

Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting

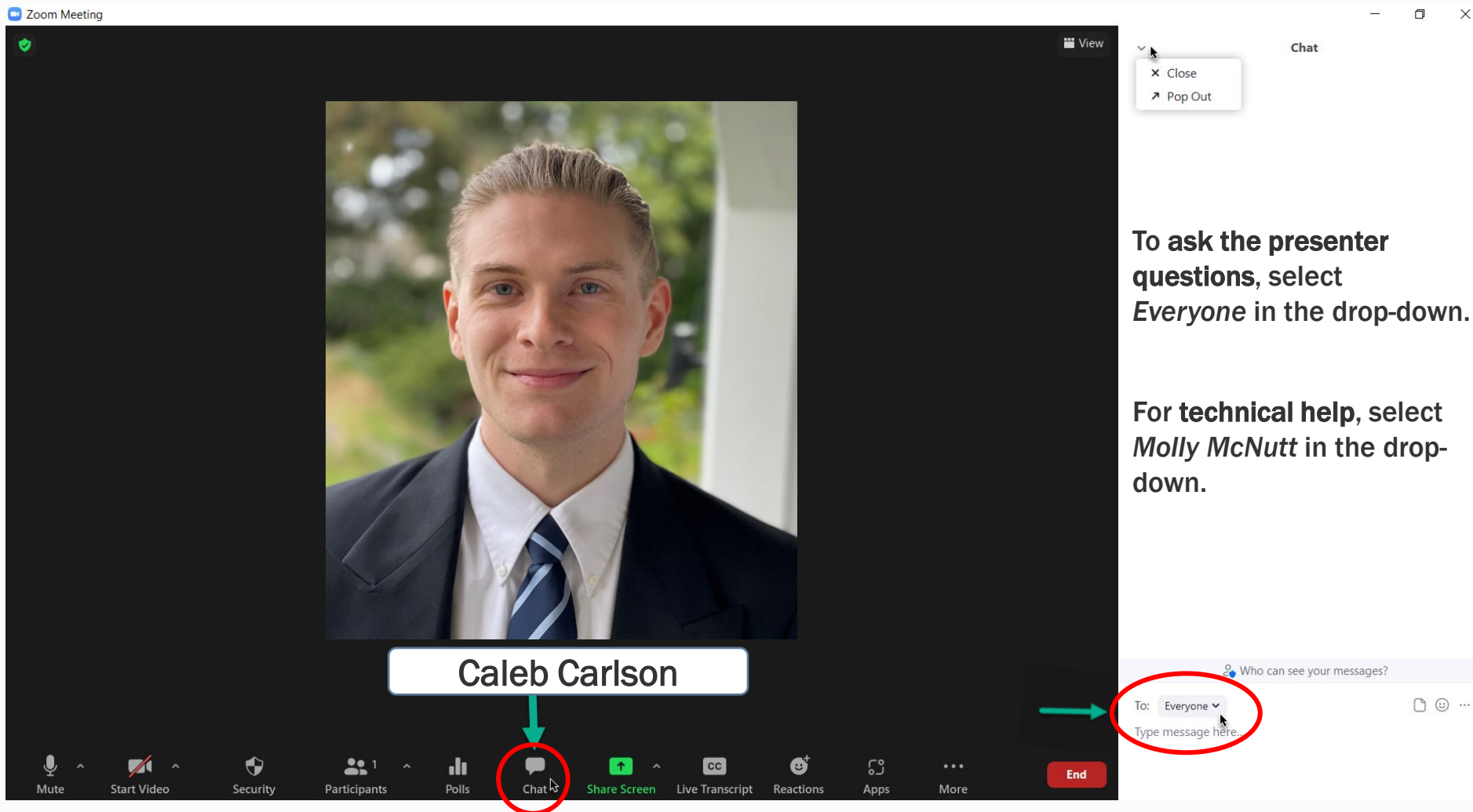
Welcome!

- Please keep your video off unless you are presenting – this will help with internet connectivity.
- We are conducting sound tests before 9:30 am, if you cannot hear us, please connect your audio.
- If you have technical issues, please use the chat box and we will help you troubleshoot.



Assisting with this meeting:

Please use the chat box to ask questions or make comments.



The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. The main video feed displays a man, Caleb Carlson, in a suit and tie. Below the video, a white name tag identifies him as "Caleb Carlson". The Zoom toolbar at the bottom includes icons for Mute, Start Video, Security, Participants, Polls, Chat, Share Screen, Live Transcript, Reactions, Apps, and More. The Chat icon is circled in red, with a green arrow pointing to it from the text "Please use the chat box to ask questions or make comments." To the right of the video, a chat window is open. It has a title bar with "Close" and "Pop Out" buttons. The chat area contains two instructions: "To ask the presenter questions, select *Everyone* in the drop-down." and "For technical help, select *Molly McNutt* in the drop-down." At the bottom of the chat window, there is a "To:" dropdown menu set to "Everyone", which is also circled in red with a green arrow pointing to it from the "Chat" icon in the toolbar. Below the dropdown is a text input field labeled "Type message here..." and a "Who can see your messages?" link.

Zoom Meeting

View

Chat

Close

Pop Out

To ask the presenter questions, select *Everyone* in the drop-down.

For technical help, select *Molly McNutt* in the drop-down.

Who can see your messages?

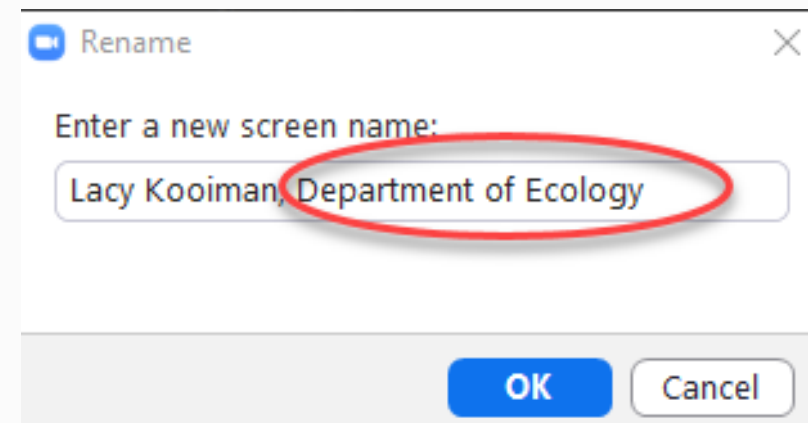
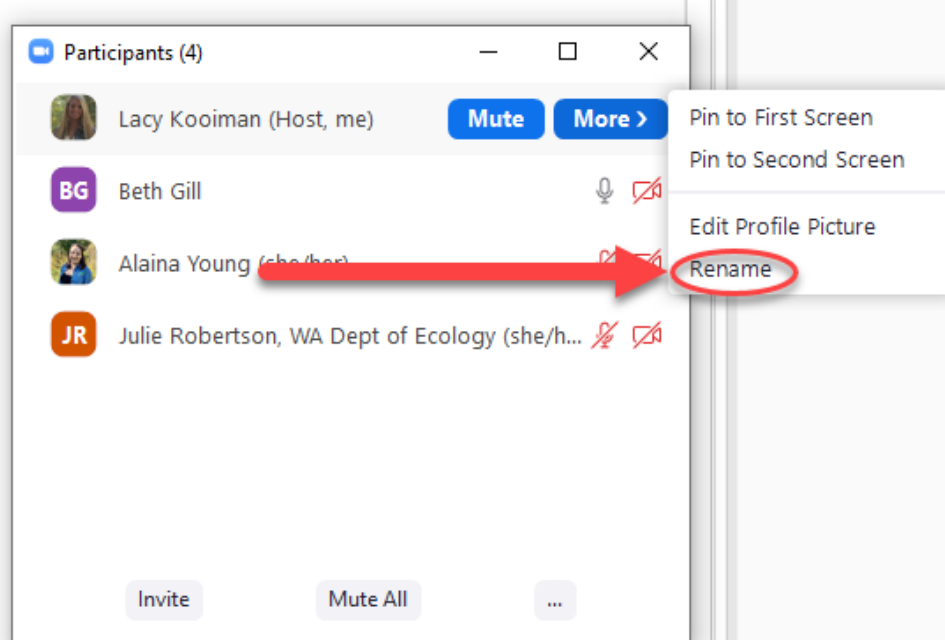
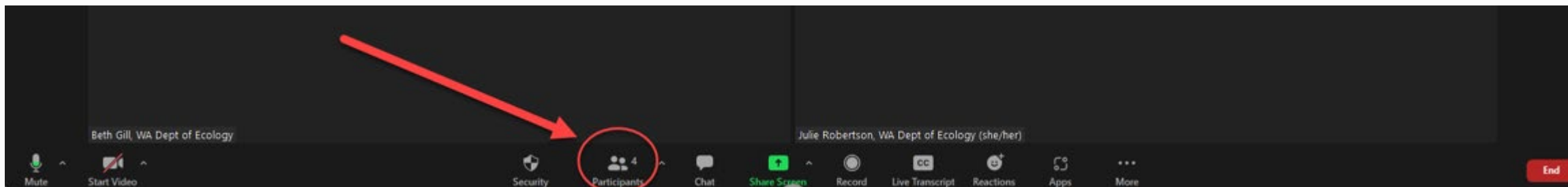
To: Everyone

Type message here...

Mute Start Video Security Participants Polls Chat Share Screen Live Transcript Reactions Apps More End

Caleb Carlson

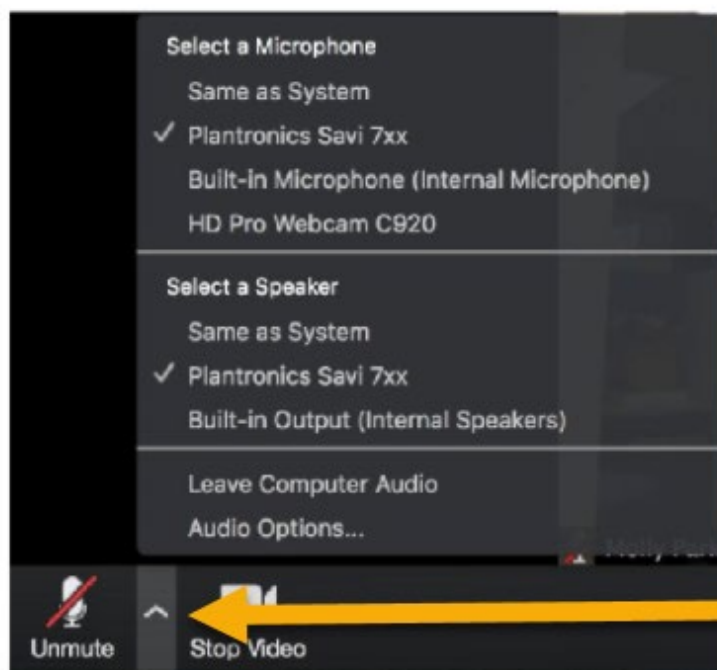
Zoom Functions: Rename to Add Your Affiliation



