

**SWAC Advisory Committee Meeting**

January 20, 2023 - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

<b>SWAC Members Present</b>		<b>King County Staff</b>	
Taylor Atkinson, Vice Chair, Citizen Representative		Brian Halverson, SWD staff	
April Atwood, Marketing and Education		Pat McLaughlin, SWD Director	
Robin Freedman, Waste Management		Amy Ockerlander, SWD Staff	
Phillippa Kassover, Local Elected Official		Yolanda Pon, Public Health Seattle/King County	
Bill Louie, Citizen Representative		Hannah Scholes, SWD Staff	
Brian Martin, Citizen Representative		Adrian Tan, SWD staff	
Penny Sweet, Local Elected Official		Isabelle Trujillo, SWD staff	
Heather Trim, Recycling Industry		Dorian Waller, SWD staff	
Wendy Weiker, Chair, Waste Industry		John Walsh, SWD Staff	
<b>Guests</b>			
Christine Arbogast, Tetra Tech		Brad Lovaas, WA Refuse and Recycling Association	
Phil Allen, non-member citizen		Kazia Mermel, Sound Cities Association	
Henry Allen, Spokane Valley		Rob Van Orsow, City of Federal Way	
Jon Gire, City of Bellevue		Cheryl Paston, City of Bellevue	
Jeanette Jurgensen, Epicenter Services		Diana Wadley, Washington State Dept. of Ecology	

**Call to Order and Introductions**

Chair Weiker called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m.

**Meeting Minutes**

The agenda was reviewed. Atkinson motioned to approve the agenda. Sweet seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Atkinson moved to approve the minutes. Kassover seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Wadley shared several comments starting with the Compost procurement ordinances and thanked everyone for working on it. Regarding the Sound Cities Association and Cedar Grove presentation on Feb. 10, the Dept. of Ecology was not asked to attend the presentation, but Wadley will be in attendance. The Sound Cities Association (SCA) is collecting compost procurement ordinances and they have been a great resource for people. If anyone wants it posted to BOX, please send it to Wadley. They are part of an overall library of resources, and it is open to the public for browsing.

Weiker added a link in the chat to the Sound Cities Association and Cedar Grove [presentation](#) on Feb. 10.

The organics management law that passed in 2022 is complex and to fund this, Ecology has put together a document for folks. The [EPA Recycling and Education Outreach Grant Program](#) application deadline has been extended to Feb. 15 from its original deadline in January. Regarding the [Precycle Innovation Challenge](#), applications opened Jan. 2 and closes March 13. This is being hosted by Seattle Business network and Zero Waste Washington and is open to Pacific Northwest non-profits and folks looking to recycle. The supportive program starts March 23 with finalists presenting their pitches at

a fun online Innovation Summit open to the public on May 15. If you want to be involved, reach out to them. For more information, see [www.precyclewa.org](http://www.precyclewa.org) or contact Sydney Porter at [sydney@seattlegood.org](mailto:sydney@seattlegood.org).

There are three main ways to get involved:

1. Become a Community Partner and help people learn more about this opportunity. This will include promoting the program and live event. All well-fitting applicants are encouraged to apply, and others to participate.
2. Be a Sponsor by boosting with money or in-kind support.
3. Use your expertise – mentors and judges are being sought to support and rank teams. Many areas of knowledge are desired, including market analysis, energy, health care, litter, etc. More areas can be found at the Precycle Innovation Challenge.

In the chat, Wadley dropped a link to the Compost Procurement Ordinances collection on BOX. You can send yours (or any questions) to [Diana.wadley@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Diana.wadley@ecy.wa.gov). The overall library is open to the public. Wadley also dropped a link to the Organics Management Funding Opportunities that may support the 2023 Organics Management Law, which mentions EPA.

P. Allen shared a few comments regarding last year's Re+ survey. Allen stated that he took the survey and is looking forward to seeing the things put forward to make the system a better place; and is eager to seeing the legislative updates and any changes.

### **SWD Updates**

McLaughlin provided the SWD update.

