

SWAC Advisory Committee Meeting

March 17, 2023 - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

SWAC Members Present		King County Staff	
Taylor Atkinson, Vice Chair, Citizen Representative		Eyasu Ayalew, Public Health Seattle/King County	
April Atwood, Marketing and Education		Morgan John, SWD staff	
Jay Blazey, Manufacturer		Eliza Kruszynski, SWD staff	
James Borsum, Labor Representative		Patty Liu, SWD staff	
Phillippa Kassover, Local Elected Official		Denise Mack, SWD staff	
Penny Sweet, Local Elected Official		Pat McLaughlin, SWD Director	
Heather Trim, Recycling Industry		Katie Mineo, SWD staff	
Wendy Weiker, Chair, Waste Industry		Amy Ockerlander, SWD Staff	
		Elka Peterson Horner, King County PSB	
		Andy Smith, SWD staff	
		Adrian Tan, SWD staff	
		Isabelle Trujillo, SWD staff	
		Dorian Waller, SWD staff	
		John Walsh, SWD staff	
Guests			
Phil Allen, non-member citizen		Brad Lovaas, WA Refuse and Recycling Association	
Jeanette Jurgensen, Epicenter Services		Kazia Mermel, Sound Cities Association	
Jon Gire, City of Bellevue		Rob Van Orsow, City of Federal Way	
Peter Guttchen, Washington State Dept. of Ecology		Diana Wadley, Washington State Dept. of Ecology	
Alli Kingfisher, Washington State Dept. of Ecology			

Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Weiker called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

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

Public Comment

Allen shared comments about the Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station Project (NERTS). SWD removed the Houghton Park & Ride from consideration as a potential candidate site as one of the three sites that will be studied in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for NERTS. This site was the smallest of the three sites. There are a potential number of sites that would have met similar criteria to the Houghton Park & Ride, like size. Allen’s suggestion is that if SWD replaces the Houghton Park & Ride with another site of similar size, there will still be three sites that could be studied in the EIS; and the smallest site could end up being the best site.

Wadley shared several comments beginning with the NextCycle Washington Pitch Showcase on March 23, 2023. NextCycle Washington is an initiative of King County and Seattle, as well the Washington Department of Ecology and Commerce. This pitch showcase is a culmination of the teams that are made up of businesses, entrepreneurs, universities, nonprofits, etc. They will be pitching their cutting-edge ideas and programs, with upstream pitches in the morning and downstream pitches in the afternoon.

The 43rd Washington State Recycling Association Conference will be May 21-24 in Yakima in case anyone is interested.

Wadley put in the chat information for the [NextCycle WA Pitch Showcase](#) on March 23, 2023. People can attend in person at UW Seattle or watch live online. The upstream track is in the morning and the downstream track is in the afternoon, with awards at 5 p.m. [Registration](#) is free.

SWD Updates

McLaughlin provided the SWD update.

Monthly tonnage

As shared in January, overall tonnage for 2022 was down by 1% compared to 2021. The tonnage received is continuing to decline, with tonnage from Jan. 2023 down 14% compared to Jan. 2022. At this time of the year, inclement weather can account for such variances and can mess with month-to-month tonnage. We anticipate it is on a slight decline and it is a little too early to draw significant answers from that.

As we implement Re+ policies, we hope to continue to see a decline. This is also another reason why we implemented a rate restructure so we can continue our daily functions even with a decline in tonnage. From a revenue standpoint, we do not have a concern if the tonnage continues to drop.

We have identified that tonnage is down roughly 3% in comparison to February 2022. However, we wanted to expand on January's report – in 2023, we anticipate receiving less tonnage compared to 2022. For 2023, we expect about 850,000 tons is about a 2% drop compared to 2022. The January 2023 tonnage percentage drop was the result of high tonnage numbers in January 2022 when snow disrupted garbage collection in December 2021 which pushed about 10,000 tons into January 2022.