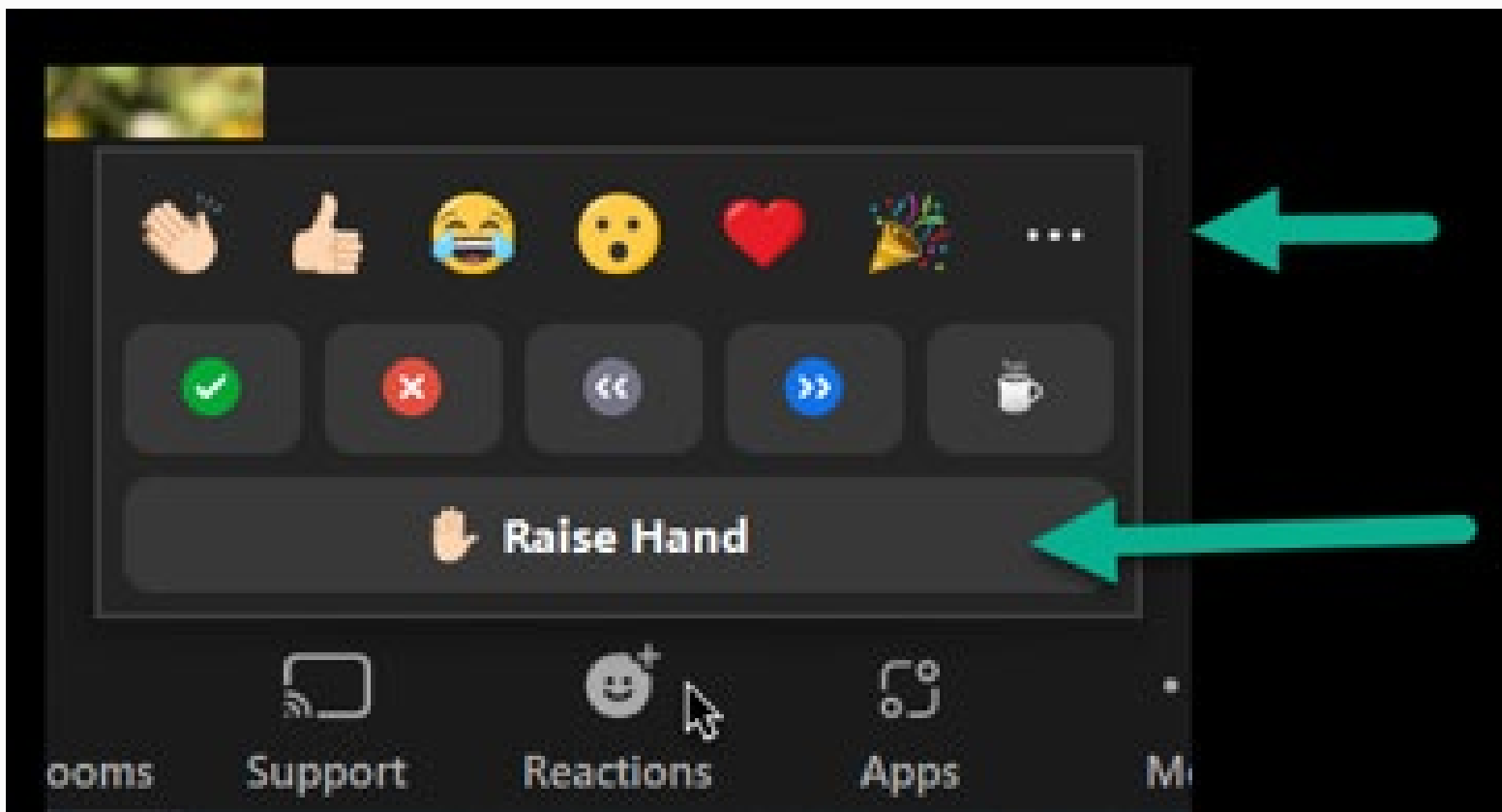
Zoom Functions: Audio Settings

Mute/Unmute & Audio Settings

You can mute and unmute your microphone. If you click on the arrow next to the mute button (bottom left main Zoom screen), you have additional options for audio settings. You can change your microphone, leave the computer audio or access the audio options.



Zoom Functions: Raising Your Hand





Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting

September 17, 2025

Agenda

Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting
September 17, 2025 | 9:30 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.

Call to Order & Zoom Meeting Instructions

9:30 a.m. | 5 minutes | Jay Blazey (Vice Chair)

SWAC Update

9:35 a.m. | 5 minutes | Jay Blazey (Vice Chair)

Ecology Updates

9:40 a.m. | 5 minutes | Peter Lyon, SWM Program Manager

Designated Recyclables List

9:45 a.m. | 15 minutes | Diana Wadley, Lead Local Planner

RRA Advisory Council

10:00 a.m. | 15 minutes | Dan Weston, Statewide Recycling Coordinator

Statewide Container Colors and Labels

10:15 a.m. | 20 minutes | Patrick Merscher, Organics Specialist

Food Donation Work Group Report

10:35 a.m. | 20 minutes | Jade Monroe, Food Center Planner

Waste Not Washington School Awards

10:55 a.m. | 15 minutes | Heather Church, Waste Reduction & Recycling Specialist

Member Updates & Roundtable

11:10 a.m. | 15 minutes | Jay Blazey (Vice Chair)

Adjourn

11:25 a.m.



SWAC Update

Jay Blazey (Vice Chair)



Ecology Update

Peter Lyon, SWM Program Manager

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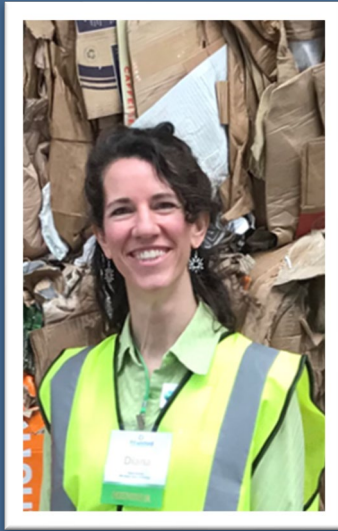
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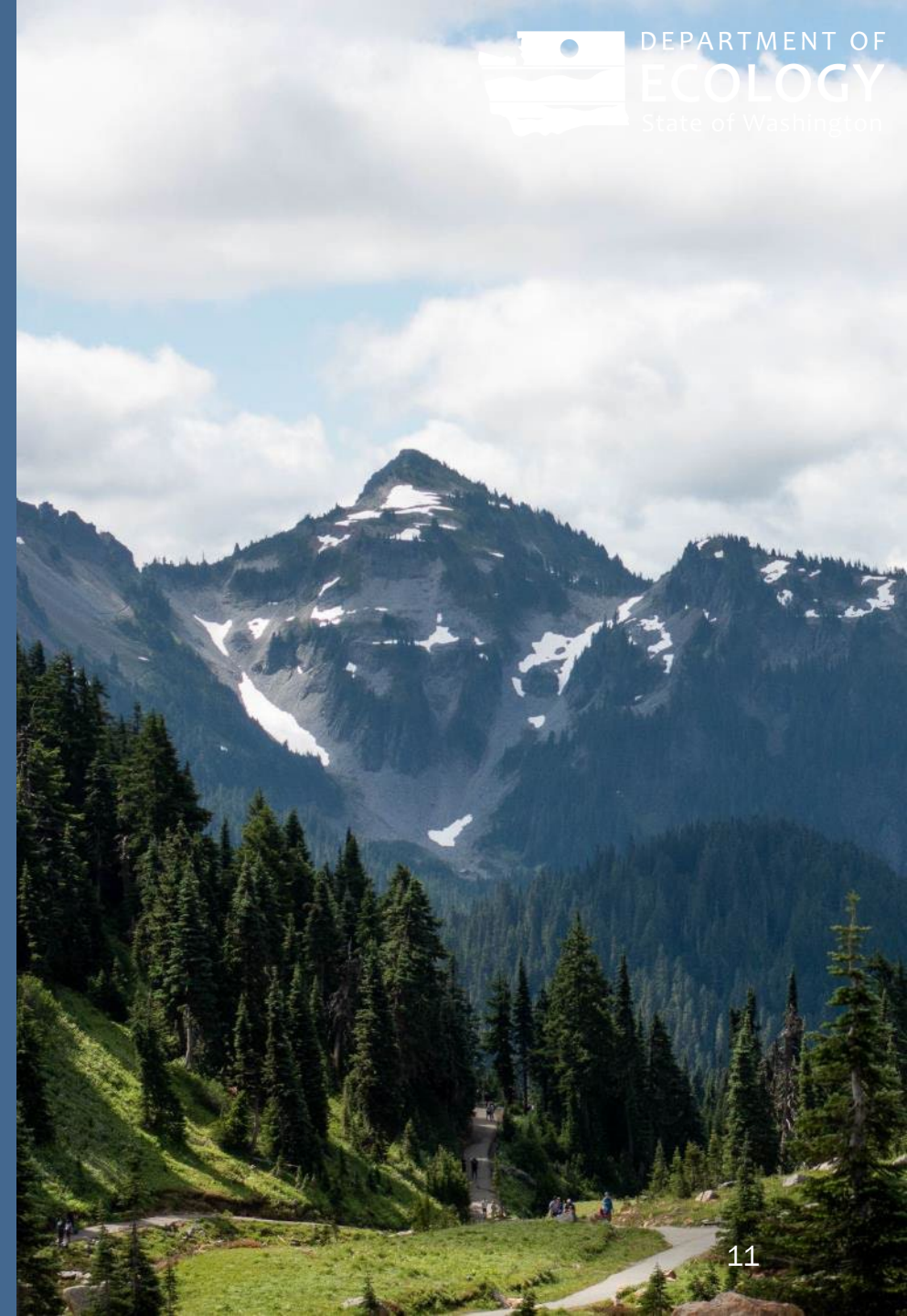
11:25 a.m.

Designated Recyclables List



Diana Wadley
Lead Local Planner

September 17, 2025





Designated Recyclables Lists

Diana Wadley, Lead Local Planner

State SWAC - 9.17.25

Agenda

1

Background

2

Overview of each workbook tab

3

“Beyond the Bin” as an enforcement tool



Background

Examples of current DRLs

Table 8. Designated Recyclable Materials for San Juan County	
Material	Priority Level
Cardboard	High
Newspaper	Medium
Office paper/other high grade paper	Medium
Magazines, catalogs and phone books	Medium
Mixed waste paper	Medium
Aluminum	High
Ferrous scrap metal	Medium
Tin Cans	High
PET and HDPE (#1 & #2) Plastics	High
#3-#7 plastics	Low
Yard debris	Medium
Used Motor Oil	Medium
Uncontaminated anti-freeze	Medium
Automobile batteries	Medium
Household Batteries	Medium
Appliances	Medium
Electronics	Medium
Clear bottle glass	Low**
Colored bottle glass	Low**
Fluorescent lights (CFLs)	Medium
Film plastics	Low
Automobile and Truck Tires	Low
Food waste	Low

** Glass has been the subject of studies, and Ecology Pub. No. 10-07-009 Beyond the Curb (Ecology 2010b) demonstrates that glass is problematic when collected in a mixture with other recyclables, especially paper and can cause damage to recovered materials and to processing equipment.