### **Monthly tonnage**

Our tonnage for 2022 was 872,584 tons compared to 880,766 tons in 2021 (-1%). The difference in the forecast was down about 2%. This isn't unexpected and not concerning financially at this stage. We made gains from commercial collections but lost about 20k tons from the self-haulers. In addition, regional direct was 9,000 tons lower in 2022 compared to 2021.

### **North County Recycling and Transfer Station (NERTS)**

Progress continues with the Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station (NERTS) project. We are in the scoping process for this, and we completed virtual and in-person scoping meetings in Kirkland and Woodinville. We had high engagement and are thankful to city staff for showing up and showing support. We will produce a draft EIS later this year and will engage in another public engagement process.

SWD staff continue to meet and discuss with "impacted" Councilmembers about the project's status and field any questions they may have. The rescheduled Kirkland scoping meeting took place last week, with about 70 persons in attendance. This was the last opportunity to attend a scoping meeting to learn more about the process and submit comments in-person. We held two in-person and one virtual meeting and staff are in the process of compiling scoping comments.

### **In the news**

SWD has been highlighted in the media by Recycling Today, where a King County pilot shows potential solutions for recycling plastic wraps and bags. The pilot involved using drop-off bins at local retailers for plastic wraps and bags. The pilot project was sponsored by Dow Constantine, Nova, General Mills and PAC Worldwide through the American Chemistry Council (ACC), Washington. It was directed by Return-It, a nonprofit recycling organization. SWD and Seattle Public Utilities helped promote the pilot. Project partners set up drop-off bins for plastic wraps and bags used for groceries, produce, bread, dry cleaning, and food storage at eight grocers in King County and two in Kitsap County. Of the 25 tons of material dropped off in the bins during the five-month pilot, we estimate that 95 percent will now be recycled into new products. These were processed by Merlin Plastics in B.C.

## **Re+**

We have continued to make progress legislatively and with city partners in moving towards Re+ actions and we are now approaching four cities that have signed the Re+ pledge. We will be scheduling additional cities for representations and following up with cities that have already had presentations and asking them to move the pledge through councils. The city of Clyde Hill became the third city to sign the Re+ pledge, along with Shoreline and Woodinville. We are expecting to get 20 cities to sign the Re+ pledge by the end of this year.

This effort is being supported by several grants that are being given to local businesses to support new technologies and businesses. We are also getting involved in the state legislative process. McLaughlin testified in both the house and the senate last week about the Washington Recycling and Packaging (WRAP) Act coinciding with these efforts. The Re+ launch originally rescheduled due to snow, will now be a soft launch with News Release in January. We are working on developing a city “scorecard” to harmonize information about what each city is doing to move towards a zero-waste future.

The team is preparing to launch city Re+ Grants in 2023 and this is a result of working with cities to see their bandwidth. The cities in the King County waste system will be eligible to apply and joint applications will be encouraged. We are also engaging with the Re+ community panel to get further input on the grant program. You can email [circulargrants@kingcounty.gov](mailto:circulargrants@kingcounty.gov) with any questions. There is a legislation update that contains several Re+ relevant bills.

## **MSWAC/SWAC Update**

Kassover stated that the agenda was very similar. She added that she attended the hearing on the WRAP Act, with over 1,000 people signing in to watch, and is hopeful for the WRAP Act.

## **2023 Legislative Preview**

Adrian Tan and Hannah Scholes provided the 2023 legislative preview.

Before the presentation, Atkinson wanted to know what legislation was proposed last year and what has changed in the meantime. Scholes responded that this will be talked about as they go through each legislative update.

Beginning with context for the Washington Recycling and Packaging (WRAP) Act, about 30 percent of materials currently going to the landfill is packaging and paper products. Most of these materials (e.g., paper, PET, HDPE, metal & glass) are readily recyclable and recycling rates have stagnated in the past decade. Households in unincorporated King County pay \$88-175 per year for recycling services, which has increased on average 36% in the past five years. Residents are confused and have started to distrust recycling.