Revised NERTS Scoping Notice

Earlier this week, SWD removed the Houghton Park & Ride property from consideration as a potential alternative for analysis in an environmental review under SEPA due to receiving new information from WSDOT about planned development on a northern portion of the Houghton Park and Ride property. Because of this change to the alternatives to be studied, SWD will soon invite the public to comment on the revised scope of its environmental impact statement for NERTS and will be re-issuing the scoping notice. The comment period will run for an additional 21-days from March 20 to April 10. The two alternatives being studied in the EIS are a [12.9-acre site in the 15000 block of Woodinville-Redmond Rd. NE](#) in Woodinville and the current [Houghton Transfer Station Property](#) in Kirkland. A no-action alternative will be studied as well. This is an inevitable process of narrowing and we are just one step closer to finding a location for the modern transfer station.

Avian Flu-contaminated waste

In response to disposal needs associated with the outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) among poultry, SWD has coordinated with the WA Department of Ecology, Public Health – Seattle & King County, and the Washington State Department of Agriculture to develop safe and compliant procedures for the acceptance and receiving of HPAI waste at Cedar Hills Regional Landfill. This is largely associated with poultry flocks and while there are not many large poultry flocks in the area, we are prepared to handle it and respond to the need like other biomedical waste.

The waste approved for disposal consists of bird carcass and eggs from backyard flocks in King County and contaminated personal protective equipment used by WSDA staff when cleaning up an infected site. As of 3/2/23, no loads of HPAI waste have been received.

Atkinson wanted to know if there is a separate area where the birds are disposed of. McLaughlin responded that it is not unusual for us to handle biomedical waste; and depending on the nature of the material, there are regulated rules for how they waste is handled. We do have designated areas to place biomedical materials in the landfill.

Pending SWD ILA agreement with the City of Seattle

The purpose of this agreement is to foster cooperation between SWD and the City of Seattle, and would allow for the legal, efficient, and equitable disposition of residual materials sorted from source-separated recyclables from King County's Solid Waste Jurisdiction and processed at Material Recovery Facilities within the City of Seattle.

King County handles flow control and this is expected to come back to our regional system for disposal.

The ILA agreement would establish the methodology and timing for payments to be made by Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) to the County for Residuals covered under this agreement. The agreement does not apply to Construction and Demolition Waste or Construction and Demolition materials. Both City of Seattle and King County will develop legislative action. We anticipate legislation will be approved by both the city and county during Q2/Q3.

Re+ City Grants

SWD is launching the request for applications for Re+ City Grant Program in Q2. This competitive funding opportunity is intended to help further the Re+ zero waste of resources goal by supporting cities in delivering projects that create a more circular economy. Cities that have signed the Re+ pledge are eligible to apply. Joint proposals are encouraged. There is about \$300k available for the 2023-24 biennium. We hope cities take advantage of this funding opportunity and plan to provide a more thorough presentation next month.

MSWAC/SWAC Update

Sweet noted that SWAC will most likely mimic MSWAC except without the rate restructure talk.

Ockerlander added that out of 37 city presentation, there are 13 presentations left to give by the goal date of June 30, 2023. The cities of Carnation and Newcastle were just added to the list of cities that have approved the Re+ Pledge making the total number now 6. There were four staff presentations on Re+ the week of March 13, 2023. Now that the strategic plan has launched, we are making a lot of progress. We are on our way to reach our June and December goals.

Organics Survey

Kruszynski provided this update.

There are a few policy options that have worked elsewhere that we would like to explore with the community. The first piece is requiring all households with garbage service to subscribe to curbside organics, which would create new subscribers. The second option would be to reduce garbage collection to every-other-week, including embedding the rate in the contract. The third option would be to implement a food waste disposal ban. The second and third option would encourage the utilization of the service.

First however, we need to understand current behaviors, potential barriers, and community perspectives. We are engaging the public via a survey that went live on Feb. 22. There will be focus groups and an open house later. Based on feedback received last month from advisory groups, our timeline for the survey has adapted to extend the survey period and accommodate a longer recruitment period for focus groups. The survey period was extended from the original three-week period to a 10-week period, with it being open until April 30. There was a concern that it wasn't open long enough to spread the word and reach people. There was also a call to emphasize greenhouse gas emissions as benefit of diverting food waste from the landfill which we have done in our press release, social media messaging, and in the social media toolkit messaging that went out to local leadership and partners.

