and outreach to fill these positions will begin soon. The application will open from September 2-30.

Ecology will facilitate regular meetings for this Advisory Council. There is significant work ahead, and ample opportunity for individuals to join and help Ecology ensure the program's success.

The Advisory Council will be comprised of:

- Ecology:
 - PRO oversight/enforcement
 - Service provider registration
 - Collection lists and needs assessment

- Advisory Council:
 - 19 members – 17 voting and 2 nonvoting members. No lobbyist, legislators or producer employees.
 - Manufacturer of packaging or paper products or manufacturers trade association (2)
 - Recycling facility (2)
 - Solid waste collection company or statewide association representing solid waste collection companies (1)
 - Retailer or statewide retail trade association (1)
 - Statewide nonprofit environmental organization (1)
 - Community-based nonprofit environmental justice organization (1)
 - Material recovery facility (1)
 - Compost facility or statewide compost trade association (1)
 - Reuse/refill organization or statewide reuse/refill trade association (1)
 - Local government (3)
 - Tribal or indigenous solid waste services organizations (1)
 - Equity subcommittee
 - Compensation available for tribal, community-based, or nonprofit members
 - Review and comment on everything

Ecology timeline (section 106)

Date	What
January 1, 2026	Submit Recycling Refund Modeling Study to the legislature
January 2026	Appoint the Advisory Council, facilitate quarterly meetings, register service providers and start rulemaking
Oct. 1, 2026	Publish statewide collection lists (update after PRO plan approval)
Dec. 31, 2026	Publish preliminary needs assessment
Jan. 1, 2027	Submit recycling refund modeling study to the legislature
Dec. 31, 2027	Publish second needs assessment (update in 5 years)
Jan. 1, 2027	Submit recycling refund community input to the legislature
April 2028	Adopt rules
January 2029	Complete PRO draft economic impact analysis and complete comprehensive solid waste management plan amendment
May 2029	Approve PRO Plan
January 2030	Complete litter tax study (consult with the Dept. Of Revenue)

This list outlines Ecology's due dates; it does not include information submitted to Ecology by the PRO or Producers. Nearly all these activities will involve public input opportunities and consultation with the Advisory Council, with many actions overlapping.

There are two studies that will take place in the coming future

Ecology has two studies planned for the near future:

- **Convenient Access Modeling Study:** This study will model what convenient access looks like for our community. It's required by legislation and is due by **January 1, 2026**. They will be announcing the vendor for this study very soon.
- **Community Input Process:** This study is due in **2027**.

The statewide lists and needs assessments have been combined into a single project. Proposals for this project are currently under review, and the vendor is expected to be announced during Ecology's Sept. 9 webinar.

Ecology plans to contract a third-party facilitator for the advisory council. The contract will likely be finalized in November or December, with the facilitator beginning their work when meetings start after January. Several other studies are also planned for later in the process.

Residents in both single and multi-family homes will benefit from reduced-rate curbside recycling services, available almost everywhere curbside garbage service exists, and gain increased access to drop-off sites and alternative recyclable collection. The PRO is also mandated to offer alternative recycling options for difficult-to-handle materials and fund existing public place recycling initiatives. Importantly, the list of accepted materials for curbside bins will be standardized across every jurisdiction in the state.

Service providers, defined as companies, local governments, or non-profits that currently provide or contract for the collection, transport, and processing of recyclable materials, must register annually with Ecology, starting in January 2026. This registration serves two purposes: first, to inform the PRO about available service providers, and second, to collect data for establishing the baseline preliminary needs assessment of current services. Registered service providers will eventually be reimbursed for at least 90% of their costs by the PRO when the program launches in 2030. Beginning in 2031, there will also be a certification requirement for responsible end markets.

Local governments will experience financial relief as the PRO covers the costs of residential recycling and reimburses associated recycling-related expenses incurred by cities and counties.

To receive reimbursement, service providers must register with Ecology by January 31, 2026. Ecology is currently developing the registration form and expects it to be ready no later than December to give everyone ample time to register. The required data is detailed in Section 107 of the bill. If your local government plans to register, Ecology would welcome your input as a beta tester for the system. Several cities are already lined up to help, but if you would like to see what the process looks like and provide feedback, please reach out to him.