The WRAP Act, or HB 1131/SB 5154, would address some of these issues. The main portion of this bill would require corporations to fund and coordinate residential recycling in WA, shifting responsibility to the producers. This would provide sustainable financing to recycling, which would save money for local governments and residents. It would create a harmonized list of materials collected from residents across the state, helping to reduce confusion and improve access to recycling services to all residents across the state. Which would increase reuse and recycling rates; and ensure that materials are recycled responsibly. This is important to us because we have a zero-waste resource goal, and we believe that this bill will help with change and reaching that goal. This bill is sponsored by Representative Liz Berry in the House and Senator Christine Rolfes in the Senate.

This bill has picked up a bit of media like NPR and local news. There were hearings in both the house and the senate recently, with over 60 people signing up to testify. Almost all the speakers spoke on creating a path moving forward and emphasized sponsors getting stakeholder feedback. To Atkinson’s question, this bill builds on last year’s Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), which targets producers and making the RENEW Act, which would make producers

responsible for funding the recycling system. What is new to the bill is that it also includes a Deposit-Return System (DRS) for beverage containers, which is where you pay 10 cents per beverage container bought, and when it is brought back for reuse, the money is returned. Programs like this have seen an increase in reuse because of the money incentive, and this helps create a cleaner system.

On Jan. 5, 2023, HB 1131/SB 5154 was prefilled for introduction and there were hearings in both the House and the Senate on Tuesday, Jan. 17, which is available to watch online. Along with the Deposit-Return System (DRS) for beverage containers, the WRAP Act will also include Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for consumer packaging and paper products (PPP) and recycled content requirements for certain types of plastic packaging and products.

H. Allen in chat asked if the EPR applies to producers outside of Washington. Scholes responded that this will only apply for Washington producers, but it will impact products that are sold or imported into Washington. It doesn't matter where the headquarters of the producers are if they're importing products into Washington,

Regarding SB 5144 EPR for Batteries, our Haz Waste program collects all types of batteries. Household batteries represent 18% of King County's hazardous waste collection. The main issue is the toxicity and corrosive materials which can cause fires in our waste trucks and facilities and there's evidence that shows that there's an increase of fire when these batteries are disposed of incorrectly. There's currently a volunteer recycling program but it's only for rechargeable batteries. In 2019, 457 tons of household batteries were sent to the Cedar Hills Landfill. Only 12-15% of rechargeable batteries are recycled in the U.S. despite having a voluntary take back system. So, this is potentially a valuable source of recyclable metals and critical raw materials. There is a growing number of batteries expected to arrive on the market, and we need a system to manage these responsibly. EPR's for batteries have been tried several times and last year's SB 5144 EPR for batteries would again hope to address this but establishing a Battery Stewardship Program.

The idea is to establish a Battery Stewardship Program for batteries that requires battery producers to fund and organize the collection and recycling of batteries in WA. SB 5144 EPR for batteries would establish a Battery Stewardship Program for batteries that requires battery producers to fund and organize the collection and recycling of batteries in Washington. As the program gets up in running, there will also be a ban in landfills.

Kassover commented that her city hall is already collecting batteries and wanted to know how this would be managed, where the collection points would be, and what it would mean for consumers. Tan replied that there are convenient standards in the bill for collection points and how many need to be set up to achieve these standards. The number of collection sites will also depend on the type of batteries. For example, small and portable batteries would have at least one permanent collection site within a 15-mile radius for at least 95 percent of Washington residents, medium batteries would require at least 25 collection sites with a reasonable and accessible geographic dispersion in Washington, and large batteries are going to be studied in the coming years to set up a stewardship program.

Kassover followed up asking if other states are already doing it. Tan answered that other states already have a program like this but ours is probably the most inclusive and builds on Washington D.C.'s that has already implemented the EPR for batteries.

We will also be following the Right to Repair bill. Currently, manufacturers of electronic products have reduced access to repair of digital electronic products and there's restrictions to parts, tools, and information about how to repair. There are many electronic products that could be repaired to extend their life and use but due to the digital divide, there is inequitable access to technology resources. This bill would require manufacturers of digital electronic products (i.e., those with a screen) to provide owners and independent repair businesses with access to parts, tools, and specifications. This will help reduce waste and make it cheaper for people to fix it. This will allow people to do their own repairs if they want. It hasn't been filed yet, but we are expecting that it will be filed soon. We saw that the governor of New York just signed their own Right to Repair Act, which was the first in the country of this kind. We will see if we can follow their lead. This bill is sponsored by Representative Gregerson in the House and Senator Stanford in the Senate.

