

**Solid Waste Interjurisdictional Technical Staff Work Group
(ITSG)**

**Approved September 26, 2007
King Street Center**

Meeting Attendees:

City Staff:

Sharon Hlavka – City of Auburn
Kathleen Edman – City of Auburn
Rob Van Orsow – City of Federal Way
John MacGillivray – City of Kirkland
Stacey Breskin-Auer – City of Redmond
Linda Knight – City of Renton
Desmond Machuca – City of SeaTac
Rika Cecil – City of Shoreline

County Staff:

Jennifer Broadus, SWD
Jeff Gaisford, SWD
Jane Gateley, SWD
Josh Marx, SWD
Thea Severn, SWD
Diane Yates, SWD

I. Review Agenda and Minutes

Everyone present introduced themselves.

ITSG member Linda Knight volunteered to give the ITSG update at the October MSWMAC meeting.

The draft September 5th meeting notes were unanimously approved.

II. SWD Updates

Intergovernmental Relations Liaison Diane Yates reported that the Regional Policy Committee (RPC) will meet this afternoon. On their agenda are the ITSG legislation, the Solid Waste Transfer and Waste Export System Plan, and a briefing on the Conversion Technologies.

The council has hired Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc. (GBB) to conduct a third party review of the division's proposal to handle in-house the hauling of recyclables from the transfer stations. Council has stated that the review should be completed within two to three months. Interim Planner Supervisor Thea Severn clarified that this would be the free curbside mix that is currently being hauled by Nuprecon.

III. Review Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan Schedule

Severn stated that she has re formatted the Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) schedule. The shaded boxes are completed presentations. The "*Single Family and Multi-Family*" topics have been renamed to "*WPR: Residential.*" The "*WPR: Big Picture*" item represents product stewardship, zero waste, and sustainability.

ITSG discussed the Comp Plan timeline. The Plan will be transmitted to Council in early 2009. The next Plan update will begin in 2013. Yates noted that the current plan was approved by the Washington State Department of Ecology in 2002.

ITSG discussed sharps collection at transfer stations.

ITSG discussed the linkage between illegal dumping, mandatory collection service, and self-haul level of service.

Severn said that there does not seem to be any indication that mandatory collection prevents illegal dumping; places that have mandatory collection still experience illegal dumping.

Knight said that in the case of illegal dumping cost isn't the only issue; there are a number of social issues at play.

IV. Transfer System: Self Haul Level of Service and Recycling: Continue Discussion

Severn had previously presented the Transfer System Rural Level of Service. This presentation can be viewed at:

http://www.metrokc.gov/extranet/dnrp/swd/Level_of_service.zip,

To download the presentations, click on the link and select "Save" (NOT "Open") to save the zip file to your own machine and then open the file locally:

ITSG member Kathleen Edman presented nine questions/comments she had to the previous presentation. These comments can be viewed at:

<http://www.metrokc.gov/extranet/dnrp/swd/ITSGedmanCommentsRuralLOS.pdf>

ITSG discussed Edman's comment related to private sector handling of recyclables. The division commented that it is suggesting that recyclables currently being brought to the transfer facilities and disposed as garbage should be separated from the garbage stream and recycled, not that the transfer stations become recycling processing plants..

In her second point, Edman said she is concerned that infrastructure would be put in place that would compete with the people who would eventually need to take these products back, mainly the manufacturers.

Edman said that recycling should be subsidized, but garbage should never be subsidized. Severn said that recycling fees could be discussed in more detail during discussions of Financial Policies.

For point four of Edman's comments Severn clarified that 75% of customers surveyed at the transfer facility recycle areas said that they use curbside garbage collection, and 50% said that they use curbside recycling service. Detailed information by city for these two questions was distributed; samples for some cities are very small. Gaisford said that there could be some education done here, but there is not enough tonnage to make a difference to all of King County. Severn also noted that this was the first time a survey has been done at the recycle areas.

For the fifth point, Severn said that approximately 60 percent of what is brought by self haulers to the transfer stations for disposal is recyclable.

In response to point seven, Gaisford stated that the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program (LHWMP) is looking at level of service for household hazardous materials.

Van Orsow commented that the household hazardous waste (HHW) program level of

service in South King County is poor. Knight said that LHWMP will address HHW service levels in its plan.

ITSG discussed the list of recyclable materials that are going to be accepted at the new Shoreline Transfer Station when it reopens in early 2008. This list includes:

- Curbside mix – glass separated by color,
- Sorted papers – newspapers and cardboard will be bailed separately from office paper to ensure a more valuable market product,
- Scrap metal,
- Household generated sharps,
- Compact fluorescent lights and tubes,
- Organics, including yard waste and food scraps,
- Televisions for a fee till 2009. The fees will be similar to fees of a recycling event,
- Cellphones and batteries, and
- Reusable building materials exchange on a periodic basis.

Severn noted that there is a huge push to use fluorescent lights and tubes but disposal options have yet to catch up.

In regards to point eight, Severn answered that the solid waste division's operating fund pays for hauling and processing recyclables and any money generated from those recyclables goes back into the operating fund. Gaisford clarified that there isn't a specific earmark for the recycling program.

Regarding point 9, Knight pointed out that tonnage collected at collection events are not counted as self-haul tons.

ITSG discussed curbside bulky item collection service. Different jurisdictions use different strategies. Knight noted that it's challenging to predict how often people would need bulky collection service.

Severn noted that subscription rates to curbside service have gone up in the last few years, without mandating service. Mandating curbside collection countywide might not be acceptable to some cities.

Gaisford circulated a handout showing the recycling rates in a number of U.S. cities. He commented that there are varying definitions for what is considered a recyclable material.

Gaisford noted that King County cities with higher recycling rates have a variety of programs in place. Severn noted that the most successful recycling programs offer both curbside service and transfer station service.

Hlavka's comments on the Self Haul Level of Service Presentation are at the following link:

<http://www.metrokc.gov/extranet/dnrp/swd/ITSGhLavkaCommentsRuralLOS.pdf>

Hlavka stated that it would be helpful if all cities accepted the same materials in their curbside programs. She suggested that a matrix be developed showing what recyclable materials each city is collecting.

Knight said that Hlavka's suggestion would be difficult due to the different contract expiration dates from city to city. Some cities may hesitate to add materials their existing contract because of the potential impact on their rates.

ITSG discussed the Waste, Reduction, and Recycle (WRR) grant to cities. Knight said that cities have wanted to have flexibility with the use of grant money.

Next Step:

The next ITSG meeting is scheduled for October 24th.