Unregistered service providers may continue offering services but will not receive reimbursement. Both service providers and the PRO are responsible for ensuring that collected materials are directed to responsible end markets.

Service provider reporting (section 107)

- Service provider data
 - Service area information
 - ♣ Households, single/multi
 - ♣ Billing data
 - ♣ Materials collected
 - Transfer station operations
 - Processing services
 - Tons managed
 - ♣ Single family/multi-family, drop box
 - ♣ Segregate by collection, transfer, processing
- Material recovery facility
 - By commodity type/material type:
 - ♣ Tons – inbound, outbound, contamination, residuals
 - Inbound: by jurisdictions and by service providers
 - Outbound: by destination company, location and final use of the commodity

- Contamination: will be required to report inbound and outbound rates; and describe the methods being used to manage contaminants
- Residuals: composition of their materials, residual rates and the disposal location
- ♣ Must identify violations of existing permits and to report on labor metrics like wages, unions and workforce demographics
- ♣ Permits, air/water emissions

In addition to basic contact information, the law mandates that each service provider submit significant additional data by January 31, 2026, to inform the preliminary needs assessment. The online reporting form for this data is currently under development and is expected to be available by November. Ecology will conduct outreach and work with service providers to test the form in advance of the reporting deadline, ensuring its functionality for all users.

After the program is implemented in 2030, the benefits to Washington from the Recycling Reform Act will be many. A few highlights include:

- Access and outreach: +500,000 homes
 - Access to recycling services will expand to nearly half a million more homes, particularly benefiting residents in rural communities and apartments. Concurrently, recycling service costs for residents will decrease by at least 90%. The PRO will ensure consistent and accessible outreach across the state, which is expected to reduce confusion about what is recyclable and significantly decrease contamination in the recycling stream.
- Increased recycling: 66% recovered
 - The program is projected to increase the residential recycling rate for recyclable materials from 40% to 66% by 2035. These materials will be collected and processed by existing businesses, with necessary upgrades funded by the PRO. The law also mandates that all collected materials are directed to responsible end markets.
- More jobs: +1,700 jobs
 - Those requirements, increasing recovery and using existing businesses, will create more jobs in the recycling industry. The law requires those jobs to be living wage jobs under equitable working conditions.
 - The PRO funded \$5M grant program will help grow the reuse industry, which will support more jobs.
 - ♣ Recycling and reuse create more jobs than landfilling. 1,000 tons of recyclables, if landfilled, can be managed by less than one person; but if recycled, can create 12 recycling jobs, or 17 reuse and remanufacture jobs.
- Reducing greenhouse gases (GHGs): -565,000 MT
 - Manufacturing with recycled materials requires less energy, which creates fewer GHG emissions, than manufacturing from virgin materials.
 - The additional materials recycled through the recycling reform act has been estimated to reduce an additional 500,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year. The investment in the packaging reuse infrastructure will also lead to reduced GHG emissions.

Anyone interested in participating in the development and implementation of the RRA can:

- Join or attend the advisory council meetings
- Register as service providers (as appropriate)
- Participate in the data/information gathering (for lists and needs assessments)
- Review and comment on statewide lists, needs assessments, rulemaking, and PRO plan
- Help Ecology with the comprehensive solid waste management plan amendment development

For more information about the Recycling Reform Act, [visit the website](#). For any questions, email the Ecology team at RecyclingReform@ecy.wa.gov. Subscribe to Ecology's RRA email list [here](#).

Organics Management Law Implementation & Rulemaking

Cullen Naumoff from the Department of Ecology provided this section.

Since 2022, Washington state has passed a series of three major laws aimed at controlling methane emissions and meeting our climate action goals. Based on a waste characterization study of Puget Sound landfills, we know that nearly 40% of landfill material is organic. When this material decomposes, it generates methane, a significant driver of climate change.

To accelerate the diversion of organics from landfills, the state has set ambitious management goals. Using 2015 as a baseline, we are working toward the 2030 goal by implementing a new set of requirements.