The next policy we are waiting for is on compostable products – HB 1033 Compostable Products. HB 1799 established clear content on what can be labeled as compostable and what state and local governments can send to landfills, but there are still many issues that need to be dealt with. Firstly, contamination in compost streams is a major issue as it's expensive to remove and can lead to plastic pollution. Secondly, composability of products and packaging and lastly, residents are confused with labeling and what's expected where. This bill would convene a stakeholder advisory committee convened that will make recommendations on the development of standards for managing compostable (plastic) products by organic management facilities.

Kassover was curious what the composition of the committee would be i.e., haulers, industry representatives, community representatives, etc. Tan replied that there is information with the proposed bill language on who the committee should be composed of. The Dept. of Ecology selects people from cities both large and small and counties both large and small, and urban and rural counties; as well as municipal collectors, management facility operators, someone from an environmental non-profit, a general statewide associate, a retail association, the Dept. of Agriculture, and two associations focused on organic materials. There is opportunity for people to participate in this advisory committee.

We are also following HB 1085 Plastic Pollution Reduction which will require refill stations wherever drinking fountains are required in new buildings, hopefully phasing out plastic bottled water. HB 1085 will also phase out mini-toiletries at hotels and the hotels are supportive but are working through some logistical issues; and lastly, it would ban foam-filled docks and floats because when the foam docks get damaged, little pieces of foam fall off and into the water. Instead of foam, this bill would require that docks would be full of air.

This bill is sponsored by Representative Mena and had a hearing on Jan. 10, and it is available online. It is scheduled for an executive session Thursday, Jan. 26. The executive session is where the committee members want to vote it out of the committee to the next committee for consideration.

Another House Bill that was just passed is HB 1164, an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) appliances containing refrigerants such as refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, heat pumps and dehumidifiers. There has been previous legislation that addresses these refrigerants because they can emit greenhouse gasses and an EPR would be an effective way to manage the disposal of these appliances as there's huge climate and waste perspective benefits.

Martin wanted clarification on if the ban on polyethylene in floating docks would just ban new docks or if would require replacement of existing docks. Tan responded that it would only prohibit new installations.

Lastly, we are tracking HB 1185 on Mercury Light Bulbs sponsored by Representative Hackney. Currently, there is an EPR for lightbulbs that contain mercury, and this bill would entail phasing out mercury-containing light bulbs and updating the existing LightRecycle EPR program to include all types of lighting products. This would remove the environmental handling fee as well as expand collection of these lightbulbs and outreach. And like the WRAP Act, there would be a change making the producers take the cost and provide incentive to reduce and make products more recyclable on their end.

A hearing is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 23, at 1:30 p.m.

Martin commented that his research indicates that fluorescent lights are about 20% less efficient than LED lights and wanted to know what the incentive was to get people to get rid of fluorescent bulbs and install LED bulbs. There doesn't seem to be enough incentive for people to do this as it will take time, labor, and money to replace those light fixtures. Scholes replied that there isn't a huge benefit to the consumer, but this bill would phase out the sales of mercury-containing lightbulbs and consumers can still buy incandescent or LED lightbulbs.

Martin followed up saying that the mechanism in people's home would have to be replaced because you can't just replace the tubes. Scholes responded that places and homes that use the tube will have to replace them if the bill passes. Martin stated that he can see why businesses and commercials would replace the fixtures because it can save them money but wanted to know what the incentive was for the homeowner. There needs to be an incentive because there is a lot of work

involved as its not just taking out the fixture, but also having to repaint it and replaster the ceiling. Scholes thanked him for his feedback and said that King County is not actively at the table for this bill, but we appreciate the feedback.

