

Katie Jerauld, Department of Ecology, gave three announcements.

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan Virtual Meetings

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

Pollution Prevention Assistance Partnership Applications

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

Food Waste Prevention Week

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

5. SWD Updates: SWD, MSWAC, Other

McLaughlin provided the SWD updates.

Tonnage

Tonnage in 2024 was up slightly (0.52% or 4,400 tons) over total tonnage in 2023. (839K tons in 2024 vs. 835K ton in 2023). Transactions held steady in December. As previously shared, transactions were low in early 2024 but have since rebounded. We finished the year up 4% (+29,000 transactions) from 2023. Due in large part to the bomb cyclone in November, yard waste tons were up just over 1,200 tons for 2024. That's an almost a 7% increase from 2023.

New SWD Director

First round interviews were completed, and second round interviews are being held this week. Partner Meet & Greet is scheduled February 27th from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Facility Tours March 6th. Director Taylor will be selecting in March. Following this virtual meeting, we will include facility tours with the finalists, with a decision expected soon after.

Community Repair Event

We have a series of eight community repair events taking place at various locations throughout King County between March and September. At these free events, skilled volunteer "fixers" repair and mend small household and personal items. Information about the events is included on the SWD Facebook event pages if you'd like to help spread the word.

CHLF Landfill Tour – City of Kirkland

On January 30, we hosted Mayor Curtis, several Councilmembers including Councilmember Sweet, and staff from the City of Kirkland at a tour of our landfill. We appreciate the opportunities to share the great work our team does every day with our partners. You can reach out to Ali if you'd like to set up a tour of our facilities for the staff or the elected officials in your city or organization.

6. 5-Day Hauling and Tipping Pilot Update

McLaughlin provided this update.

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

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

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

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

Regional Policy Committee: On Wednesday, February 12, the Solid Waste Division provided a briefing to the Regional Policy Committee (RPC) on the 5-Day Hauling Pilot and our work around long-term planning for waste disposal. The RPC is a body made up of members from the King County Council, Seattle City Council, and local elected officials. We last briefed RPC on Long-Term Disposal in July of last year. We appreciate the opportunity to keep our partners informed of our long-range planning efforts. We also appreciate the forum to provide an update on the 5-Day Hauling Pilot and address some of the service disruptions that have had impacts on our regional partners.

7. Introduction to Unincorporated King County and Title 10 Update

Kim and Scholes provided the presentation.

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

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

Significance and relevance of Unincorporated King County policies:

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

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

Single Family Organics changes will include:

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

8. 2026-2027 Rate Update – Lindy Honaker

Honaker provided the Update.

Honaker presented.

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

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

Some findings:

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

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

Councilmember Lam inquired about when Re+ kicked off, what the expectation was Re+ would help?

Honaker's response: Taking significant actions to divert materials would lead to more carbon reduction and extend the landfill's life. We've faced some delays in implementation. For instance, EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) has been in front of the legislature for the past two or three years without passing. Each year it doesn't pass, we roll it over, EPR and DRS (Deposit Return System) is significant. Additionally, we've pushed out mixed waste processing, recognizing the time it takes to site a significant capital project like that.

As we work through planning, expectations become more grounded. Initially, there might have been more ambitious goals, but we've moved from the initial planning stage to a more mature stage. While we have significant aspirations outlined in the SCAP (Strategic Climate Action Plan) and state legislation, the difference you're seeing is due to the adjustment of expectations to match reality.

Louie asked if the FAC is also being considered for an increase?

Honaker's response: We should have primary insights at forecasting. The FAC forecast design considers the non-disposable cost of the commercial cost allocation. The overall share of the FAC isn't expected to change much from last year. This means there will be an incremental increase aligned with inflation and the revenue requirement, but no significant shift in how much gets allocated to the FAC.

Grzebyk raised community concerns about the potential increase in emissions and odors from Cedar Grove with the rise in organics management and composting.

Honaker's response: SWD is tracking the region's processing capacity for the diverted organics.

Blazey of Cedar Grove Council responded on some of the approaches being considered for the odors from Cedar Grove and invited Grzebyk to contact him.

Trim asked Honaker to elaborate on the Landfill Environment Reserve Fund and insurance on closure as discussed at MSWAC.

Honaker's response: The Environmental Reserve Fund was created as part of an agreement (ILA) to mitigate future environmental liabilities shared between the county and its city partners. The county currently carries liability insurance at the landfill, which includes the cities as additional insured parties. The post-closure period for the landfill is planned to be 47 years, during which the landfill will be maintained and operated until it reaches functional stability. The Landfill Reserve Fund is built into the rate and is designed to pay for the development of new areas, infrastructure, closure, and post-closure maintenance of the landfill. The fund must cover operational and maintenance costs for 47 years post-closure, amounting to around \$300 million. To ensure the fund is fully prepared at the time of landfill closure, approximately \$16.00 from every ton of garbage is transferred into the fund to cover future costs.

9. Re+ Grant Update – Eberley Barragan, Sylvaine Bucher, Annie DeCosta-Klipa, Nina Olivier

Circular economy 2022-2023:

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

2024-2025:

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

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

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

10. Advisory Committee Feedback on the Long-Term Disposal Study

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

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

11. State Legislative Update

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

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

Note that:

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

Trim asked if it's just the biosolids that they're proposing testing or some of the like soils that are amended with the biosolids as well. Scholes responded that she thought just biosolids.

Trim asked if Scholes foresees budget and expense being an issue with this bill in Washington.

Scholes responded budget is a huge topic of this legislative session. In this process when it gets referred to, the fiscal committee Ways and Means or appropriations dig into the budget impact. Next month we will see if it's still on the list or not.

Lam asked if the Recycling Reform Act an updated version of last year's WRAP Act.

Tan responded it has many of the same elements of it, but it's being restructured and aligned. Very much with an EPR law that passed in Minnesota last year, which had broad support.

Atwood asked if the team could provide a qualitative assessment of the Bottle Bill and the EPR Bill. Is there reason to be encouraged this year or you know, any sort of different reactions this year or how it's different from past efforts?

Tan response: There's been a lot of work going over the years of working with all the different impacted parties. There are many things we see in the way EPR for packaging paper products and those that are passed that are unique to the United States. For example, things like advisory committees, statewide needs assessments. I think what leads to finding a way forward on the deposit return system is this year it is supported new parties and this year's bill has incorporated many of the concerns that local governments had with equity and convenience and access to deposits systems. So work is ongoing. We might be getting to somewhere.

12. Member Comment

Weiker gave an update.

Solid Waste Division has a recruitment for the Communications Manager position which oversees communications internally and externally, graphics and public records. Here is the SWD recruitment [link](#).

Pat's last meeting with SWAC is March 14th.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.