What is in OML 3.0? **this is the latest legislature*

- State building code obligations
 - New multi-family residential and commercial buildings must allocate sufficient space for solid waste storage, including for source-separated organic materials.
- Possibility for building owner/operator obligations
 - Local governments have the option to require owners and operators of new or existing multi-family buildings to provide adequate space for garbage, recycling, and organics collection containers. They can also mandate signage and occupant education. The specific requirements are flexible, allowing local governments to tailor them as needed.
- Food waste in schools and how schools operate in four different ways
 - These sections will be managed by either the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and/or the Washington State Department of Agriculture. The requirements focus on four key areas:
 - ♣ Integrating food waste into the school curriculum.
 - ♣ Identifying best practices for managing food waste.
 - ♣ Using the "farm to school" program to increase schools' procurement of Washington-grown food.
 - ♣ Reducing food waste by purchasing Washington-grown food that might have otherwise gone to waste.
- One adjustment to the compostable product labeling update
 - Parchment paper and other paper-based sheets intended for cooking are now exempt from on-product marking requirements, such as logos, specific coloring, or wording. However, the on-packaging label requirements still apply to these products.
- Adds requirements for organics grant program eligibility
 - The 2024 **Organics Management Law (OML 2.0)** authorized Ecology to create a suite of five grant programs to invest in food waste prevention and the implementation of OML requirements. Eligible applicants, as outlined in the statute, include jurisdictions, schools, tribal members, and private entities. A significant change was introduced in **OML 3.0**, which requires that all recipients of these grants must be in compliance with collection bin and label requirements to be eligible for funding.
- Establishes bin color standardization and labeling
 - To reduce consumer confusion and contamination, especially in recyclables and organics, new regulations now require that all containers purchased after **August 1, 2025**, adhere to a standard color-coding system:
 - ♣ **Grey/Black:** Non-recyclable/non-organic waste
 - ♣ **Brown/Green:** Organic waste

- ♣ **Blue:** Source-separated recyclables
 - By Jan. 1, 2028, all containers used for curbside commercial or public waste collection must also have clear and conspicuous labels on both the container and its lid. This labeling requirement does not apply to containers a jurisdiction plans to remove from service by January 1, 2030. However, perfectly functional containers that don't comply with the new color standards don't need to be replaced if they are still in use.
 - The Department of Ecology may grant exemptions, such as for a jurisdiction that proposes an alternative transition plan and timeline.

Heubach asked for clarification on the term "container," as used in the legislation for public places. She noted that in the industry, the word can have a very specific meaning, but to her, it's a broad term that could apply to anything from a roll-off bin to a five-gallon bucket. She sought clarity on what constitutes a public-place container, such as those mounted on sidewalks or inside recreation centers. She believes this is a gray area and wants to ensure she is interpreting the rules correctly.

Naumoff appreciated the question, explaining that their team is developing specific guidance to clarify this terminology. The issue has even been raised at leadership meetings to determine which terms to use when defining a public container, cart, or receptacle. They thanked Heubach for flagging the issue and announced that guidance on this topic should be released within the next month. Ecology is actively working to provide this information and interpretation.

- Business Organics Management Areas (BOMA) changes
 - Ecology is required to publish an annual list of businesses likely to be subject to compliance, specific to the generation of organic material that their business creates. This list is not definitive and will need local verification. The purpose of this list is to facilitate education and outreach from solid waste companies, local health jurisdictions, and local governments, and it may also be used for enforcement.
 - ♣ Ecology is developing a methodology to create a list of businesses that need to comply with the new regulations. This list is expected by the summer of **2026**. The goal of this list is to help Ecology provide targeted technical assistance and support to businesses on their compliance journey, and to aid in enforcement.
 - Under **OML 2.0**, jurisdictional health departments (JHDs) were granted enforcement authority for businesses not in compliance. This authority was extended in **OML 3.0** to include any jurisdiction that implements a solid waste management plan. Jurisdictions and JHDs are expected to work collaboratively to develop an enforcement strategy, which will outline the process and any penalties that can be applied to non-compliant businesses statewide.
 - ♣ Starting July 1, penalties may be issued
 - Establish penalties
 - Maximum penalties for small businesses
 - ♣ Penalties begin at **\$500 per day** for a first violation. This amount increases to **\$1,000 per day** for a third or subsequent violation. For small businesses, there is an annual cap of **\$10,000** for penalties in any single calendar year.

As a reminder, the BOMA map was updated for 2026. There was a small change which impacted the central part of the state.

Beginning in January 2026, the volume metric for businesses required to comply with organic material collection will be 96 gallons per week. This threshold has progressively decreased from 8 cubic yards, and then to 4 cubic yards, before dropping to the upcoming 96-gallon requirement.