Weiker added that there are programs that local utilities have to incentives local properties. These are funded through rate payers and grants and help bring energy efficiency into older homes. Martin commented that when you're approaching an issue like this, there must be balance. Tan said there is no incentive written into the mercury light bill but there is incentive language for the fridge bill and there is an incentive to bring back unused appliances.

We are also tracking three other bills – SB 5287, HB 1264 and HB 1422.

SB 5287 concerns a study on the recycling of wind turbine blades. Wind turbine blades are very big and have a life span of 20-30 years and there is no plan on how to deal with them when they're done being used. There is concern of PFAS and responsible management of them would be great. This bill just requires a study to be done on the recycling options of wind turbine blades which would study where they are situated and what are the options and plans for them.

HB 1264 encourages equitable solid waste collection rates by requiring counties and cities to have their solid waste collection rates for different types of customers (e.g., single home, multi-family, etc.) on their website. This would include figuring out what the balance is between the rates people are being asked to pay and the rate they are actually paying. For King County, we don't directly do curbside recycling in unincorporated areas as these are managed under the Utilities and Transportation Committee (UTC), but in collaboration with the UTC, the County would then be able to provide this information.

Weiker commented that Republic's rates on their website and is considered public information once they are established. Freedman stated that it is important to remember that municipal contracts are different because they are dictated by the UTC. The UTC can look at Republic's books and municipalities do not have similar access. Tan added that the perception on this is that solid waste rates are not equitable which is a bigger conversation. Freedman responded that this conversation is bigger than the haulers or the municipalities. In these contracts, the public education and outreach is extensive and there is a lot of focus on multi-family properties. The haulers will participate in the outcome but do not have an opinion one way or the other. Weiker said that she will check back in with state folks and report back.

HB 1422 would exempt certain types of reusable packing materials from sales and use tax, which was seen last year. Last year, the bill language had more inclusive language and as it is currently written, the word "reuse" is limited. Atkinson wanted to know if this would affect the consumer directly. Tan responded that it is a bit unclear because the scope of the material only mentions boxes, crates and pallets. The language in last year's bill had a greater scope of materials covered. Martin commented that the problem with these bills is that there is no incentive for individuals to actually reduce the amount of waste they produce.

Weiker reminded everyone that there will be updates on this later.

### **Long-Term Waste Disposal Options**

Walsh and the Tetra Tech team provided the long-term waste disposal options section.

Walsh stated that we are seeking input from MSWAC and SWAC on a list of non-long-term disposal things to update in the 2019 Comp Plan. We came up with a variety of things from the different chapters (e.g., Re+, rate restructure, transfer station items etc.) and the plan is to get an idea on the non-long-term topics that the advisory committees want to talk about from this month through March. Once we start working on the long-term disposal work (starting this month through July), our team can go back and start writing. We don't want to be coming to advisory committees talking about the long-term disposal studies and something like Re+, so we are trying to separate out the topics.

As a reminder, we sent a list of what we think are some major policy items. Examples of MAJOR items include creating a harmonized recycling list, pursuing mixed waste processing, and updating for the rate restructure. Some examples of NOT Major items include updating visuals and graphs, adding updated information about new studies (e.g., waste characterization), and grammar corrections like “there” instead of “their.” When we have new waste characterization studies, we will update those things. Right now,

We are trying to find out what members want to discuss in the second part of 2023 in these advisory committee meetings and are trying to solidify things by March.

Back in November, Waller sent an email with a list of items that the Division believes are major things to talk about and will resent it. Walsh asked that members look at it and update it with decision makers in each respective city. Please return comments and suggestions to Waller by Feb. 17. SWD will review suggestions, collate them, and then present the updated list at the March Advisory committee meetings and finalize it.

Atkinson asked what an example is of non-long term disposal items. Walsh responded that the creation of a harmonized recycling list is one, and the list that Waller will resend has other examples.