Table 4-1. List of Designated Recyclable Materials	
Priority Level	Material
Group 1 Materials: Materials that should be collected by curbside, multi-family and commercial recycling programs, or by the mixed organics collection programs, in Skagit County.	<u>Recyclables</u> Clean paper and cardboard Clean glass bottles and jars Aluminum and tin cans, scrap metal, aluminum food containers, and empty/non-hazardous aerosol cans Plastic bottles, jars and tubs <u>Mixed Organics</u> Yard debris Food scraps Food-soiled paper
	Group 2 Materials: Materials that should be collected at drop-off and buy-back locations or through other collection services. Edible food (donated) Cell phones Electronics (e-waste) Clothing and textiles Oil and oil filters Antifreeze Asphalt and concrete Batteries (all types) All metals, inc. appliances Plastic bags Rigid plastics Reusable building materials Tires Wood
Group 3 Materials: Materials that should be recycled if markets are available.	Carpet Drywall Polystyrene Other plastics Roofing materials Mixed construction and demolition Shrink wrap, building wrap, and other film plastics

Definition of recyclable material & recommendations



PDF

RCW 70A.205.015

"Recyclable materials" means those solid wastes that are separated for recycling or reuse ... that are **identified as recyclable material pursuant to a local comprehensive solid waste plan...**

PDF

WAC 173-350-100

"Recyclable materials" means those solid wastes that are separated for recycling or reuse ... that are **identified as recyclable material pursuant to a local comprehensive solid waste plan...**

PDF

RCW 70A.205.070

[Ecology must] **provide recommendations to local government on materials to be considered for designation as recyclable materials.**

The NEW, **draft** Designated Recyclable Lists

- ✓ Standardized, specific material lists
- ✓ Tool for SW Plans to clearly ID what's:
 - To be collected residential curbside (UTC hauler)
 - Identified as “recyclable material” (enforcement)
- ✓ Tool for inter- and intra-county comparison/coordination/alignment
- ✓ ECY recommendations by material





Workbook Overview

Tab 1: UTC Cost Assessment Questionnaire

[illegible]

Designated Recyclables List Goals (Residential Focus)

- The Utilities and Transportation Commission
 - Residential Curbside Recycling: g-certificated areas (Chapter 81.77 RCW)



[How to recycle right - King County, Washington](#)

Tab 2: Residential Curbside DRL

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
1	Key				Instructions: Planning areas with no residential curbside recycle/organics may skip this tab. Start by customizing the header "Unincorporated X County" for your county, and customizing municipality headers for those with curbside. Mark these columns for items identified as recyclable in the jurisdiction. Leave blank any material not identified as recyclable. For clarity and ability for enforcement, only mark items as recyclable or not, nothing in between. Use the "Notes" column to capture minor variances in local collection. Use "Other (write-in)" to capture substantial differences. To add rows or columns, contact your Ecology local planner. Ecology recommendations for recycling collection statewide are color-coded. See Tab 6 for extra information about items marked with "@."																	
2	Green fill - Ecology recommends collection																					
3	Yellow fill - potentially recyclable																					
4	Gray fill - Ecology recommends against selection at this time																					
5																						
6																						
7					DRAFT, but OK to use Designated Recyclables List for X County: Residential Curbside Recycling																	
8	Material Category	ID #	Material This list represents all materials that are commonly considered for acceptance in curbside programs	Description	Unincorporated X County Town/ City															Notes Minor variances in local collection		
Town/ City2																						
9	Curbside Commingled: Glass	1	Glass bottles & jars	@																		
10	Curbside Commingled: Metal	2	Aluminum and steel (tin) cans																			
11	Curbside Commingled: Metal	3	Aluminum foil and pressed foil products	Foil, roasting trays, pie tins. @																		
12	Curbside Commingled: Metal	4	Small scrap metal	Items less than 10 pounds and 18 inches in diameter																		
13	Curbside Commingled: Metal	5	Aerosol containers	Steel or aluminum @																		
14	Curbside Commingled: Metal	6	Metal paint cans																			
15	Curbside Commingled: Metal	7	Paper cans with metal ends	Often used for coffee, nuts, baking powder. @																		
16	Curbside Commingled: Paper	8	Corrugated cardboard	Does not include waxed cardboard																		
17	Curbside Commingled: Paper	9	Kraft paper	Brown bags, mailers																		
18	Curbside Commingled: Paper	10	Magazines, catalogs, glossy papers																			
19	Curbside Commingled: Paper	11	Molded pulp packaging	Egg cartons																		
20	Curbside Commingled: Paper	12	Newspaper																			
21	Curbside Commingled: Paper	13	Non-metalized gift wrap																			
22	Curbside Commingled: Paper	14	Office paper																			

Tab 3: Program Information

	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1	DRAFT Ecology last updated this template sheet: 6/6/2025													
2	Key	Instructions: Residential curbside only. Fill out the table as completely as possible, adding rows for each incorporated area. Some cells require you to select from drop-down options. Considerations for areas with multiple haulers: For areas defaulting to the g-certificated hauler (UTC) for garbage, but with another hauler for a different waste stream, enter both haulers in the same row and note which hauler provides service for which waste stream. For incorporated areas defaulting to the g-certificated hauler, where there are two or more g-certificated haulers, enter both haulers in the same row, briefly describing the geographical divide. For incorporated areas not serviced by the g-certificated hauler that have more than one hauler, show which hauler provides service for each waste stream. See Example rows below.												
3	G = Garbage													
4	R = Recycle													
5	O = Organics													
6	DRAFT, but OK to use Residential Curbside Programs													
7	Jurisdiction or Area	Type of Collection	Service Provider as of N year	Mandatory garbage collection	Garbage Bins are Grey/Black	Recycle Bins are Blue	Organics Bins are Green/Brown	Notes on Bin Colors	Recycling Fee Structure (select from drop-down options)	Jurisdiction has an ORCA (click for ORCA map)	Organics Fee Structure (select from drop-down options)	Organics frequency (select from drop-down options)	Organics Primary (and Secondary) Facility Destinations	Minimum Service Level Ordinance
8						Unincorporated county & incorporated areas serviced by the g-certificated hauler(s)								
9	Unincorporated [Insert County Name] County	UTC	Hauler Name(s)	☐	☐	☐	☐			☐			Facility Name(s)	Link to ordinance, if one exists or "n/a"
10	Example: Unincorporated Snohomish County	UTC	WM Republic Rubatino	☐	☒	☒	☒		Must pay for if have garbage - costed separate from garbage fee	☒	Subscription option	26 weeks per year or more	Cedar Grove Compost	https://snohomish-county.codes/SCC/7.42.040
11	Example: Lynnwood	UTC	East of Hwy 99: WM West of Hwy 99: Republic	☒	☒	☒	☒		Must pay for if have garbage - costed separate from garbage fee	☒	Subscription option	26 weeks per year or more	Cedar Grove Compost	https://lynnwood.municipal.codes/LMC/7.04.040
12	Example: Everett	UTC	Most areas within Everett city limits: Rubatino South Everett: WM	☐	☒	☒	☒		Must pay for if have garbage - costed separate from garbage fee	☒	Subscription option	26 weeks per year or more	Cedar Grove Compost	https://everett.municipal.codes/EMC/8.14.020
13						Incorporated areas that contract for or provide municipal collection services								
14	City/Town Name	"Contract" or "City"	Hauler Name(s)	☐	☐	☐	☐			☐			Facility Name(s)	Link to ordinance, if one exists or "n/a"
	Example: Marysville	G: City R/O: Contract	G: City R/O: WM	☒	☒	☒	☒		Must pay for if have garbage - costed separate from garbage fee	☒	Subscription option	26 weeks per year or more	Cedar Grove Compost	Chapter 7.08 GARBAGE COLLECTION

Tab 4: Beyond the Bin DRL

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1		DRAFT Ecology last updated this template sheet: 6/20/2025			Local government last updated this list: MM/DD/YYYY				
2		Key			Instructions: Mark the "Recyclable - Commingled" and "Recyclable - Individual Collection" columns for items identified as recyclable across your whole planning area. Then mark the "Recyclable - County Facility" column for items collected at facilities managed, operated, or owned by the county. To add rows to capture other items or columns to show city-provided options, contact your Ecology local planner. Leave blank any material not identified as recyclable. For clarity and ability for enforcement, only mark items as recyclable or not, nothing in between. See the Acronyms and Updates tab for more information such as how to update this list. See Tab 6 for extra information about items marked with "@."				
3		Green fill - Ecology recommends recycling							
4		Yellow fill - Potentially recyclable							
5		Gray fill - Ecology recommends against selection at this time							
6									
7		DRAFT, but OK to use Designated Recyclables List for X County: "Beyond the Bin" (materials beyond the residential curbside bin)							
8		Material Category	ID #	Material	Description	Recyclable - Commingled Identified as recyclable, may be commingled within the Material Category (Column B)	Recyclable - Individual Collection Identified as recyclable when collected in its individual material stream	Recyclable - County Facility Accepted for recycling at one or more County-managed self-haul facilities	Notes Minor variances in local collection
9		Packaging & Paper Products	1	Glass bottles & jars	@				
10		Packaging & Paper Products	2	Aluminum and steel (tin) cans					
11		Packaging & Paper Products	3	Aluminum foil and pressed foil products	Foil, roasting trays, pie tins. @				
12		Packaging & Paper Products	4	Small scrap metal	Items less than 10 pounds and 18 inches in diameter.				
13		Packaging & Paper Products	5	Aerosol containers	Steel or aluminum @				
14		Packaging & Paper Products	6	Metal paint cans					
15		Packaging & Paper Products	7	Paper cans with metal ends	Often used for coffee, nuts, baking powder. @				
16		Packaging & Paper Products	8	Corrugated cardboard	Does not include waxed cardboard				
17		Packaging & Paper Products	9	Kraft paper	Brown bags, mailers				
18		Packaging & Paper Products	10	Magazines, catalogs, glossy paper					
19		Packaging & Paper Products	11	Molded pulp packaging	Egg cartons				
20		Packaging & Paper Products	12	Newspaper					
21		Packaging & Paper Products	13	Non-metalized gift wrap					
22		Packaging & Paper Products	14	Office paper					
23		Packaging & Paper Products	15	Other printing and writing paper	Junk mail, envelopes				
24		Packaging & Paper Products	16	Paperback and phone books					

Tabs 5 & 6: Acronyms and Updates, “@” More Information

Local government process for updating the CAQ-DRL Workbook		
Governments may follow the process outlined in your local government's amendment process or use a Linked Part of a Plan for residential curbside list information can be helpful.		
Ecology process for updates		
Ecology may update the list. When updated, Ecology will mark the upper left of the material with an "@".		
Acronym		
MDF	Ma	
MRF	Ma	
MRW	Ma	
ORCA	Or	
PCR	Pe	
PFAS	Pe	
UTC	W	
WAC	W	
PET (or #1)	Pl	
HDPE (or #2)	Pl	
PVC (or #3)	Pl	
LDPE (or #4)	Pl	
PP (or #5)	Pl	
PS (or #6)	Pl	
OTHER (or #7)	Pl	

Additional Material Information		
Materials marked with an "@" on tabs 2 and 4 are found here, with further information from Ecology, such as why Ecology shaded it green, yellow, or grey.		
Tab(s) and ID	Material	Explanation for determination, and/or special considerations provided by Ecology
Res: 5; BtB: 5	Aerosol containers	Concerns about full or partially full aerosol cans. Compared to other containers, aerosols are more difficult for generators to fully empty out. Aerosols are often used for hazardous items, making the issue of partially filled containers a larger health and environmental risk. Some concerns about the compressed cans "exploding" in trucks or at the MRF, though discussions have indicated this is quite rare in practice. Aluminum aerosol cans are not desirable in aluminum bales. Steel aerosol cans are acceptable in steel bales.
Res: 3, BtB: 3	Aluminum foil and pressed foil products	Burns up in recycling process when baled with aluminum beverage cans. High likelihood of bringing in food contaminants. High loss rates at the MRF during sorting.
BtB: 58	Asphaltic roofing shingles	Very small market - roofers send clean material directly to asphalt batch plants. Not recoverable in mixed loads. Tiles must be free of asbestos.
Res: 37, BtB: 73	Batteries	Recommend collecting all types due to fire risk, and public has difficulty differentiating types.
Res: 23, BtB: 24	Bottles, jugs, and jars (#5 PP)	Only recommended at MRFs that positively sort PP. When positively sorted: - Commodity markets are low but still positive. Mostly going to Canada. - As far as we can tell, material is being recycled into new products, not burned for energy. At least not entirely. - Producers reporting under the PCRC program cite a lack of post-consumer PP as reason for not meeting obligations indicating at least some demand. When not positively sorted: - Primary concern is the amount of PP that ends up in mixed paper bales. Also concerned about the amount that ends up in residuals. In both cases, the material is, at best, taking a longer trip to the landfill. At worst, the mixed paper bales are sent overseas for processing and the plastic residuals are improperly managed, i.e. open burning, litter, unsafe landfills. - Mixed plastic bales require additional processing which decreases the chances of actual recycling. Processors more likely to prioritize reclaiming PET and HDPE from mixed plastic bales. Some amount of PP is also likely to be recovered, but it's also more likely to be burned for energy than when positively sorted. - Market price for Mixed Plastics (#3-7 bales) is typically negative.

A photograph of a lush forest. Tall, slender trees with green leaves form a canopy overhead. Sunlight filters through the leaves, creating dappled light on the forest floor. The ground is covered with a dense layer of white, star-shaped flowers, possibly cowwheat, interspersed with green foliage.

