

Updates

SWD

The construction contract for the Factoria Recycling and Transfer Stations was signed on July 7. Site preparation work will begin later this month.

On July 2, Enna, Inc., a company that promotes Lean leadership thinking and Lean discovery, along with DNRP and other County leaders toured the Shoreline Recycling and Transfer Station.

SWD staff briefed the Regional Policy Committee (RPC) on July 9 about organics recycling. Staff will return to the RPC later in order to provide more information on the Sustainable Solid Waste Management Study.

Twenty MSWMAC/SWAC members have signed up for the tour of Cedar Hills and Cedar Grove on July 18. Most of the SWD management team will be attending as well so those on the tour will have an opportunity to talk with them and ask questions. Members that have not signed up but would like to attend may contact Yates.

Solid Waste Division Annual Report

Hardcopies of the 2013 Annual Report were distributed. Additionally, the report is available [online](#). It is the first report using the division's new branding and contains even more information than previous reports. Contact Severn with questions.

Transfer Plan Review Report Part 2

The group received information about the [proposed method and schedule](#) for the Transfer Plan Review Report Part 2. The purpose of the review is to address

- the Council motion 14145,
- the recommendations of the [Transfer Plan Review Report](#),
- questions and concerns expressed by cities and other stakeholders
- and inform revision of the 2006 Solid Waste Transfer and Waste Management Plan and the pending Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (comp plan.)

The division will engage MSWMAC and SWAC at their scheduled meetings to seek feedback and recommendations. They will also provide briefings to the Regional Policy Committee and Sound Cities Association and invite input from haulers and transfer station customers.

In addition the division invited each advisory group to identify members for a subcommittee that will meet five times beginning in August to review demand management strategies, the closure of Renton, stakeholder questions and other topics responsive to the council motion.

In November a workshop to review the issues with the larger group will be provided. In December the subcommittee will meet once more before the division drafts the Transfer Plan Review Report Part 2 to Council.

MSWMAC and SWAC agreed that they would determine their respective subcommittee members via email. In response to a comment requesting time for advisory committee review of the draft Transfer Plan Review Report Part 2, SWD noted that the schedule is constrained by the due date included in the motion.

SWD Project Timeline

The advisory group received the [project timeline](#) which shows the interrelated nature of many of the major projects underway in the division. The second page of the project shows major capital projects.

The first page shows planning and analysis efforts including the Transfer Plan Review Part 2, the comp plan, the Sustainable Solid Waste Management Study, the Cedar Hills Site Development Plan, and the rate analysis for 2017/2018. The work is interrelated to the degree that a delay on one project may adversely impact the ability to complete the other work on schedule. Decisions will need to be incorporated into a new rate in 2017/2018.

The advisory groups will provide feedback to the Sustainable Solid Waste Management Study in August and decide if they wish to take action. They will be kept informed about the Cedar Hills Site Development Plan and receive a detailed comp plan schedule in September. Comp Plan work is expected to dominate advisory group agendas for some time.

Green Fence

Kevin Kelly from Recology/CleanScapes, Joe Casalini from Republic Services, and Matt Stern from Waste Management presented information about "[the green fence](#)" to the joint MSWMAC/SWAC meeting.

China continues to be one of the primary markets for recyclable materials. Over time, the quality of materials they received caused problems in their system. As a result, the Chinese government instituted a number of restrictions on the quality/level of contamination of materials they accept. These restrictions are referred to as the "green fence." Materials are inspected and any shipment where the amount of contaminants exceeds the restrictions is refused.

When the green fence was initially instituted, the haulers were under contract to collect and recycle plastics 1-7. There was no domestic market for plastics 3-7. The haulers found new markets for those materials and none of their bales of 3-7 plastics were rejected. It was noted that the collection contracts prohibited haulers from disposing of the material. Because the comp plan informs many collection contracts, the advisory groups may choose to discuss revising the comp plan to allow more flexibility to respond to changes in markets.

Diverting even more materials from the waste stream means that increasingly marginal materials are collected as recyclable. Though collection can be done, the recycling process is not completed unless there are viable domestic or international markets for those materials.

Haulers asked the cities and the county to consider the viability of markets when determining what materials to identify as recyclable.

Other comments included:

- It's important to maintain educational efforts. Lack of cleanliness and material contamination causes problems with the ability to actual recycle the materials collected. Pay particular attention to education in schools.
- Waste Management has been working with product manufacturers to help them design products that are more recyclable. Though some progress has been made, the efforts have not been particularly effective.
- Landfilling is less expensive in the U.S. than in Europe. As a result, there is less economic pressure to increase recycling.
- Collection in Europe is for separated materials though co-mingled collection has been shown to be more economic in the U.S. Balance the costs of collection with the value of the materials collected.
- Consider identifying some materials as marginal for recycling so they can be disposed if there is not a viable market.
- An advisory committee member quoted the Department of Ecology as saying that only twelve percent of the recycled materials collected are converted into new products. Other advisory committee members disagreed saying that the quote was inaccurate.

In August, the advisory groups will be invited to discuss what action, collectively or individually, they may want take to address the issues raised by the green fence discussion-

Product Stewardship

The advisory groups received the second of three presentations about product stewardship scheduled for June, July and August. The second [presentation](#) is about a statewide program for collection and recycling of E-Waste (computers, monitors and TVs). Additional information is available at www.ecyclewa.org. Comments included:

- Organizations, including non-profits and retailers, are compensated for acting as e-waste collection sites.
- The program has tripled or quadrupled the tonnage of e-waste received at Total Reclaim. The business has expanded and provides employment for about 150 employees.
- The law enables collectors to repair the equipment/replace broken parts and sell the repaired equipment for re-use if that is economically feasible.
- Two organizations on Vashon have been approached to become collection sites. So far, no agreement has been reached though special collection events do occur on the island.
- The Board of Directors managing the program is made up of electronics manufacturers who are competitors in the electronics market. Membership is defined by law. Expansion of the work of the board to handling other types of products is constrained by their interest and expertise.

In August, the advisory groups will receive a presentation on product stewardship programs for unwanted paint.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.