We've also narrowed the targeted recruitment audience for the focus groups. We plan to have four groups with representatives from historically underrepresented communities, rural areas, low subscription rate areas, and residents in King County cities who have already implemented food waste policies. The first three will help us understand current and

potential challenges to increasing the use of organics service from the policies we are looking at. The fourth group will allow us to hear from residents about their experiences integrating these types of strategies into their everyday life. For example, the City of Renton has had every other week garbage pickup since 2008 and in 2015, the City of Seattle implemented a food waste ban in curbside garbage.

In terms of the outreach, King County has shared a social media toolkit with councilmembers and city leadership and have also put out a press release. This survey has been advertised in many press/other outlets and on many social media accounts/platforms. We are very pleased to have many online newspapers pick up the stories and have cities work with us to share via their own social media outlets. As of March 17, we've had 2400~ respondents – notably with good participation from Federal Way and Auburn which are areas of potential areas of interest for the focus groups as they have lower curbside subscription rates throughout the county. Renton is also an area of interest since they have trash pickup every other week, so their perspective on this is important too.

One challenge we are facing is that many respondents preferred not to answer demographic questions, making it harder to see which audiences we have reached. However, leaving these questions optional is preferred and helps us sooth any concerns participants may have about privacy and potentially not finishing the survey because of that. With the demographics we do have, respondents are currently weighted towards 35+ in age, females, and are property owners versus renters. About half of respondents identified as White or Caucasian against the King County Census estimate of 64%; and 12% identified as Black, Indigenous or People of Color versus the King County census proportions of 36%. There were 7% that identified speaking another language at home besides English, with the top response being Spanish and followed by German, French and Mandarin. Again, there is a very large grey area of 38% of respondents choosing not to answer demographic questions. This is an early indication that we would still like to reach a more diverse audience and we will be running another ad campaign with a focus on some of these groups. This will take place around the halfway mark of the survey period and will be informed by another review like this one.

Atkinson wanted to know if women responding are women with families or single women. Kruszynski replied that the survey asks a question about household size, so it is not specific to just individuals, but this will let us know if they are part of a larger household.

Kruszynski added that at MSWAC we received a question on if we will be sharing the results and wanted to let SWAC members know that we will share the results once we have them.

Kruszynski dropped her email in the chat if anyone has any questions of the Re+ organics engagement ekruszynski@kingcounty.gov.

HB 1799 Update

Kingfisher presented this update.

In the 2022 Legislative session, Washington State passed the Organics Management Law - formerly known as HB 1799 - with the primary goal to reduce methane emissions by diverting organics from landfills. This occurs when organic material, like food waste and yard, decomposes in the landfill. This bill utilizes several strategies to divert organic materials from landfills.

The strategies in the law are designed to help us work toward the new organic material rescue and diversion goals. Two goals, based on 2015 disposal levels, are to rescue 20% of previously disposed of edible food for human consumption by 2025; as well as divert 75% of previously disposed organic materials from landfills by 2030. This law established/amended 20+ RCWs, is divided into nine parts, and impacts state and local governments, businesses, and residents. This law addresses four key strategies needed to manage organic materials including actions that fall under prevention, collection, processing, and markets. Together, all these strategies must work together to achieve the purpose and goals of the law.

- Prevention
 - Good Samaritan Laws
 - Washington Sustainable Food Center
- Collection
 - Business collection
 - Residential and non-residential collection
- Processing
 - Recycled organics facility siting
 - Product degradability standards
- Markets
 - Compost procurement and reporting
 - Agricultural organic material purchases

Of the major action items, four directly impact local governments – business collection requirements, residential and non-residential collection, the recycled organics facility siting, and the compost procurement and reporting. Starting in January 2023, if local governments fall under certain conditions, they are required to adopt a Compost Procurement ordinance (CPO). By July 1, Ecology will post where business collect applies and post on website (see slide)

CPO's are a market driven strategy, being designed to close the loop on not just creating more compost but to increase the market demand for that compost in the local area. This law requires jurisdictions that meet specific population or service level requirements to adopt a CPO.