Arbogast provided the Tetra Tech overview. The prime consultant in this effort is Tetra Tech, a solid waste planning & engineering consultant with over 38 years of experience and have been doing a lot of work with clients throughout North America. They have about 600 staff and since 2010 have had a 400% revenue growth, with over 1,600 current solid waste projects, and were ranked #1 as a Top US Solid Waste Consultants 8 out of the last 10 years by Engineering News-Record. Their prime responsibilities will be project management, options analysis, comparative analysis, and reporting. They will be supported by three subconsultants because a lot of what is being studied will need expert matters involved:

- B-Town Consulting, a King County Small Contractor and Supplier (SCS) firm founded by Terrill Chang with 40 years of solid waste planning and Waste-to-Energy (WTE) experience. Their responsibilities will be WTE and Pyrolysis Analysis Support.
- WIH Resource Group, with 17 years of experience in solid waste planning, including waste-by-rail and waste export. Their responsibility will be focused on Waste Export Analysis.
- Cascadia Consulting Group, a King County SCS firm specializing in environmental, social justice and public outreach. The responsibilities include Environmental and Social Justice Impacts Analysis.

The project overview began with the King County 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan which set forth policy to maximize the life of the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill but did not specify what the County will do after the landfill closes. The goal of the study is to provide information to King County and other stakeholders (cities, haulers, residents) on potential long-term disposal options to pursue after the landfill closes. The County has identified 5 long-term disposal options that will be evaluated. The disposal options will be analyzed and quantitatively evaluated for six primary evaluation criteria and three tonnage scenarios provided by SWD. Tetra Tech will compare options against each other utilizing the six primary evaluation criteria scores and importance weightings for each criterion. A comparative analysis matrix will be developed for each of the three tonnage scenarios provided by SWD to rank options. This will also include meetings and presentations, and report outs.

The five potential long-term disposal options that will be studied are:

1. **Waste Export:** transporting MSW by train to a regional landfill for burial and landfill gas collection
2. **Waste-to-Energy (mass burn):** incinerating MSW to create energy, recover additional recyclables, and reduce volume, transforming MSW, using high heat, high pressure, and limited oxygen, into usable products – typically synthetic gas (syngas) that can be used as a fuel, industrial chemicals such as ammonia and methanol, fertilizer, and potentially a fill material for construction, roadbeds, etc.

3. **Gasification:** transforming MSW, using high heat, high pressure and limited oxygen, into usable products – typically synthetic gas (syngas) that can be used as a fuel, industrial chemicals such as ammonia and methanol, fertilizer, and potentially a fill material for construction, roadbeds, etc.
4. **Pyrolysis:** transforming MSW, using high heat, high pressure, and no oxygen, into usable products – typically oils, solid carbon or char (used as a solid fuel, soil amendment, and for industrial processes), syngas, and other chemicals.
5. **Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF):** MSW is shredded and mixed to a standardized size, inert materials such as metals and non-combustibles are removed, and dehydration is undertaken for remaining steam to increase and standardize the heating value of remaining materials. Mechanical/biological to develop a system for heating.

There are six evaluation criteria that the long-term disposal options will be evaluated and quantified on. Those are:

1. **Environmental**, which includes human health, climate change, air quality, water quality (consider water consumption as well), energy production, resource conservation, and compatibility with waste prevention and recycling.
2. **Economic**, which includes capital cost, operating cost, revenue generated, and risk.
3. **Operating History**, which includes proven performance, safety record, environmental compliance, and compliance with regulatory requirements.
4. **Availability**, which includes capacity, operating life of facility, and siting, design, permitting and construction requirements.
5. **Social**, which includes environmental justice, social justice and equity, and effects on livability and character of communities.
6. **Contract and Operation Requirements**, which includes minimum level of waste required, composition of waste required, waste not accepted/ability to handle special waste, residue disposal requirements, and compatibility with current collection and transfer systems.

The three tonnage scenarios given by SWD, depending on the success of Re+ plan are:

1. **Low Tonnage**, which reflects Re+ having major impacts. Tonnage expected to be much lower, about 300,000 tons annually, and waste characteristics dramatically different with much less attributed to organics (food, wood) and traditional recyclables (cardboard, paper, plastic). We will be getting more finalized numbers from a basis study.
2. **Medium Tonnage**, which reflects in-between scenario. Tonnage reduced to about 700,000 tons annually and the waste characteristics somewhat changed with lower organics and traditional recyclables.
3. **High Tonnage**, which reflects Re+ having minimal impacts. Tonnage expected to continue to be around 1 million tons annually with similar waste characteristics in 2019 waste characterization study.