Kovar raised concerns about whether the new state grant programs will be funded, as several previous grants have been pulled. She also noted that she has heard that the King County Health Department lacks the staff and budget to perform enforcement. Her city also does not have the funds or staff needed to enforce.

Naumoff responded that this is a common theme across the state, as many local health jurisdictions (LHJs) are at capacity in terms of staff and financial resources. She explained that the expansion of penalties was a recommendation from the LHJ community impacted by BOMA to provide a revenue source for this work. While this helps with ongoing costs, it does not provide start-up capital. She added that many LHJs statewide will be focusing on technical assistance in the near term.

When Sweet asked for clarification on whether this meant more information was coming, Naumoff confirmed that it did. She said that once the organics grants rulemaking process begins at the end of 2025, funds will be available to support BOMA enforcement. She also noted that people across the state are using LSWFA funds for business technical assistance and compliance.

Organics Recycling Collection Areas (ORCA) and Business Organics Management Areas (BOMA) are both used to identify areas for mandatory organics collection.

The key difference is their basis for designation:

- **ORCA** is determined by **population**.
- **BOMA** is determined by whether businesses have **current access** to organics collection services.

The specific requirements have not changed, but beginning in April 2027, year-round curbside or source-separated organics collection must be made available to all single-family homes and non-residential customers that generate at least a quarter cubic yard of organic material per week. By 2030, these same customers will be required to subscribe to the service, which must include both food waste and yard waste.

The primary change to ORCA is the phased-in timeline for the multifamily program. Jurisdictions with a solid waste management plan must now establish a program and timeline for enabling curbside organics collection for multifamily residential buildings.

ORCA:

- **Key change: Addition of collection of multi-family residence phase-in**
 - Jurisdictions that submit a preliminary draft solid waste management plan after July 1, 2026, must now include a timeline and program to phase in source-separated organic material collection for multi-family residences.
- **Key Change: Individual Exemptions**
 - The law now requires—rather than permits—local jurisdictions to grant exemptions to individuals who manage their materials using an alternative mechanism that achieves equal or better environmental outcomes. Ecology is currently developing guidance for cities and jurisdictions on this process, with a stakeholder advisory group providing feedback.

The **ORCA map** will be updated annually every September to reflect regulatory changes based on population shifts. The map will continue to expand as population grows. The general population trigger for a community to be included is when it surpasses 25,000 people, though there are other nuances that can affect this interpretation.

Ecology recognizes that not all jurisdictions have the necessary infrastructure for organics recycling. Therefore, the agency is developing waivers for both service and collection frequency. Jurisdictions will be able to apply for these

waivers starting in Spring 2026. Stakeholder input will be used to inform the development and final structure of these waivers.

If a jurisdiction is unable to comply with the ORCA requirements within the specified timeline, it may apply for a service waiver. This applies to a jurisdiction's entire ORCA area or even just a single census tract. The waiver application must include a plan detailing how the jurisdiction will achieve compliance in a new timeframe.

Waiver & Guideline Development for ORCA

- Service waivers
 - Issued to jurisdictions or parts of jurisdictions extending the timeline of organic material collection service
 - Time period: up to 5-year renewable waiver
 - Application + ORCA readiness plan
 - Available for use in January 2026
- Frequency waivers
 - Issued to jurisdictions meeting the ORCA requirements through another means other than curbside collection --> waiver reduces frequency of collection requirements
 - Time period: one-time waiver
 - Application + alternative collection plan
 - Available for use early 2026
- Guidance
 - Provide local jurisdictions example guidance on how to exempt persons from collection requirements if organic materials will be managed through an alternative mechanism.
 - Time period: TBD
 - Available for use early 2026

Guidelines for Individual exemptions

- Ecology will provide guidance on how to exempt persons from collection requirements if organic materials will be managed through an alternative mechanism.
 - Available in early 2026
- Change due to HB 1497: may--> must

Based on the ORCA statute, Ecology was directed to open up their solid waste handling standard rule, WAC 173350. Generally, rulemaking adds details to a specific statute. It provides clarification. This statute directed Ecology to specifically address amending

Ecology is amending its grant rulemaking to incorporate new language for organic material management. These amendments will focus on establishing standards to address contamination in both incoming organic waste and outgoing finished products like compost. This is in anticipation of a significant increase in the total amount of organic material processed at facilities.