DRLs as Enforcement Tools

Beyond the Bin DRL

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5	Gray fill - Ecology recommends against selection at this time							
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10	Packaging & Paper Products	2	Cardboard boxes		☐	☐	☐	
11	Packaging & Paper Products	3	Corrugated cardboard		☐	☐	☐	
12	Packaging & Paper Products	4	Flattened cardboard		☐	☐	☐	
13	Packaging & Paper Products	5	Flattened cardboard		☐	☐	☐	
14	Packaging & Paper Products	6	Flattened cardboard		☐	☐	☐	
15	Packaging & Paper Products	7	Flattened cardboard		☐	☐	☐	
16	Packaging & Paper Products	8	Flattened cardboard		☐	☐	☐	
17	Packaging & Paper Products	9	Flattened cardboard		☐	☐	☐	
18	Packaging & Paper Products	10	Flattened cardboard		☐	☐	☐	
19	Packaging & Paper Products	11	Flattened cardboard		☐	☐	☐	
20	Packaging & Paper Products	12	Flattened cardboard		☐	☐	☐	
21	Packaging & Paper Products	13	Flattened cardboard		☐	☐	☐	
22	Packaging & Paper Products	14	Flattened cardboard		☐	☐	☐	
23	Packaging & Paper Products	15	Flattened cardboard		☐	☐	☐	
24	Packaging & Paper Products	16	Flattened cardboard		☐	☐	☐	

Beyond the Bin Material Categories:

- Packaging & Paper Products
- Organics
- Construction & Demolition
- Other. If commingled, say what with in Notes column

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- Packaging & Paper Products
- Organics
- Construction & Demolition
- Other. If commingled, say what with in Notes column

Designated Recyclables List Goals (Beyond Res. Curbside)

- The Utilities and Transportation Commission
 - **Commercial/drop box recyclables**
(Chapter 81.80 RCW)
- Health Jurisdictions
 - **Facilities** (both recycling facilities and trash facilities)
(WAC 173-350)



Changes due to the Recycling Reform Act (RRA)

- Statewide lists will be developed in the next few years
- Capturing what's happening in your jurisdiction now helps prepare for upcoming changes
- Commercial recycling is outside of the scope of RRA, so DRLs can still be valuable enforcement tools to combat sham recycling





Thank you!
Contact us for more information.

Diana Wadley, Statewide Lead
Local Planner
diana.wadley@ecy.wa.gov

[UTC and Designated Recyclables Lists](#) folder on BOX

[2025 Guidelines Draft Sections](#)
folder on Box

RRA Advisory Council



Dan Weston
Statewide Recycling Coordinator

September 17, 2025





DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Recycling Reform Act

Chapter 70A.208 Revised Code of Washington

Solid Waste Management Program

The Recycling Reform Act



Chapter 70A.208 Revised Code of Washington



Extended producer responsibility program



Covers packaging and paper products



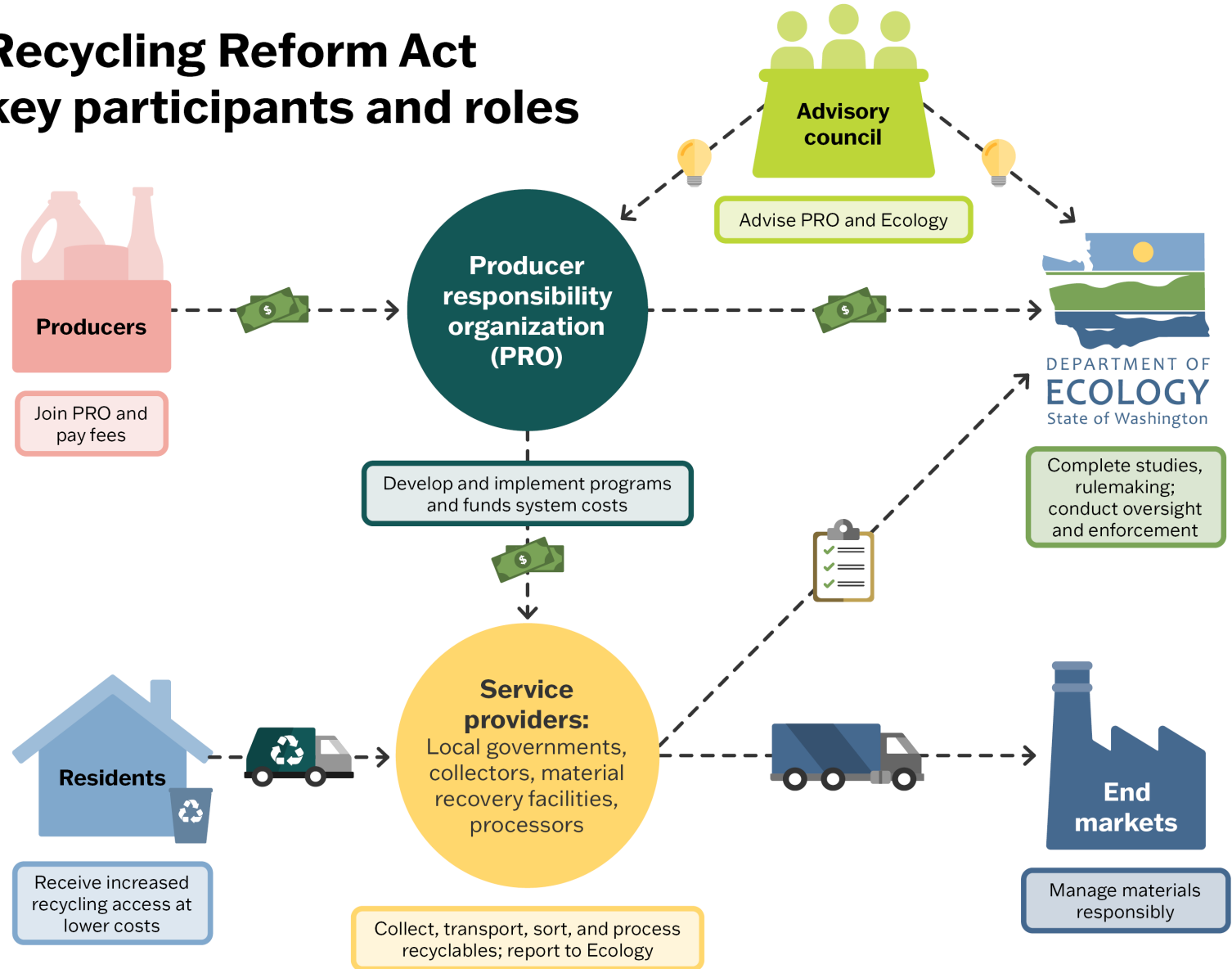
Residential and public place recycling

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.208>



What is the Recycling Reform Act?

Recycling Reform Act key participants and roles



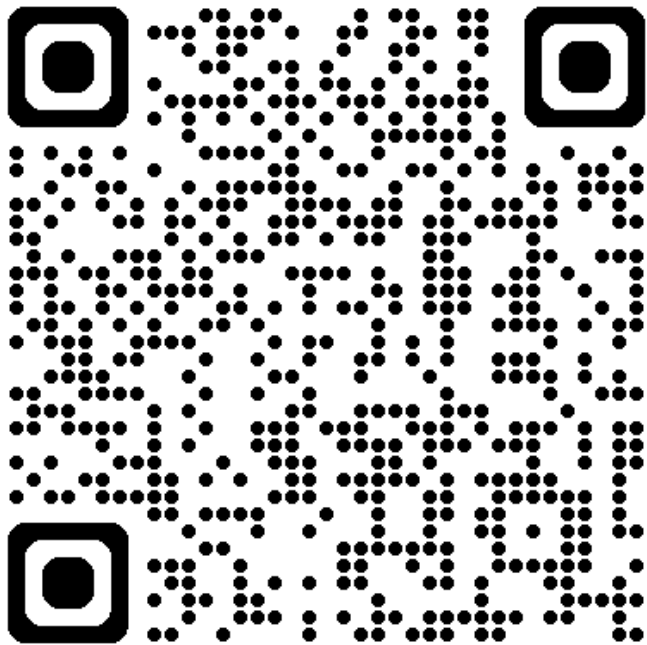
Recycling Reform Act Timeline

TASK	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Ecology								
Recycling Refund Model and Community Input		Jan 1	Jan 1					
Statewide Lists		Oct 1						
Preliminary Needs Assessment		Dec 31						
Full Needs Assessment			Dec 31					
Rulemaking				Apr				
Plan Economic Impact					Jan 1			
Plan Review and Approval					May			
Program Oversight						Jan 1		
Litter Tax Study						Jan 1		
Equity Study								Jan 31
Advisory Council								
Meetings, Program Reviews		Jan, meetings					Semiannual meetings	
Review Lists, Reports, Needs Assessments								
PRO Plan and Annual Report review				Aug			Jun	Jun
Producer Responsibility Organization								
Registration		Mar 1, annual						
Program Plan			Oct 1					
Program Implementation						Jan 1		
Annual Reports							Jul 1	Jul 1
Reuse Grants								
Service Providers								
Annual Registration		Jan 31, annual						
MRF Annual Reports		Jan 31, annual						
PRO Reimbursement						Third party certification >50%	>75%	>90%



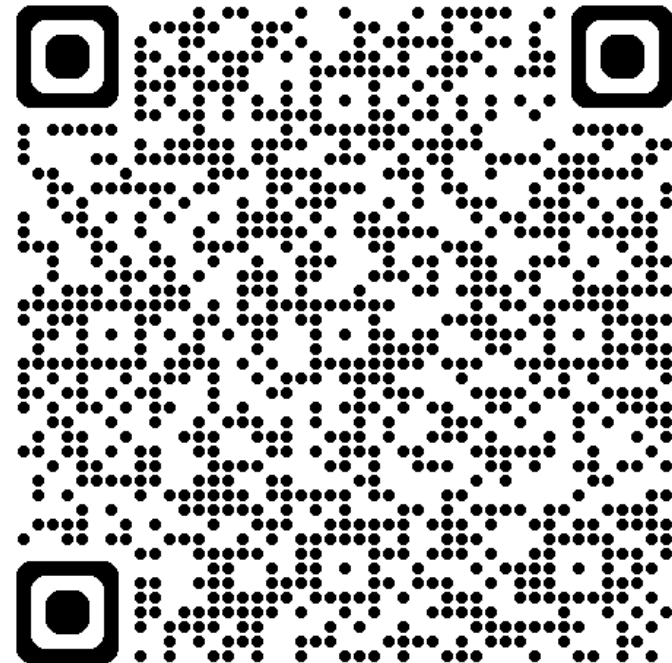
Recycling Reform Act resources

Sign up for future emails



https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic_id=WAECY_366

Visit the RRA website



<https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/strategic-policy-and-planning/recycling-reform-act>



Advisory Council

Structure

- Established by January 2026
- Members serve staggered 4-year terms, up to 8 consecutive years
- Must meet 2x per year (anticipate more)
- Establish subcommittees

Duties

Consult, review, and/or make recommendations on:

- The development of statewide collection lists
- The needs assessments
- Draft PRO plans or amendments
- Administering the reuse financial assistance program
- Recommendations of the equity subcommittee regarding the impacts of program activities on socially vulnerable populations and overburdened communities
- Proposed statewide performance target requirements
- Submitted PRO annual reports



Advisory Council members

- Manufacturer (2)
- Recycling facility (2)
- Solid waste collection (1)
- Retailer (1)
- Environmental nonprofit (1)
- Community nonprofit (1)
- Material recovery facility (1)
- Compost facility (1)
- Reuse/refill (1)
- Government (3)
- Tribal solid waste services (1)
- Ecology appointees (2)

Two non-voting members: Ecology and the PRO



Advisory Council application



Advisory Council Application Washington Recycling Reform Act

Ecology is accepting applications for 17 voting advisory council members to serve on the Recycling Reform Act advisory council. Two additional non-voting members will represent Ecology and the producer responsibility organization.