The various tonnage scenarios are to see the difference in how these scenarios must be managed.

The evaluation and comparative analysis that will be performed is quantitative. Each of the long-term disposal options will have a quantitative analysis to evaluate them. Following the evaluation, a qualitative comparative analysis will be conducted to compare and determine how each disposal option achieves established goals for specific decision-making criteria identified for the study and for each tonnage scenario. Since the evaluation criteria are not of all equal importance, goal weights of importance for each of the goal evaluation criteria categories will be established by SWD and stakeholders. In determining appropriate category weights, the most important category(s) will be weighted the highest: 6 points and the least important category weighted the lowest: 1 point.

Finally, the Goals Achievement Decision Matrix (GAM) is where quantitative measures will be used where possible to define each goal and to determine how each option achieves those measures. Accordingly, a raw goal achievement measure or score will be allotted for each option and each criteria goal. The raw goal achievement measures may be expressed in different forms (e.g., dollars, greenhouse gas emission reductions, vehicle miles traveled, etc.). To provide a common measure, goal achievement points will be assigned to each option in proportion to the percent of the goal achieved up to a maximum of 5 points (e.g., if an option achieves 100 percent of the goal, the option will be allotted 5 points). To complete the GAM, goal weights of importance are multiplied by goal achievement points to derive goal



achievement scores. The option with the highest additive score for all the decision criteria goals would be considered the best at achieving the overall goals of the Study.

They are seeking input on the scoring weighting and then will see how each of the options achieve the goal criteria.

In terms of reporting, Tetra Tech will draft a long-term disposal options report which will include an options analysis and evaluation methodology, a comparative analysis matrices, stakeholder and decision-maker involvement, and study results for each of the scenarios. These three matrices will allow them to see how the three options rank against each other. There will be a draft report and final report at the end of the study.

Weiker wanted to know the timeframe of this work. Arbogast responded by the end of the year. Walsh added that we are also discussing how to get community engagement and input into this decision. So, some of the dates might be pushed out as we work through procurement items and building relationships with the community to get feedback on the options. We are hoping to finish it no later than Q1 2024. As the report is being written in the second half of the year, that is when we will shift gears to focus on the non-long term disposal topics that we will identify by March.

Atwood wondered about the input from stakeholders and interested groups before it gets to the draft report. She wanted to know if there are opportunities for input earlier in the process because it seems like the goals and weighting are very important in the scoring. Walsh replied that the intention is to include the input in the decision matrix framework before a final decision is made. He provided the example that next month we will be getting the importance matrix weighting from both MSWAC and SWAC and getting that set in both advisory committees. It would also make sense to get that input from the community to see what's most important for community members. From there, we will figure out how to include all the different weights into the final matrix or we can show it separately to show what MSWAC, SWAC, and the community said so we can see the differences. Arbogast added that they are trying to seek that input as they go.

### **2023 SWAC Work Plan**

Waller led this section.

We did discuss this in October and November but did not have a chance to finalize this work plan, and hopefully we can have a workplan by next month. If there are any other topics you want explored, please say so. Or if you have a solid waste presentation that you'd like to give, please let Waller know.

In Q1, there will be monthly state legislation updates, a Re+ single family organics/collection survey, a Re+ awarded grants showcase, the long-term disposal study kickoff, comp plan chapter update list, and regular rate restructure status check-ins.

In Q2, there will be a state legislation update with a closeout come April and May, monthly rate restructure state check-ins, and updates on three capital projects – the South County Recycling and Transfer Station Project (SCRTS), the Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station project (NERTS), and the Cedar Hills development. There will also be a NextCycle and market development update, a preliminary evaluation matrix of all long-term disposal options, a Re+ future grants update (circular economy, city & potential schools), and a Re+ Mixed Waste Processing (MWP) pilot.

In Q3, there will be a draft long-term disposal study, rate restructure status check-ins monthly, preliminary evaluation matrix of all long-term disposal options, non-long-term disposal topics (e.g., harmonized recycling list), and a CompostWise/Ordinance work update.