CPO's should have been adopted by Jan. 1, 2023 by counties and cities with a population of more than 25,000; or counties with a population of 25,000 or less that contract to provide, or require the UTC-franchised hauler(s) in their county to provide residential curbside organic material collection services; or cities and towns with a population with less than 25,000 that directly provide, contract to provide or require UTC-franchised hauler(s) in their jurisdiction to provide residential curbside organic material collection services (as of July 2022). This newly revised interpretation will relieve the burden on adopting an ordinance and the reporting requirements of that on some of the smaller towns with populations of less than 25,000 residents– if they have curbside organics provided by the County.

Ecology created a draft determination document that highlights which local governments must comply with the elements of the organics management law. Kingfisher asked everyone to work with their local Ecology planner – Diana Wadley in this case - to verify that the information in the document is correct. To date, Ecology knows of 15 jurisdictions that have adopted a CPO and we anticipate that there are approximately 104 jurisdictions that are required to adopt a CPO. In terms of options for adopting a CPO, jurisdictions can create their own unique ordinance or if they already have a recycled product procurement ordinance, they can amend it to include compost. Jurisdictions can also lift or mirror an ordinance that's been adopted by another jurisdiction. Ecology's lead planner, Peter Guttchen, set up a BOX account to help jurisdictions find resources.

If jurisdictions are required to adopt a CPO, they're also required to report it. This includes the total tons of organic material diverted each year, the volume of compost purchased each year, and the source from where that compost was purchased.

Regarding organic material diverted from disposal, **cities and towns** must report the following:

- Total tons of organic material collected by **all curbside programs** they directly provide, or contract with a hauler to provide.
- Total tons of organic material collected at **drop-off sites** they operate, or contract with a third-party to operate.
- Total tons of organic material collected by residential curbside programs they require the **UTC-franchised hauler(s)** to provide in their jurisdiction.

Counties must report the following:

- Total tons of organic material collected at **drop-off sites** they operate, or contract with a third-party to operate.
- Total tons collected by residential curbside programs they **contract with a hauler** to provide, or they require the **UTC-franchised hauler(s)** to provide in their county.

These reporting requirements are revised guidance that directly reflects Ecology’s understanding of the intent of the law. They made these revisions in response to many of the questions received from local governments. This statute simply says that the jurisdictions need to report organic material diverted from disposal.

Cities and counties also need to report compost that they directly purchased, and compost purchased by contractors they hire. This includes the source or sources of the compost purchased each year, and the volume and cost of compost purchased each year from each source. As a reminder, cities and counties that enter into collective purchasing agreements for compost should only report the volume and cost of the compost they purchased under those agreements by their own jurisdiction, not both.

The first report due to Ecology is due by Dec. 31, 2024, for 2023 data. The following reports will be on even-numbered years – 2026, 2028, 2030 – for the previous two years of data. The reports will be submitted in an Ecology online portal, which is scheduled to be live in Q3 of 2024.

One additional requirement for jurisdictions is developing a plan for using the compost and informing the residents about the value of compost and how the jurisdiction uses compost in its operations. Most of the requirements fall on local jurisdictions to implement and it is Ecology’s role to tell you of the requirements and develop the online portal. For more information, visit the [resource page](#) for local governments. You can subscribe to the Organics Management email news [here](#).

Atkinson asked if cities and counties must report all items listed. Kingfisher replied that they must report everything listed.

Blazey wanted clarification that cities/counties don’t need to report the open market commercial organics collected. Kingfisher replied that they do not need to report the open market commercial, but they will take it.

Kassover asked if the list of cities who have adopted the CPO was public. Kingfisher answered that Wadley and Guttchen have the list and we can provide the list of those we know have reported. Ecology’s planners are working with jurisdictions to see if they must comply. Kassover commented that as an elected official, she must make sure that her city has passed it in time.

For additional questions, please reach out to Kingfisher at Alli.Kingfisher@ecy.wa.gov or (509) 960-1290.

Guttchen provided several links in the chat: [general organic management resources](#), [OM law resources](#),, specific [information](#) on procurement and sample ordinances, and the [portal](#) to upload ordinances to Ecology’s library. To subscribe to Ecology’s Organics Management [email news](#), set up your account → choose Solid Waste Management → Organics Management. The inaugural edition can be found there.

For additional questions, please reach out to Kingfisher at Alli.Kingfisher@ecy.wa.gov or (509) 960-1290.