Ecology is prohibited from appointing members to the council who are state legislators, registered lobbyists, or employees of producers required to be members of a producer responsibility organization.

Please complete the application below in its entirety, attach a current resume, and submit via email to recyclingreform@ecy.wa.gov by October 6, 2025.

For questions, please call Brett Rude at 564-669-9349.

Contact information:

Name	Click here to enter first and last name
Company or Organization	Click here to enter your company or organizational affiliation
Address	Click here to enter your mailing address
Phone number	Click here to enter your primary or cell phone number
Email	Click here to enter your email address

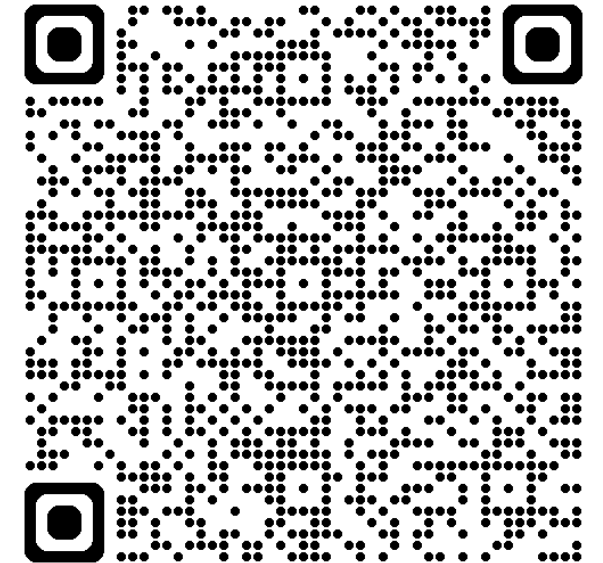
Please indicate which advisory council position(s) you are applying for:

Refer to the Recycling Reform Act ([Revised Code of Washington 70A.208.050](#)) for a description of each advisory council position.

- ☐ Tribal or indigenous solid waste services organizations
- ☐ Manufacturer of packaging or paper products or manufacturers trade association
- ☐ Recycling facility

Application is now open

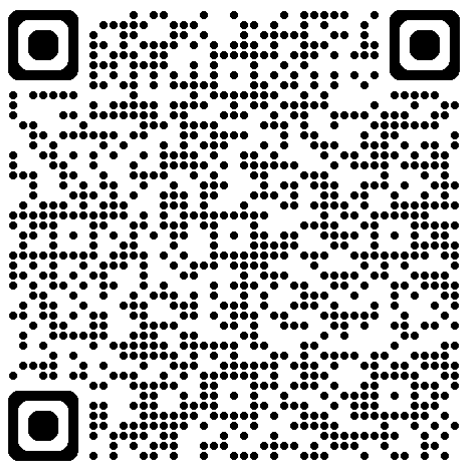
- Applications due October 6
- Compensation available for tribal, community-based, or nonprofit members
- No lobbyists, legislators, producer employees
- Email filled out form to recyclingreform@ecy.wa.gov





Kickoff webinar

- September 9th
- Recording will be posted on our website
- Written Q&A document



<https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/strategic-policy-and-planning/recycling-reform-act>

Kickoff webinar #2

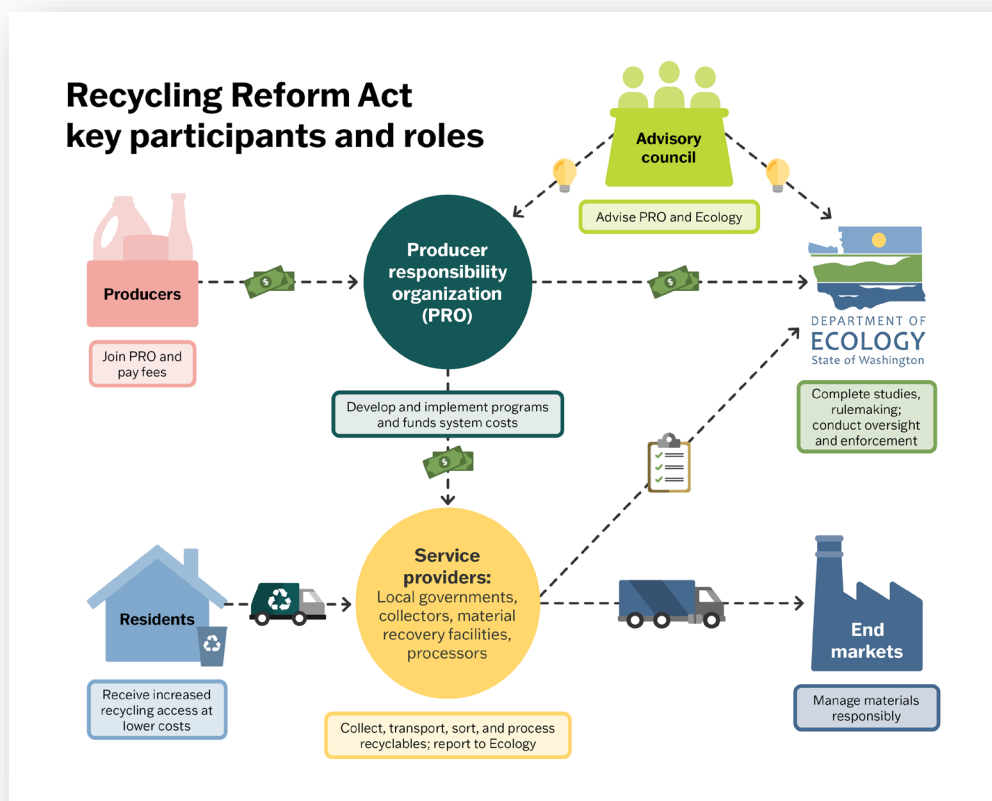
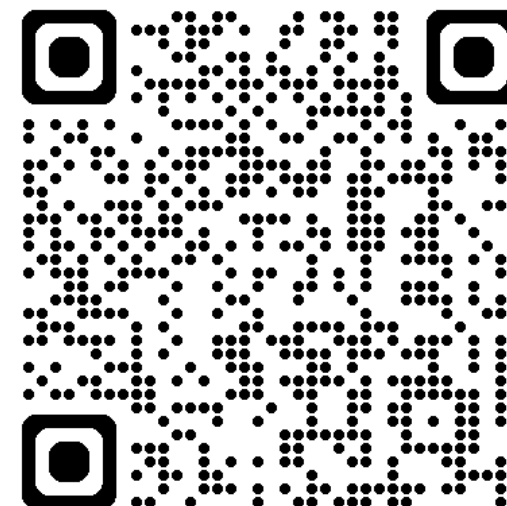
- October 7th, 10am



Thank you!

Email the Ecology team:
RecyclingReform@ecy.wa.gov

Sign up for email notifications:



Statewide Container Colors and Labels



Patrick Merscher
Organics Specialist

September 17, 2025





Waste Collection Containers, Lids, and Labels

RCW 70A.205.750 | Statewide SWAC

September 17, 2025

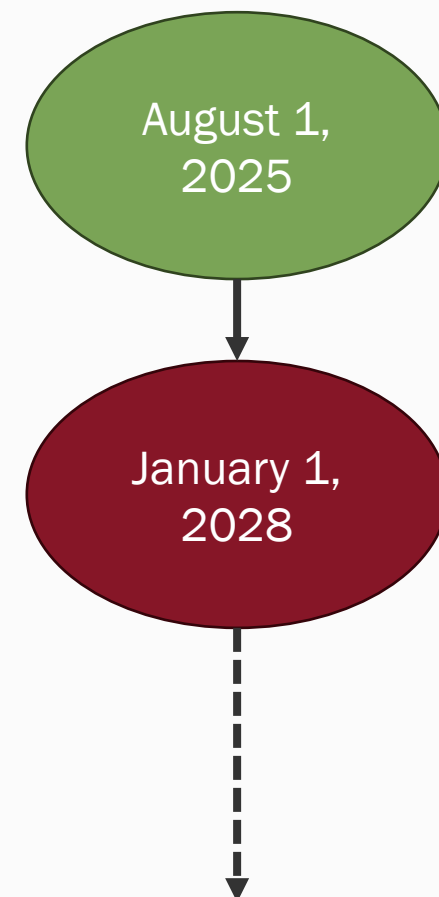
Overview (RCW 70A.205.750)

- Color-coded containers and lids (smaller than 101 gallons)
 - Gray or black = Garbage
 - Blue = Recycling
 - Brown or green = Organics
 - Lids = same as color or black
- Containers provided by hauler to customer
+ provided by city/county in public spaces
- Labels must use same colors, on containers and lids
- Labels at least 1 square foot and text 5 inches or larger (larger than 1 cubic yard)



Key dates

- **August 1, 2025** – Containers purchased must meet color code
- **January 1, 2028** – Containers and lids must have a clear and obvious label
 - Applies to new and existing, even if wrong color, any size
- **January 1, 2028** – Bins given to customers or put in public spaces need to be color-coded if smaller than 101 gallons
 - Focus on new service and replacements



Reduce contamination with colors and labels

- Make it easier to put items in right bin
 - Consistency across state
 - Public bins more noticeable
-
- Reduced contamination
 - Saves money
 - More environmental benefits



Which containers need to be color-coded?

If all of these, then Yes:

- Smaller than 101 gallons
- Bought after Aug. 1, 2025
- Provided by hauler to customer after Jan. 1, 2028
- Or-
- Provided by city/county in a public space after Jan. 1, 2028



Which containers need to be color-coded?

If any of these, then No:

- Larger than 101 gallons
- Bought before Aug. 1, 2025, or provided before Jan. 1, 2028
- Provided by a business to customers or staff



Exemptions for Cities and Counties

- Charity (ex. fundraising for nonprofit)
- More time to transition to color-coded bins
- Dark green for garbage bins, if easy to distinguish from organics bins
- Infeasible to adopt color-code, alternative plan (At Ecology's discretion)
 - Will require approval from SWM Program Manager

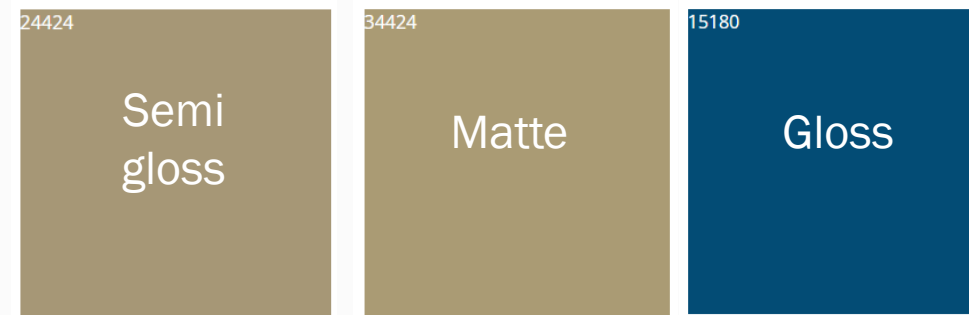
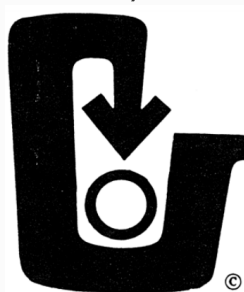


Public bins or Litter receptacles (WAC 173-310)

The local government may choose.