Waller asked Atkinson about a previously mentioned topic. Atkinson responded that she mentioned that she'd like to see what other countries are doing and would like to tour the landfill.

Waller commented that if anyone wants to tour the landfill or a transfer station, please reach out to him as he is still scheduling them.

Weiker added a link to the [2023 SWANA Northwest Regional Symposium](#) in the chat and that a tour of Waste Management, Recology and Republic Services Material Recovery Facility (MRFs) are also an option.

In Q4, there will an update on the three capital projects mentioned in Q2 - SCRTS, NERTS, and the Cedar Hills development. There will also be updates on waste acceptance work, Construction and Demolition (C&D), non-long-term disposal topics (e.g., harmonized recycling list), and a preliminary evaluation matrix of all long-term disposal options.

**Discussion: Rate Restructure matrix**

Waller led this discussion.

For members not a part of these city negotiations, this a work between the cities and haulers. Ultimately, we are not responsible for how this process goes but we are trying to help along the way.

Possible milestones	Possible timelines
Begin Contract Negotiations	Q4 '22 – Q1 '23
Complete Contract Negotiations	Q1 '23 – Q2 '23
Introduce City Legislation	Q2 '23 – Q3 '23
Adopt City Legislation	Q3 '23

An example of the Rate Restructure matrix in usage with the City of Maple Valley. Every month, the city statuses will be shown on the matrix based on a green/yellow/red progress.

City (Hauler)	Began contract negotiations	Complete contract negotiations	Introduced contract amendments	Adopted city legislation
Maple Valley	Green/Yellow/Red	Green/Yellow/Red	Green/Yellow/Red	Green/Yellow/Red

Freedman wanted to know if Jeff and Jeannette are continuing and what their scope is, as well as how they are going to facilitate this work. Walsh responded that Jeff and Jeannette will work with three cities, one for each of the haulers. He believed that we would get all three reports in the coming week, and we plan to send that out to all the cities and the haulers, so everyone has the reports with the different templates. There is not another contract coming to help with the negotiation.

Sweet asked for clarification on if MSWAC asked for some adjustments to this. Waller answered that we are changing some verbiage. Sweet replied that she believed the intent was to be more prescriptive in the reporting.

Weiker suggested that King County convene a meeting between the haulers and the County. The SCA should also be aware of what is happening. While the County is not responsible for these negotiations, they do have an impact on it and could facilitate a conversation.

Sweet commented that for a city like Kirkland, they set their own rates. There are some folks that are uncomfortable with their municipalities on what it going to happen. Weiker added there are various levels of engagement and different levels of work depending on the city and association.

McLaughlin stated that having a meeting between the County and the haulers is important. We've heard these concerns and have made our decisions, and now it is up to the cities and haulers to make changes. We are happy to facilitate progress.

Freedman said that there is a lot of contrition between Waste Management cities. They feel confident that they finally have a place where they can bring all their cities on a conference call. Redmond has a date that they need to take this to their council, so Waste Management is using that for their timeline. It would be nice to have the County's consultant, but they don't necessarily need the consultants because they have done all the work up until now. It would be nice to hear and see what other cities are doing and Freedman feels that the County can provide the support if needed at this time.

### **Member Comment**

McLaughlin commented that the SWANA Evergreen Chapter is having their annual meeting at the Tulalip Resort Hotel from April 18-20. Each spring, the Evergreen (WA and MT), Beaver (OR and ID), and Pacific (B.C. and Yukon) chapters hold a joint Northwest Symposium, rotating between the chapters. There will be a lot of great content and speakers.

We will be sharing some information on opportunities to participate on a tour of the Georgia Pacific Juno Facility probably in late March. There will most likely be a poll to see a general schedule of availability in coordination with Juno's availability. This is an opportunity to travel down to Toledo, Oregon to see our waste being processed for recyclables.

Wadley provided information to Martin in the chat regarding the mercury lightbulb bill saying that [light ballasts](#) manufactured before July 2, 1979, may contain PCBs.

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.