Guttchen added the list of King County jurisdictions that Ecology has identified at this time that are required to adopt CPO’s. The highlighted cities are those that Ecology has a CPO from.

Algona	Duvall	Normandy Park	Redmond
Auburn	Enumclaw	Kent	Renton
Bellevue	Federal Way	Lake Forest Park	Sammamish

Burien	Issaquah	Maple Valley	SeaTac
Carnation	Kirkland	Mercer Island	Seattle
Clyde Hill	Maple Valley	Newcastle	Shoreline
Covington	Mercer Island	Normandy Park	Snoqualmie
Des Moines	Newcastle	North Bend	Tukwila

LSWFA grant process

Wadley presented on this section.

The Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance (LSWFA) has an application period running from April 11 – May 9. You can go on to the LSWFA website and join the email list. There is \$24 million available statewide like last cycle.

There are two types of LSWFA’s. One is used to fund Public Health – Seattle & King County for enforcing solid waste rules and regulations. The other type supports planning and implementation of plans like 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management plan (Comp Plan) and the 2021 Hazardous Waste Management Plan. The Ecology guidelines are in the process of being updated for the Comp Plan.

Ecology will see the money they get from the state and what they have for supporting plans and implementation and will put out a statewide allocation table showing money available to Counties. There are also three independent cities, like Seattle, that have their own solid waste management plan who will get a separate chunk of money, based only on their population.

In King County, King County and Seattle get together and share their funds (about 4 mil allocated together). They also turn to partner cities and ask if they’d like to share too. So, Seattle and King County will first start with the money, and then they join forces and fund a chunk of the Hazardous Waste Program. King County will do things on its own with the money, and in the current cycle, 19 different cities did things with the funds because of partnership with the County. A huge chunk of the money does end up being used by the cities.

In the current cycle, 14 out of 19 cities use LSWFA for collection events. LWSFA is normally used for waste reduction, recycling, composting, and hazardous waste, but was recently used for homeless encampments response. An example of this can be seen in the City of Kent at the McSorley Wetlands for an encampment clean up. Another example of LSWFA is City of SeaTac doing contamination reduction work with their haulers. To see more examples of work, there is a BOX folder on [LSWFA resources](#). For more support, the LSWFA Grant Managers are Diana Wadley (425-429-4369 or diana.wadley@ecy.wa.gov) and Olivia Carros (360-477-3980 or Olivia.carros@ecy.wa.gov). The King County LSWFA contact is Alexander Rist (206-477-5253 or Alexander.Rist@kingcounty.gov).

Wadley added a link to see [what others are doing with LSWFA](#) under the “Who Does Similar Work” folder.

Guttchen noted in the chat that multi-family properties are considered residential under the provisions in the Organics Management Law. The business collection requirements that start to be phased in in 2024 do not apply to them. Kingfisher added on that multi-family is included in RCW 70A.205.540 Organic solid waste collection services that begin in 2027.

For questions, reach out to Diana Wadley at Diana.Wadley@ecy.wa.gov. The Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance Box can be found [here](#).

2023 Legislative Preview

Adrian Tan provided the 2023 legislative preview.

There were certain bills that did not make it past their respective chambers this week. Most notably, the Washington Recycling and Packaging (WRAP) Act did not pass out of the House and is no longer moving forward. The other bills that we've talked about that did not pass include HB 1164 EPR for appliances containing refrigerants, HB 1185 Mercury Light Bulbs & EPR for lighting products, HB 1264 Encouraging equitable solid waste collection rates, HB 1422 Exempting certain reusable packing materials from sales and use tax, SB 5376 Allowing the sale of cannabis waste, and SB 5484 technical assistance to farmers and food processors in support of improved voluntary environmental stewardship. There are five bills that are still live.

We are at the end of the 10th week of legislative session, and we will continue to see bills not move forward.

SB 5144 EPR for Batteries is still active. This bill would establish a Battery Stewardship Program for batteries that requires battery producers to fund and organize the collection and recycling of batteries in Washington. The rechargeable batteries associated came out in support of this bill. The Senate bill is now in the House and there was a Senate hearing on Tuesday, March 14. It is scheduled for an executive session on Tuesday, March 21.