If “Litter Receptacles,” follow WAC:

- 60 gallons or smaller
- Located in place listed in section 040
- Meet minimum standards in section 060
 - Federal Color Standard No. 595A, Color No. 24424 or 34424
 - “Deposit Litter”
 - Litter symbol in color 15180



If public collection bins:

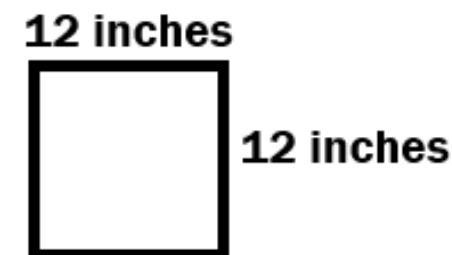
- Labeled and color-coded according to new law



Next: Labeling containers and lids

Container Labeling

- No exemptions
- Containers given to a customer or in public spaces maintained by city/county by Jan. 1, 2028
- On both container and lid
- Color of background or font match color-code
- Text, graphics, or both to show material category
 - Encouraged: Multiple languages
 - Encouraged: Specific materials within category
- Label area = 1 foot² for containers 1 cubic yard or larger
 - Length x height ≥ 144 in²



Bin labeling

- Indoor bins without lids
 - Bins with multiple compartments
 - Ex: Waste stations at transit center.
-
- Label should be close to where people put waste in the bin



Which containers need labels?

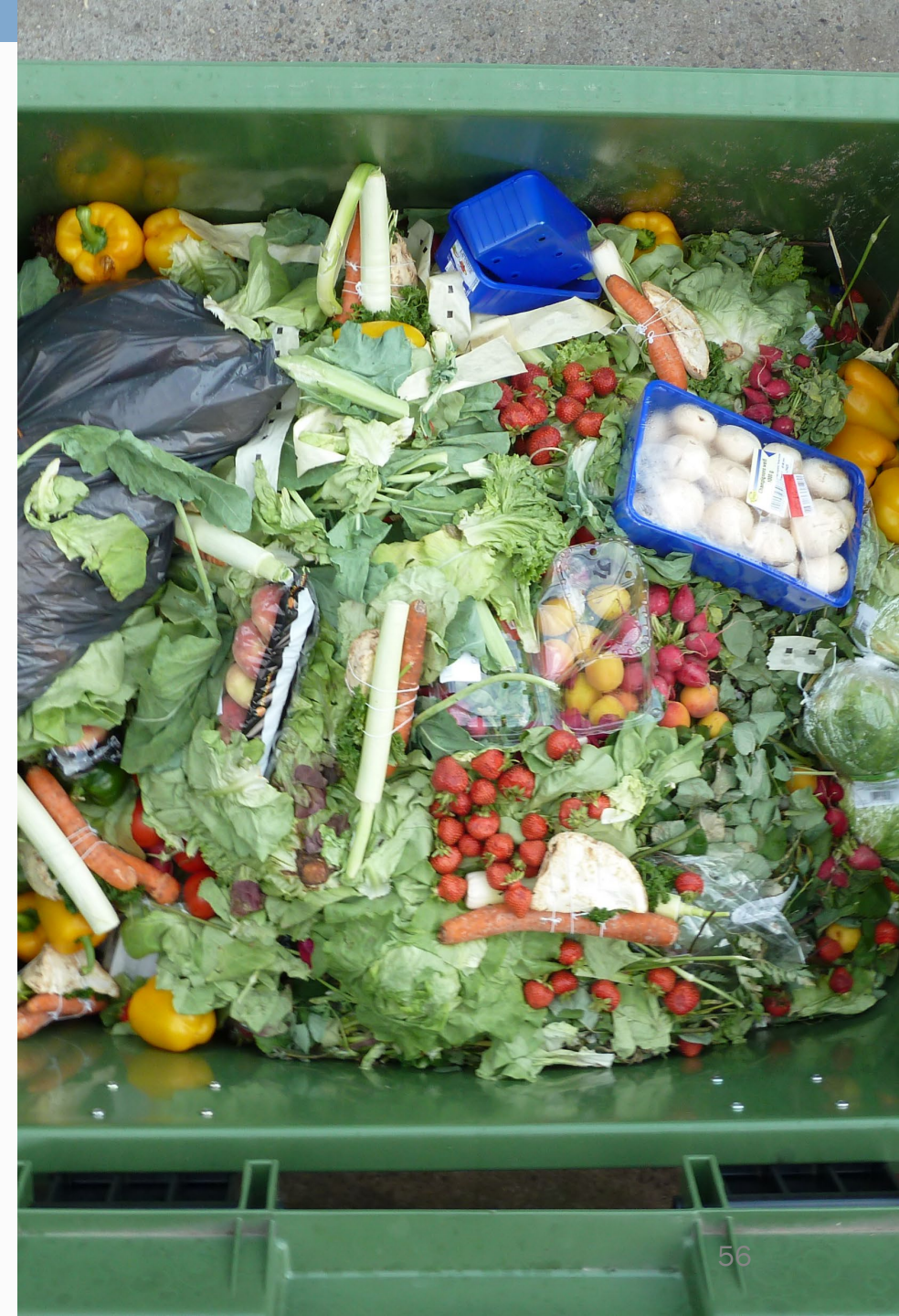
By Jan. 1, 2028, if this, then Yes:

- Provided by hauler to customer
- Or-
- Provided by city/county in a public space



Our Plan

- Outreach – Meetings, webpage
- Research and Publications
 - Focus sheet for labeling best practices
 - Label templates
 - Material icons and graphics
 - Container procurement (with DES)
 - Colors, PCRC in bins, statewide contracts
- Exemption process – First half 2026
 - Application process
 - Internal review, approval, and tracking



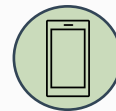


Thank you

Patrick Merscher



Patrick.Merscher@ecy.wa.gov



564.233.1065

(I screen, leave a voicemail)

Organics Management Group



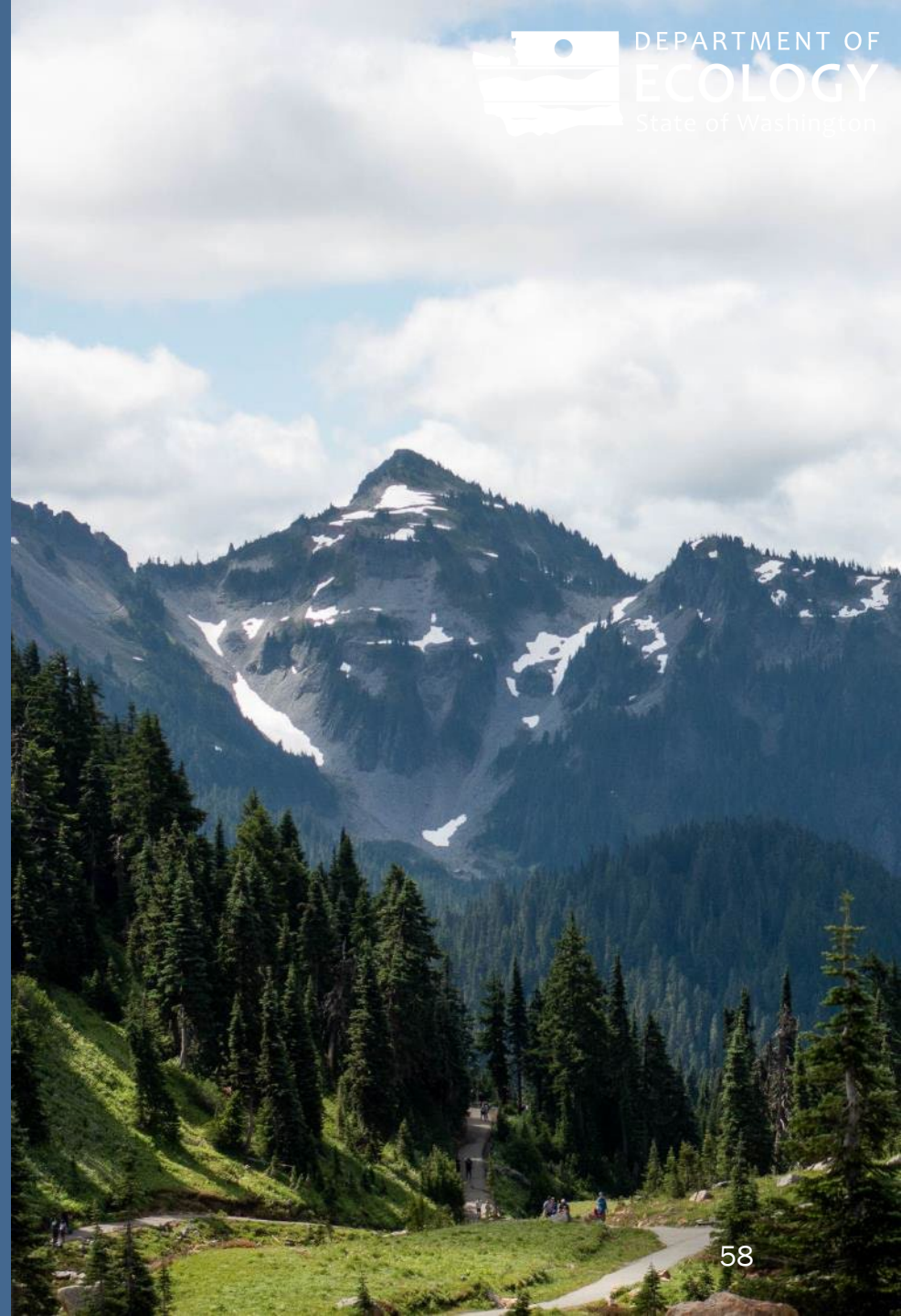
organics@ecy.wa.gov

Food Donation Work Group Report



Jade Monroe
Food Center Planner

September 17, 2025





CENTER FOR
**Sustainable
Food Management**

Food Donation Work Group

September 17, 2025

Operating Procedures



Food Donation Workgroup Legislative Report

Organics Management Law

By
Solid Waste Management Program
Washington State Department of Ecology
Headquarters Office
Olympia, Washington
September 2025, Publication 25-07-013

Background

The Organics Management Law 2.0 ([HB 2301](#)) requires Ecology to set up a work group to studies and recommends ways to improve edible food rescue from commercial generators, including food service, grocery stores, and processors.

Work Group Mission

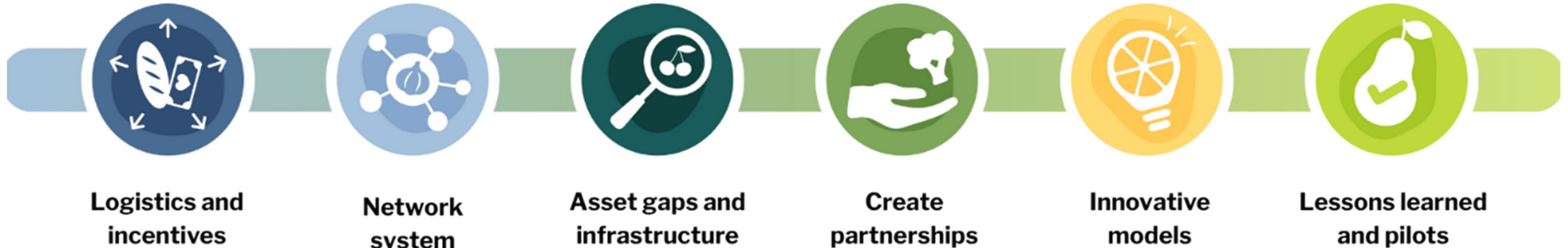
The Food Donation Work Group (FDWG) is dedicated to enhancing food rescue efforts from commercial sources. The FDWG will prioritize food waste prevention, food rescue, and managing the remaining material through recovery systems. Success will be driven by forging strong partnerships and ongoing discussions about current issues and research.