They are also using this rulemaking process, which is a two-year, stakeholder-driven procedure, to address new technologies for managing organic material, establish standards for preprocessing, and revise other deficiencies in the rule since 2013. The process was initiated in December 2024, and it is currently in the rule development phase.

Naumoff encouraged members to get involved, as this is the most critical time to shape the rule. While draft language is expected in the mid-to-late fall, the language will be more directionally solid by May 2026. This rulemaking addresses

contamination and helps determine who is a responsible party for managing and improving contamination within the bins, giving everyone a stake in the process.

Additionally, Ecology is considering amendments that will cover other organic material management practices.

As a reminder, the purpose of rulemaking:

- Clarify a statute (RCW)
- Amend a rule (WAC) to align with changes in state or federal laws
- Create or amend a rule in response to a petition or court decision
- Ensures transparency and public involvement

Goals of the organic materials rulemaking goals and objectives

- Establish standards to limit contamination in incoming feedstock and outgoing finished products
- Establish new standards for pre-processing feedstocks
- Revise other standards for organic material processors noted since the last update in 2013

Organic materials rulemaking timeline:

- Dec. 2024: File CR-101
- May 2026: File CR-102
- July 2026: Public hearings
- Sept. 2026: anticipated adoption and CR-103 filing

Looking ahead to the next 12 months:

- Gather input and continue to shape WAC 173-350 during the rulemaking process
- Release of the compost market study – summer 2025
 - This projects the total increase in organic material on a county-by-county basis, based on the requirements of the Organics Management Laws. This will be a critical planning tool, helping stakeholders determine the necessary facility sizes, supply chain infrastructure, and market needs for the finished compost.
- Release of the food data hub findings, improving food rescue data tracking – summer 2025
- Release of food service compliance educational materials – summer 2025

Ecology's strong efforts to divert organics from landfills are a key component of the state's climate plan. For any questions, please contact the team at organics@ecy.wa.gov.

Ryan Kellogg from Public Health – Seattle and King County said in the chat that Public Health is interested to talk more with King County cities on implementation concerns and challenges.

Comp Plan Draft Chapter 4 Discussion

Liu and Smith led this discussion.

The goal is to hand off the Comp Plan chapters to SEPA consultants in a complete state as possible. We want to know what areas you want to tackle and what it could look like. This goal was set to seamlessly create and adopt a Comp Plan that aligns the goals of SWD, ILA cities, and other partners.

The purpose of this Comp Plan process is to:

- Focus on language that allows SWD to act – what is the umbrella that makes key strategies and tactics possible?
- Consider costs of potential policy change

Chapter 4: Circular Economy Chapter Discussion

Liu clarified that she selected specific comments requiring more explanation or discussion to address common themes and questions. She intends to touch on all comments in the document, noting that most were straightforward.

- **Comp plan priority/action:** (policy and infrastructure) explore and pursue options to further the circular economy, including increase reuse, recycling, and resources recovery from generators and at transfer stations through innovative methods and technologies
 - **Member comment/discussion:** Can we accept more material types at our transfer stations?

We can accept more material types at our transfer stations but with significant limitations. A primary constraint is space, especially at older facilities, which are not designed to accommodate more materials. There is also the issue of economic feasibility, as finding cost-effective end uses for all types of material can be challenging.

Smith echoed this, emphasizing that space utilization is critical. While it may be possible to accept more materials, the decision depends on the overall impact. This issue remains under review, and clear language regarding it will be included in the Comprehensive Plan.

- **Comp plan priority/action:** Generation rate targets
 - **Member comment/discussion:** How will these be determined

This aligns with a new zero-waste goal, with a target of achieving the necessary waste reduction rates by around **2035**. The County will generate an analysis to support this goal, which will be shared with advisory groups for input before the regional target is officially set.

- **Comp plan priority/action:** Various actions (ex: grant programs)
 - **Member comment/discussion:** How does SWD determine return of investment (ROI) standards and prioritize actions and weigh their costs?

In applications for our grants and the Waste Reduction and Recycling (WRR) grant, cities are asked to detail the anticipated impact of their proposed actions. We continue to maintain this requirement.