The next bill is the Right to Repair Bill (HB 1392/SB 5464). 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. It passed through the House along party lines and is moving on to the Senate. It is scheduled for public hearing on Wednesday, March 22.

Atkinson wondered if there are other states that have passed this bill. Tan responded that New York has one and he believes that the Washington bill is better because New York's bill is more limited.

Another bill we are still tracking is HB 1033 Work Group on Compostable Products. It would establish a stakeholder committee force to make recommendations on the development of standards for managing compostable (plastic) products by organic management facilities. This bill is advancing and is in the Senate. There was a public hearing the morning of Friday, March 10 and is scheduled for an executive session on Tuesday, March 21 in the Senate Committee of Environment, Energy, and Technology.

HB 1085 on Plastic Pollution Reduction is still alive. This bill would require refill stations wherever drinking fountains are required in new buildings, phase out mini toiletries at hotels, and ban foam-filled docks and floats. It passed out of the House unanimously and had hearing the morning of Friday, March 10. It is scheduled for an executive session in the Senate Committee Environment, Energy, and Technology on Tuesday, March 21.

Lastly, SB 5287 concerning the study in the recycling of wind turbine blades passed out of the House. It is scheduled for an executive session in the House Committee of on Environment & Energy on Tuesday, March 21.

Debris Management Plan Updates

Mack and Mineo presented the Debris Management Plan.

This is just a primer, and we will provide more information at the kick-off.

Debris defined as scattered items or materials misplaced by disaster. Many remember the SR 530 flooding and mudslide in 2014 and the 2001 Nisqually earthquake, which are examples and reminders why debris management and recovery planning is important here too – we are prone to and at risk for a number of disasters which can create a significant amount of debris.

Each of these hazards have the potential to generate a lot of damage and debris like Construction and Demolition (C&D) debris, personal property items, hazardous waste, etc. Because relatively common events like seasonal flooding and major events like earthquakes can create such large amounts of debris, it's important to identify policies and roles to manage it. A coordinated plan is important to effectively manage the debris.

It's important to properly manage disaster debris to minimize or prevent public health, environmental, and economic impacts. Debris management facilities community response and recovery activities and the quicker return to normalcy. A debris management plan aids in complying with local, state, and federal regulations. It also ensures that procedures are in place for coordination at the various level of governments, the private sector, and other bodies of work, as well ensures effective coordination of resources as there are many competing priorities that agencies must manage.

Additional, debris management conserves disposal capacity. Counties with plans remove more cubic yards and recycle 47% of their total debris. This is substantial because one million cubic yards of debris dumped at the landfill lessens the lifespan of the landfill by one year. Debris management also increases the likelihood for federal reimbursement. Communities with a plan typically receive 3.5 times more Public Assistance which is significant because debris management accounts for about 27% of the total of disaster costs.

The plan is being updated for several reasons – 1) because the existing plan is outdated. It was last reviewed in 2010. 2) There also many new partners in the area since the plan was last reviewed. 3) FEMA has released a new template on guidance regarding debris planning and we want to adopt best practices. 4) There were several lessons learned from the SR 530 Flooding and Mudslide like access to private property, dealing with junk, etc.

The reason why King County is leading this effort is because title 10 of the King County code states that," ... A system is hereby established for disposal of all solid waste either **generated**, collected or disposed, in unincorporated King County [and] this system shall include all solid waste either **generated** or collected...in any other jurisdictions with which a solid waste interlocal agreement exists." The key point here is that in addition to our day-to-day functions, we are also responsible for waste that's generated in King County and that includes debris and waste that's generated after a disaster.

We are asking our planning partners to help develop an updated Debris Management Plan. The purpose of the planning process is to ensure that it is a regional, comprehensive, realistic and actionable plan with stakeholder input. This is a regional plan and there are many moving pieces. Debris management often overwhelms local capacities and jurisdictions, and it would be hard to do it alone. The regional approach to planning is critical for coordinated response to manage jurisdictional aspects for emergencies in King County. At the end of the planning process, everyone will have a base plan which will support county agencies, cities, tribes, and special districts within King County, as well as a variety of situational, jurisdictional, and support annexes that support the base plan.