Food Donation Work Group Members

2nd Harvest
Bellingham Food Bank
Benton-Franklin Health District
Careit
Cascadia Produce
Charlie's Produce
City of Seattle
City of Spokane
Clark County
Copia
Divert
Eat Local First
Feeding Washington
Food Lifeline
Food Northwest
Free Food For All
GoodRoots Northwest
King County
Kittitas County Public Health Department
Leanpath

Miracle Food Network
Northwest Food Alliance
Northwest Grocery Association
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Pierce County
Safeway/Albertsons
Seattle Good Business Network
Snohomish County Health Department
Snoqualmie Tribe
Sustainable Connections
Tacoma-Pierce County Health District
Thurston County Food Bank
Too Good To Go
Washington Department of Health
Washington Food Coalition
Washington Food Industry Association
Washington Hospitality Association
Washington State Department of Agriculture
Washington State Department of Ecology
Zero Waste Washington

Legislative Directive Questions for the Food Donation Work Group



Key Barriers

- Need for infrastructure and staff
- Disjointed rescue networks
- Unclear donation guidelines
- Logistical concerns
- Limited funding and incentives



Recommendations

- Strengthen food donation through scalable pilots and infrastructure
- Fund the Washington Commodities Donation Grant Program
- Invest in school food rescue infrastructure and programs
- Identify sustainable funding to expand food donations
- Implement statewide education and outreach campaigns
- Provide technical assistance to address barriers and standardize food donation best practices
- Support local health jurisdictions in guiding safe food donation and connecting with hunger relief organizations
- Develop a statewide collaborative food donation and recovery map
- Advance statewide data tracking through the Food Data Hub to support food rescue and donation



Alli she/her



Jade she/her



Olivia she/her



Patrick he/him



Michelle she/her



Selena she/her



Cullen she/her



Delaney she/her

Thank you!

-Food Center Team

Subscribe to our emails
by scanning this QR code:



Any questions?



FoodCenter@ecy.wa.gov

Waste Not Washington School Awards



Heather Church
**Waste Reduction &
Recycling Specialist**

September 17, 2025

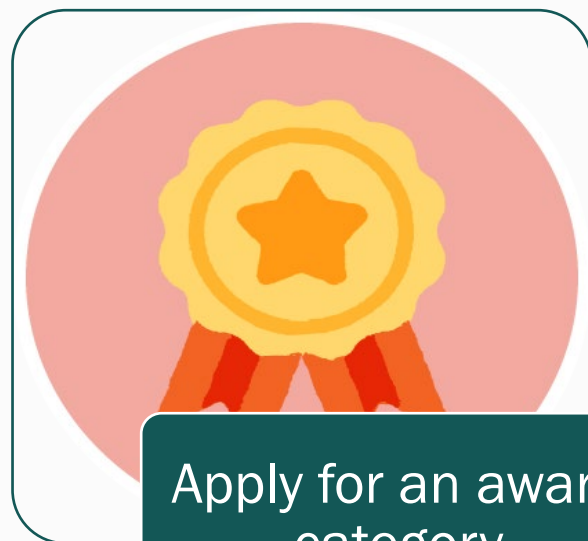




Waste Not Washington **School Awards**

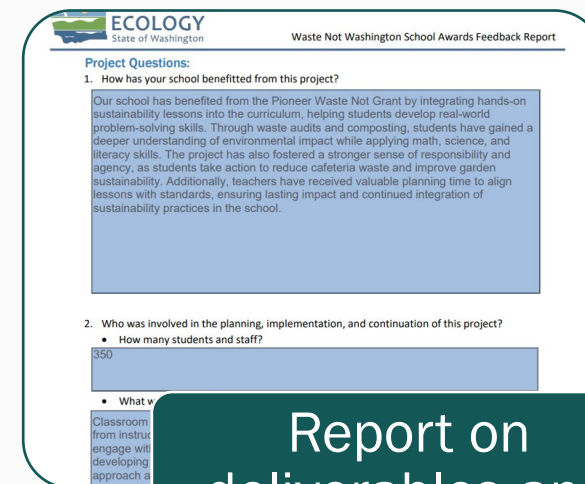
- **Purpose:** Program that provides funding to public, private, and tribal schools for waste reduction and recycling efforts
- Started in 1989
- Directed by: [RCW 70A.214.100](#)

How does the program work?



Apply for an award category

Implement program at school or school district



ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Waste Not Washington School Awards Feedback Report

Project Questions:

1. How has your school benefitted from this project?

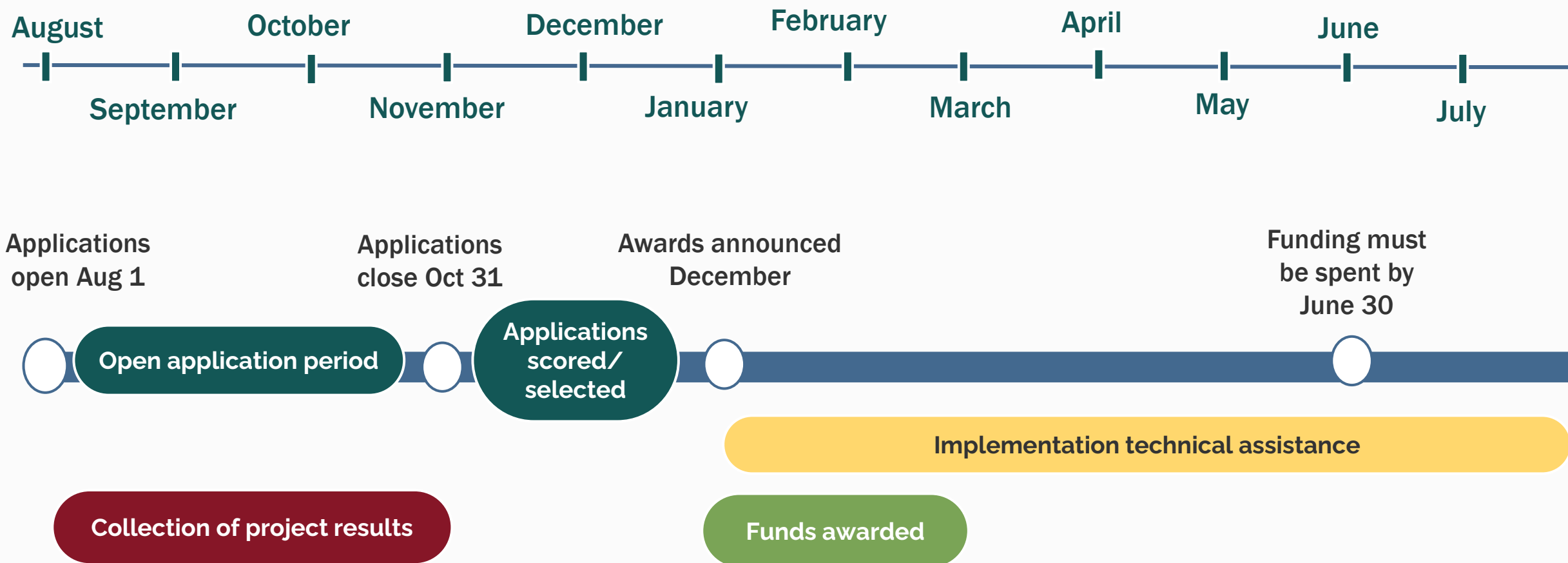
Our school has benefited from the Pioneer Waste Not Grant by integrating hands-on sustainability lessons into the curriculum, helping students develop real-world problem-solving skills. Through waste audits and composting, students have gained a deeper understanding of environmental impact while applying math, science, and literacy skills. The project has also fostered a stronger sense of responsibility and agency, as students take action to reduce cafeteria waste and improve garden sustainability. Additionally, teachers have received valuable planning time to align lessons with standards, ensuring lasting impact and continued integration of sustainability practices in the school.

2. Who was involved in the planning, implementation, and continuation of this project?

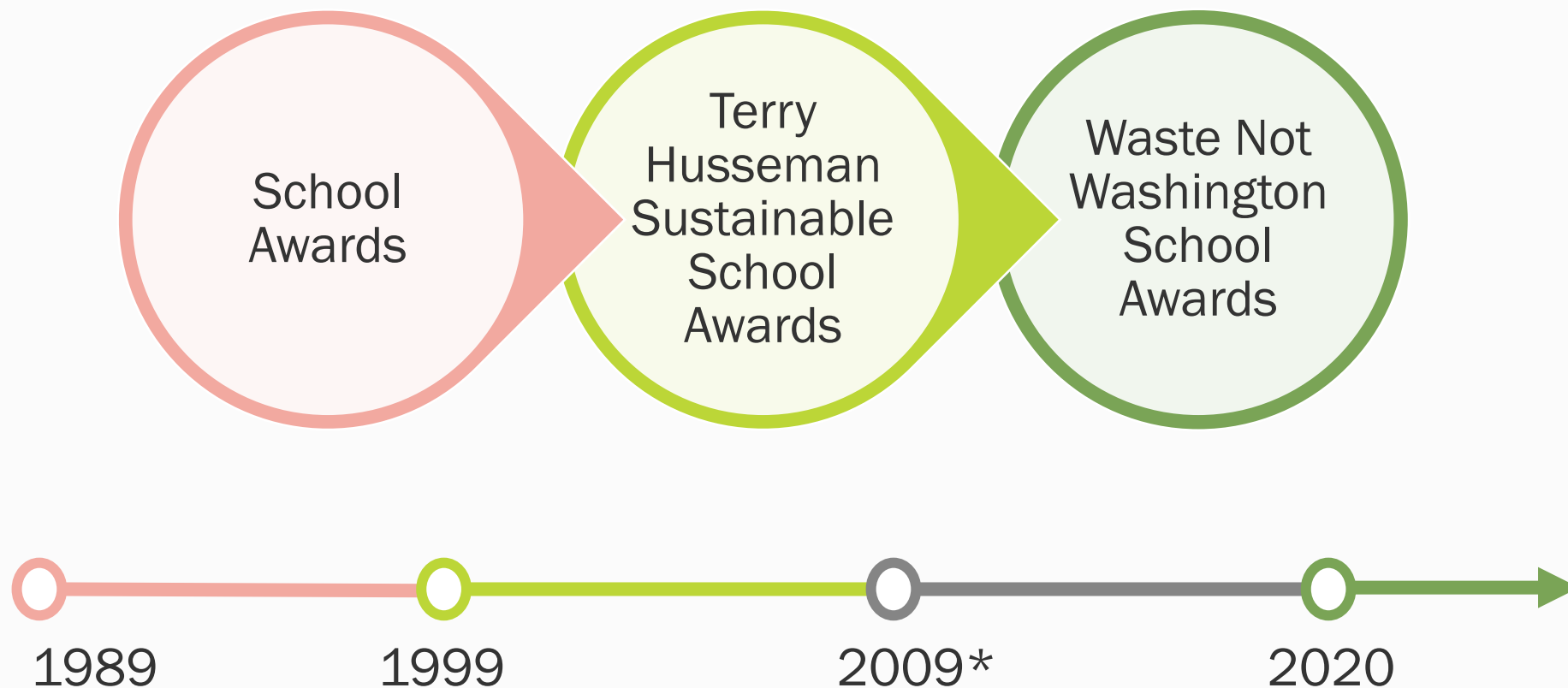
- How many students and staff?
- 350
- What v
- Classroom
- from insti
- engage w
- developi
- approach a

Report on deliverables and lessons

Funding cycle timeline

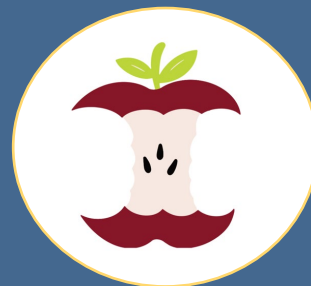


Different names, same program



* 2009 – 2020 program hiatus

Award categories over the years



1989 – 1991

- Elementary School
- Middle School
- High School

1992 – 2001

- Best Waste Reduction
- Best Recycling Program
- Outstanding Waste Reduction & Recycling Program

