

- Tonnage was higher in the final six weeks of 2012 than in the same period in 2011. The division is optimistic about the continued recovery. Actual tonnage in 2012 was 8/10 of a percent less than the forecast.
- The comp plan was ready to transmit at the beginning of 2012 but was placed on hold until the ILAs were updated. The comp plan is being revised to reflect the new commitments made in that document including MSWMAC's role in advising the division on financial policies, long-term disposal option planning coordination, city mitigation and more. In addition changes in facts like tonnage and city borders will also be reflected in the plan. A revised version is expected to be ready for MSWMAC in February and to be transmitted to the Executive by the end of that month.

SWAC

- SWAC did not meet in December.

ILAs

The [ILAs](#) and [briefing materials](#) were distributed to cities December 28. A non-binding statement of interest form was also included. The County requests that the cities return those forms by January 31 to assist in financial planning.

Division staff have visited several cities to provide briefings on the ILAs. Contact Diane if your city would like to schedule a briefing. Please also let her know if you are scheduling action on the ILA.

The current ILA established a Solid Waste Interlocal Forum (SWIF) for discussion of policy and for development of the comp plan. SWIF membership is the same as the Regional Policy Committee, minus Seattle. Historically, SWIF is briefed a few times each year for about 30 minutes on various topics.

Provisions regarding the SWIF continue in the new ILA because it cannot be assumed that all cities will adopt the agreement. However, in Article 9, the new ILA more clearly defines the role of MSWMAC. It establishes MSWMAC as a contractual obligation and opens membership to all cities in the solid waste system. MSWMAC generally meets monthly and devotes about 2 hours to solid waste topics.

Divisional Priorities

MSWMAC received a presentation about the process being used by the division to determine business priorities. A copy of the presentation is available [here](#). Members were asked for their input about priorities to consider. Comments included:

- Focus on removing more organics from the waste stream.
- Identify options in addition to Cedar Grove for processing organics.
- Build disposal capacity at Cedar Hills (Area 8).
- Support the Medicine Take Back program
- Improve multi-family recycling.
- Unify recycling across King County. Ensure materials recyclable at home are also recyclable at work.
- Consider bans of some materials. Examples include mattresses, tires, and Styrofoam.

- Develop future financial models that are complimentary with reducing waste. Look closely at increased diversion and its impact on funding.
- Prioritize produce responsibility/product stewardship. Look at how the cities and the County can support that work.
- Increase education of recycling options including locations of recycling facilities.

Members were invited to share additional ideas with Diane.

State Legislation Update

There are two product stewardship bills that will be introduced this year. Both are backed by the product manufacturers.

Paint Stewardship: The bill authorizes paint manufacturers to finance and manage a statewide program to manage unwanted latex and oil-based paint from residents and businesses. The program would be funded through an assessment on paint. A product stewardship program is expected to increase the number of collection points state wide from 50 to over 200 permanent sites increasing the amount of paint collected from 191,000 to 584,000 gallons per year. Similar legislation has been enacted in Oregon, California, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

Small Rechargeable Battery Recycling: Call2Recycle is a voluntary program created by major battery manufacturers. Since it was created, many new manufacturers have entered the market who do not want to participate even though the program recycled their batteries. The bill is needed to ensure all manufacturers participate in a product stewardship program.

Implementation of enacted product stewardship legislation for Mercury-Containing Lights has been delayed. The sole respondent to an RFP to implement the plan withdrew its response citing concerns about a lawsuit filed by the National Electrical Manufacturers Association. The lawsuit challenge the legality of the Ecology rules that went into effect Dec 17, 2012. Updates and additional information are available at www.walights.org.

The Seattle-King County Board of Health subcommittee expects public hearings on Secure Medicine Return to occur in March or April. Pharmaceutical organizations filed suit against Alameda County that recently passed similar legislation. The DEA has issued draft rules allowing pharmacies to collect controlled substances.

Plastic Bags: Programs and Policies

Plastic bag reduction/recycling is receiving significant media attention. Though plastic bags comprise only 0.3 percent of the waste stream they present problems from littering, appearing with other plastics as marine pollution and causing production problems and expense at materials recovery facilities (MRF). There are four options to handling plastic bags that are not all mutually exclusive:

- retail store plastic bag ban with a charge on paper bags – A concern is that it may/will result in the use of more paper bags which also has environmental costs.
- retail store bag fee on both types of bags – would not remove as many plastic bags from the waste stream as the first option.
- plastic bag disposal ban – would require education enforcement – bans on recyclable materials have been used fairly successfully in Seattle.

- education – previous campaigns have had limited success.

The division surveyed more than thirty organizations and cities (not including Seattle) about plastic bags in the summer of 2012. A summary of the results of that survey is available [here](#).

The plastic bag industry has shown limited interest in product stewardship programs. Statewide legislation has not been successful elsewhere in the United States. A model ordinance could be prepared for use in smaller jurisdictions.

MSWMAC was asked to think about this issue in conjunction with their work plan.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.