A tentative planning process and timeline:

- Q1 2023: Engagement Meetings – March 17 SWAC is the last of the Engagement Meetings
- April 11, 2023: Kickoff meeting with all stakeholders
- Q2-Q4 2023: Stakeholder meetings and workshops
- Q1-Q2, 2024: Compile, review, and finalize base plan
- Q3 2024: Develop Annexes
- Q4 2024: Training and exercising

The goal is that at the end of this process, we will have a comprehensive and operational plan with trainings.

SWD will convene meetings and workshops with stakeholder and look at targeted input to develop content. We will be using an iterative process for this where SWD will send a drop down and this will continue along the way as we continue to develop the plan. We've identified stakeholder for each chapter based on subject matter expertise. The meeting invitations will be sent to those stakeholders and all meetings will be virtual unless otherwise indicated.

This is going to be a collaborative process that will take all of us to develop a comprehensive, accurate and functional plan. We have identified 25+ disciplines that will be engaged in the process. Keep in mind that the disciplines are exponential across the jurisdictions. There are many stakeholders involved in the process and your level of involvement will vary depending on agency and discipline.

The cost of not having a debris management plan is high. Communities with a debris management plan are better prepared to restore public services and ensure public health and safety in a natural disaster and are better positioned to receive the full level of public assistance available from FEMA. Debris management is a valuable and collaborative process, and an effective debris management plan takes all of us.

The immediate next step is to complete a survey that will be sent out soon. There are two purposes to this survey – 1) identify whether additional partners should be involved in the development of each plan component and 2) provide contact information for representatives within your agency. The next step will be to attend the kickoff meeting. Meeting invitations will go out soon to all stakeholders. Lastly, participate in stakeholder meetings and workshops where you can provide input to develop the various plan components.

Trim asked in chat if there will be a workgroup to help with this plan update.

Juno Mixed Waste Processing Project

John provided this section.

We've been looking into innovative ways to handle our waste as CHRLF nears capacity and after it reaches its capacity. We'd like to keep the good stuff out of the landfill, but we want to keep finding new ways to deal with Mixed Solid Waste (MSW).

SWD is partnering with Georgia Pacific Corporation to test a new and innovative resource project. Juno takes in Mixed Solid Waste (MSW) and separates valuable materials for re-use. This has been in negotiations over the last year.

Three weeks ago, SWD started shipping 1,000 tons of MSW to Juno and this will span over 10~ weeks. The MSW is unloaded and visually inspected for obvious hazards or non-processible materials. It's then shredded and baled before processed. Juno uses high pressure, steam, and more shredding equipment to tear the bales apart and it separates paper pulp from other materials that can be used for cardboard and paper at the adjacent Georgia Pacific cardboard mill. During this process, water is also pulled out and it is used for industrial processes. The residuals will come back to Cedar Hills.

Juno is just one example of MSW processing, which includes various approaches to sorting MSW and pulling out resources. Juno targets paper and other companies target other materials, like organics. We are fortunate to be able to try out this project without completely buying into it. There are some MRF's specifically set up to handle more "dirty" waste and this is another approach we will be keeping an eye on. This processing makes a huge dent in MSW tonnage. Juno is also at a plastic recovery program and an anaerobic digesting to get energy recovery out of it.

This pilot project has been running for about two years and has consistently diverted over 50% of MSW by weight to recovery. Again, this is a short-term test run. It is about a 600-mile roundtrip and would be quite an effort and impact to shift our waste to the Oregon coast. All the waste is coming from our Renton station because it is a good idea of the County's waste characterization. We are also doing a customized waste characterization, so we know what is going into Juno and what is getting diverted.

SWD is organizing a tour in May so we and other stakeholders can see resource recovery in action. Attendees will include staff from SWD and DNRP, as well as other partners from King County. SWD is evaluating Juno and other MSW processing options. After this pilot is over, we will be looking at other MSW options and hiring consultants to see how Juno can fit into

the King County system or how another MSW system can. This will be worked into our Comp Plan update, and we will work with all of you to see how this can be worked into the Comp Plan update.