As part of the Re+ initiative and the zero-waste plan, we discussed how to define and measure return of investment (ROI) for our generational system changes. We settled on three key areas:

1. **Diversion potential**
2. **Climate potential**
3. **Social equity potential**

Much of the work for **Re+** is about building a system for the 2030s. This means that while many of our grants offer near-term diversion opportunities, our support is primarily focused on creating lasting systemic change.

Our theory of change is that we must invest today to build a system whose full benefits will be realized in the 2030s. As part of the Re+ initiative, our work is focused on this long-term systemic change, even though many of our grant opportunities still offer near-term waste diversion. We measure the ROI using leading indicators, such as tracking if grant applicants are from minority-owned or BIPOC-owned

businesses, recognizing that these investments in innovation today will create long-term benefits for multiple communities.

Our grant programs serve dual purposes:

1. **To drive near-term action**, where diversion is a good indicator of success.
2. **To support future system-wide change**, which makes relying solely on diversion indicators challenging.

- **Comp plan priority/action:** Various actions on increasing material recovery from Construction and Demolition
 - **Member comment/discussion:** More background information

There is significant potential within the Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste stream, and our region has increased its funding to support initiatives in this area. SWAC provided substantial input, recommending that we revisit and clarify definitions for C&D and source separation. We want to ensure that these definitions are clear and appropriately placed within the comprehensive plan. Additionally, we are exploring the use of incentives to encourage the on-site separation of C&D waste.

The core question is whether the comprehensive plan's language authorizes these ambitious, high-impact C&D initiatives, which would be detailed in separate plans (like the Re+ or resource recovery plans). We believe the current language does provide that authority.

- **Comp plan priority/action:** (Policy and Infrastructure) Assess and develop options if selected actions are not enough to achieve an overall 70% recycling rate
 - **Member comment/discussion:** Should any frequency of developing these options, or levels of rigor of the options themselves, be built into this?

Several dates have been set based on our generation rate targets. These are the points when we'll discuss our programs and determine if any course corrections are needed.

- **Comp plan priority/action:** (Policy and infrastructure) Work with food producers, grocers, restaurants, and schools to prevent food waste and to increase food recovery through donation of surplus meals and staple food items to local food banks
 - **Member comment/discussion:** How well does this achieve the Organic's Management Law's food waste reduction and edible food recovery goals? Should there be a specific policy/action around supporting recommendations from Ecology's food donation workgroup?

We've held a lot of discussions with our advisory groups regarding organics, connecting it to the broader aims of the Organics Management Law. This item specifically focuses on food rescue and donation. The language in the plan is flexible, allowing us to take future action, but we can also add more specific language to the framework to engage in food donation work.

Sweet asked if the plan would go to Ecology next, Liu clarified that it would go to SEPA consultants to be integrated into the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Liu emphasized that any missing feedback should be provided now.

Liu also explained that the comprehensive plan's language is intentionally high-level to allow for flexibility in execution, and while we are happy to provide clarification on specific actions, those details may not be included in the final plan.

Sweet then asked the members if the year-long review process, in which they have had the opportunity to review each chapter three times, was working for them.

Liu responded that members would have another opportunity to review Chapter 4, as they have not yet seen it in its final chapter form. This applies to the other chapters as well, and Liu hopes that members will focus their feedback on the actions, as these are what the consultants will be focusing on for the EIS.

Member Comment

Moldver introduced the newest member of the Redmond team, Jesse Dunbar. Hired from a consulting firm, he will be taking on two combined positions (Micah Bonkowski and Stacey Auer). He will attend meetings to get up to speed before becoming more involved.

Kovar announced that she is retiring in September, and her job has been posted. She encouraged anyone interested in a contract coordinator position that handles grants to visit the City of Federal Way's webpage.

Nelson commented on the challenge of reducing recycling contamination. She noted that many cities, including Auburn, are hiring consultants to go into schools and provide early education and develop contamination plans. In Auburn, while garbage service is mandatory, recycling is not. If residents do not recycle correctly, they receive a couple of tags, and their recycling will not be picked up. Haulers are also authorized to remove carts for continual contamination. She emphasized the importance of accountability, noting that residents can go online to take a lesson and sign a pledge to recycle correctly. She concluded that getting clean recyclables is essential to keep programs moving forward.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.