Atkinson referred to a picture shown with bales wrapped in plastic and wanted to know when the bales are wrapped, what kind of plastic is used and why it needs to be wrapped in individually. John replied that the bales are wrapped right after they are unloaded. Juno is partnered with another local solid waste facility and do a quick look over prior to wrapping the bales. This plastic wrap helps keeps birds and rodents out of the MSW and helps keep it more stable until it can be processed. For now, the baling keeps everything contained and cleaner around the facility. They are working to move away from the plastic wrap but is the practice for now.

Comp Plan Update

Liu provided the Comp Plan update.

Waller sent out an excel sheet of the Comp Plan updates. There are many suggestions that will be included, as well as many that won't be.

In chapter four, there were a few that were too specific to include as an update in the Comp Plan but could fall under the broader headings of explore options to increase recycling and resource recovery through innovative methods and technology. The County supports these projects, but we just would not be taking them on ourselves. But we could support them through our various grant programs, like the Re+ Circular Economy Grants. Those suggestions were:

- Create a county run and operated refill shops and create a county run and operated container system for bulk shopping
- Run a pilot project for neighborhood composting sites and a pilot project for neighborhood waste centers for stop-and-go and the amount of time collection trucks are out

In chapter five, there was a suggestion of including work to improve transfer stations so each one can process the same list of materials. We won't be including this because we are limited by space constraints (especially at older stations) and demand for materials at each location. This already falls under the 2019 Comp Plan Policy of "Provide for collection of recyclable materials at all transfer facilities – recognizing resource limitations, availability of markets, and service area needs – focusing on maximum diversion of recyclables from the waste stream and on materials that are not easily recycled at the curb or through a readily available producer or retailer provided program." There are also companies like Ridwell for recycling.

In both chapter five and six, we will not be discussing further the suggestion of strengthening language related to climate change, mitigation and adaption. This is because it will be included in chapter four.

Atwood wanted the County to talk more the expectation to subscribe to things like Ridwell and wanted to know why we would send residents there. Liu responded that we wouldn't necessarily send people there, but it is a place that can process recyclable items and the previous mention was just an example. Atwood followed up by stating that we need to be clear about this since residents are paying for waste management. Ridwell is a good resource but is an affluent option for people who want to and can afford to do more with their waste. It would be great if the County partnered with Ridwell so that their recycling services can be a resource for everyone and not just those who have more expendable income.

Liu noted that transfer station recycling services are free and are not just exclusive to certain people. Some just pay for the convenience of Ridwell to come pick up the recyclables from their home.

Kassover echoed Atwood's comments and added that Ridwell comes and picks up things that are not accepted in curbside pickup or at stores. There is a plastic item that has received such a great response that Ridwell will pick it up regularly and thereby provide a service that is not picked up everywhere.

In chapter six, there are several suggestions we will not be including in the update. The first being the potential for a cooperative siting process involving local cities and counties, meaning that the new Comp Plan will suggest exploring working with a county/counties east of the Cascades that would host a landfill, providing mutual benefits. Due to the previous Comp Plan, we are saying no as this plan does not consider the option of redeveloping a replacement landfill either in King County or another. Next, we will also not be including the suggestion of changing how trash is captured, making it like recycle. This is due to several health and environmental concerns with collecting trash loosely, such as increased roadside litter, increased odor and mold issues in people's homes, etc. Lastly, we will not be including the suggestion of cities creating their own mini landfills as a next step to Cedar Hills because the plan does not consider the option of developing a replacement landfill in King County or another.

In chapter seven, we will not be moving forward with two suggestions. The first being describing “how KCSWD will dedicate resources to educate ratepayers about rate restructure elements that support KCSWD’s fixed administrative costs independent of increased waste diversion resulting from Re+ programs and other waste reduction and recycling initiatives.” This lack of inclusion is mostly due to a timing issue. Walsh added that we will be providing all that educational outreach over the next year, so it does not make sense to add it into the Comp Plan since it won’t be published for several years. This is where the timing issues comes in.

Lastly, to the comment of if any of this will be impacted if the WRAP Act passes, reduced tonnage has already been put into consideration for the rate restructure. We’ve decided not to include this because this is also applicable to future EPR bills, and we are already considering a decline in tonnage as part of this restructure.

We will be talking and considering input from advisory committees about creating an amendment process for minor updates to the Comp Plan in between bigger updates.

Member Comment

No member comments.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.