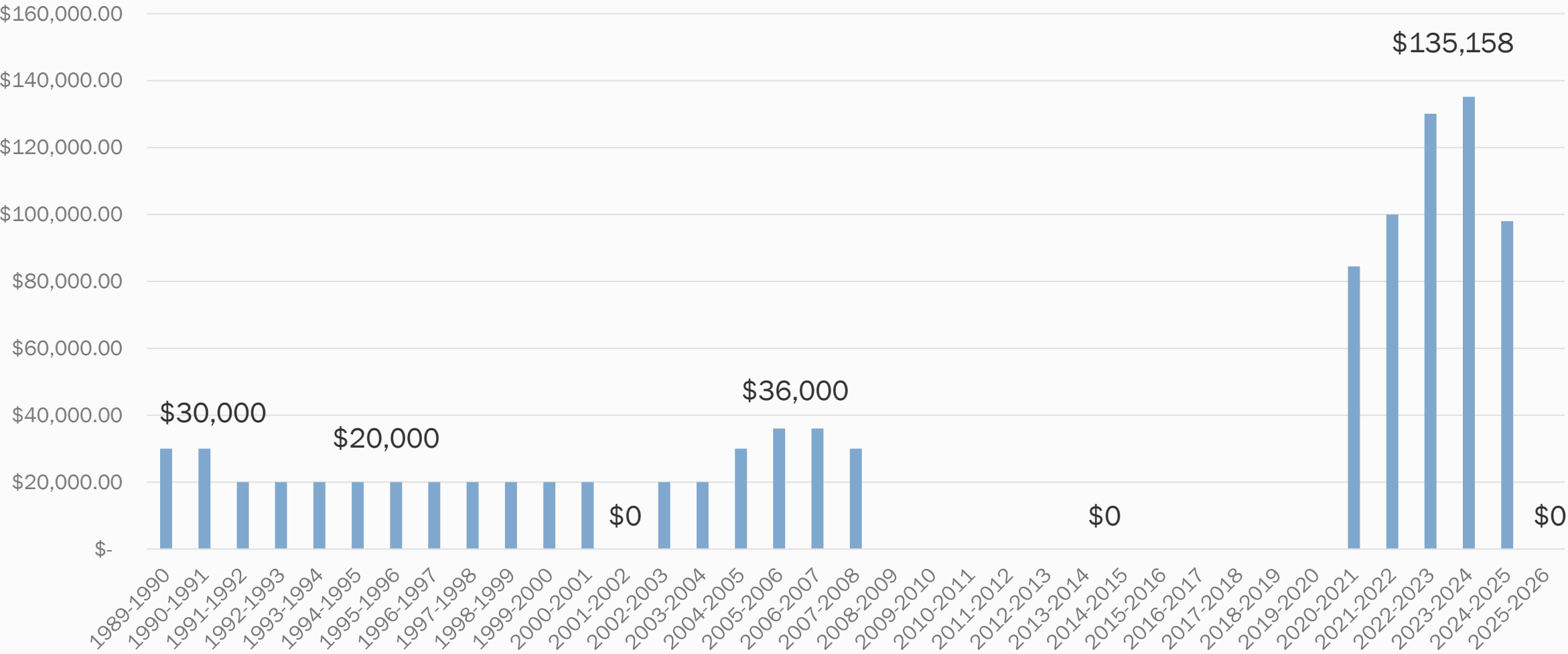
2003 - 2025

- Seed Award
- Sustainable School Award
- Environmental Curriculum / Creative Curriculum

2026 +

- Waste prevention and reduction
- Organics management and recycling
- Waste assessment
- Continuing success

Funding available over the years



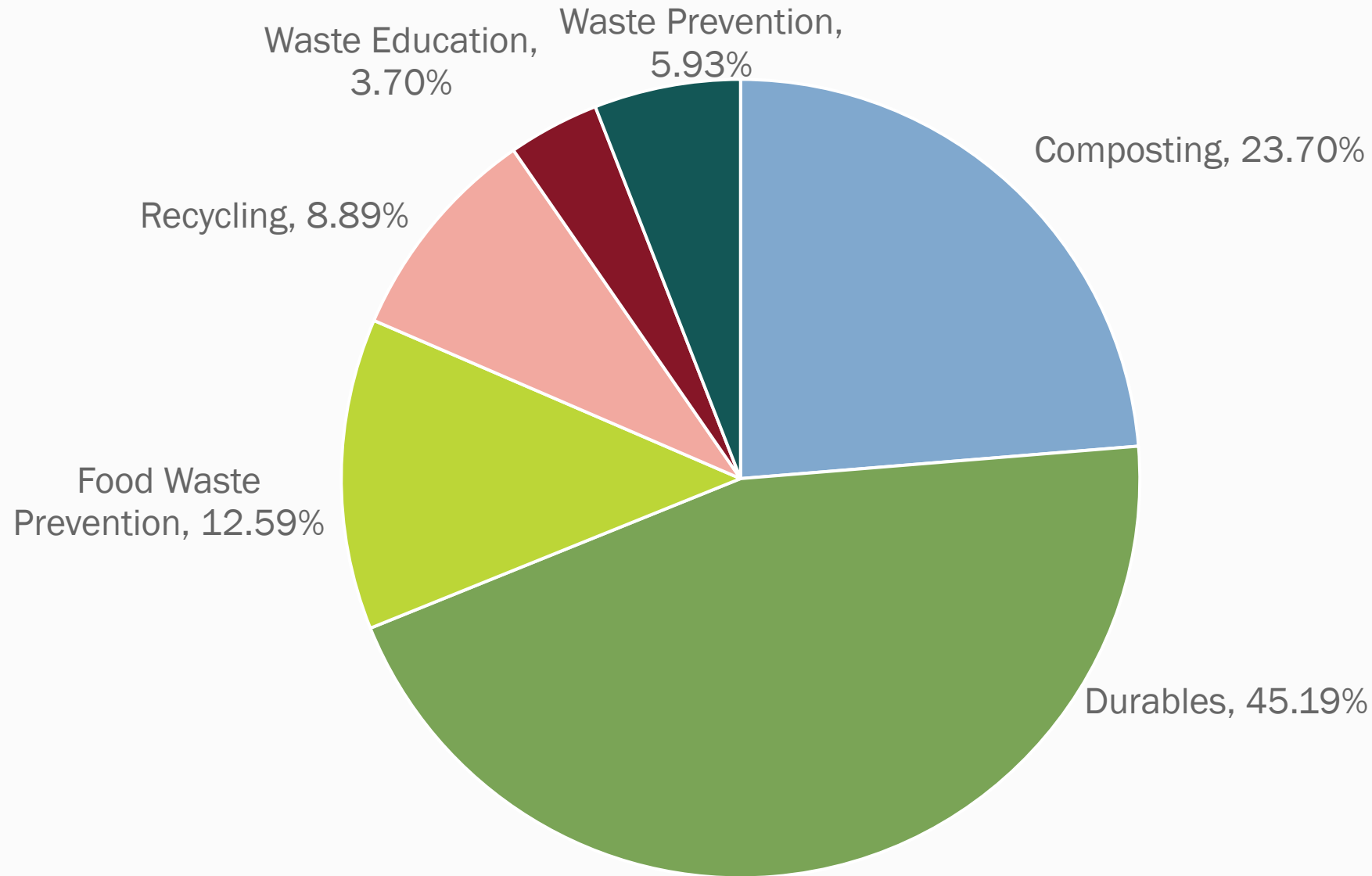


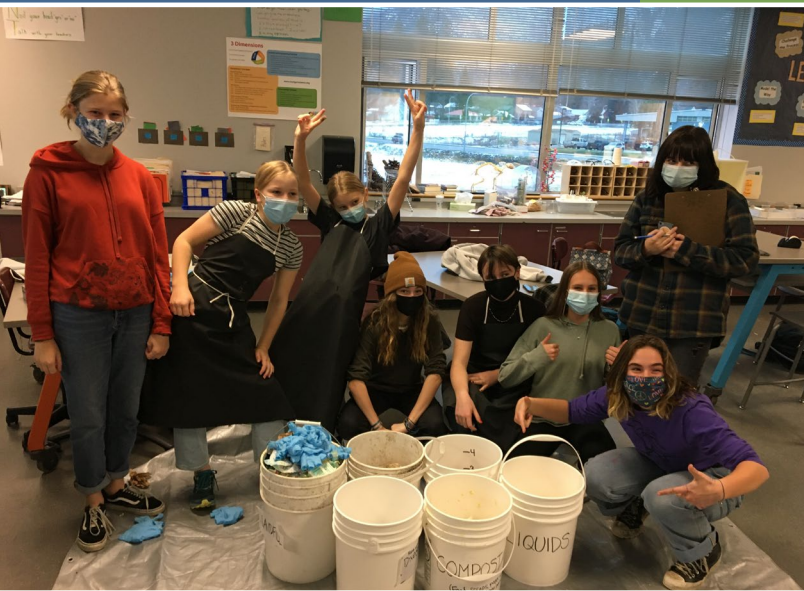
Waste Not Washington **School Awards**

As of January 1, 2026:

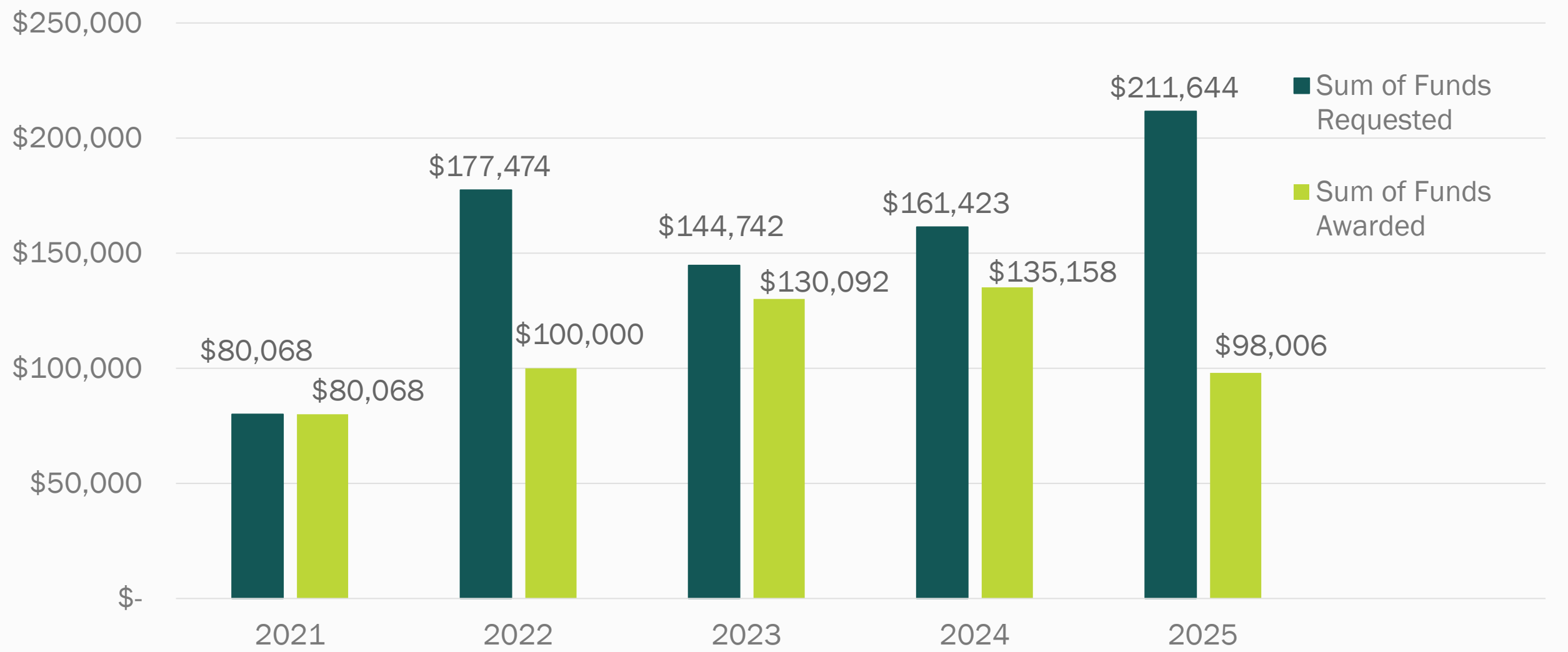
Maximum award increase from \$5,000 per award
to \$10,000 per award

Total programs funded by type 2020-2025

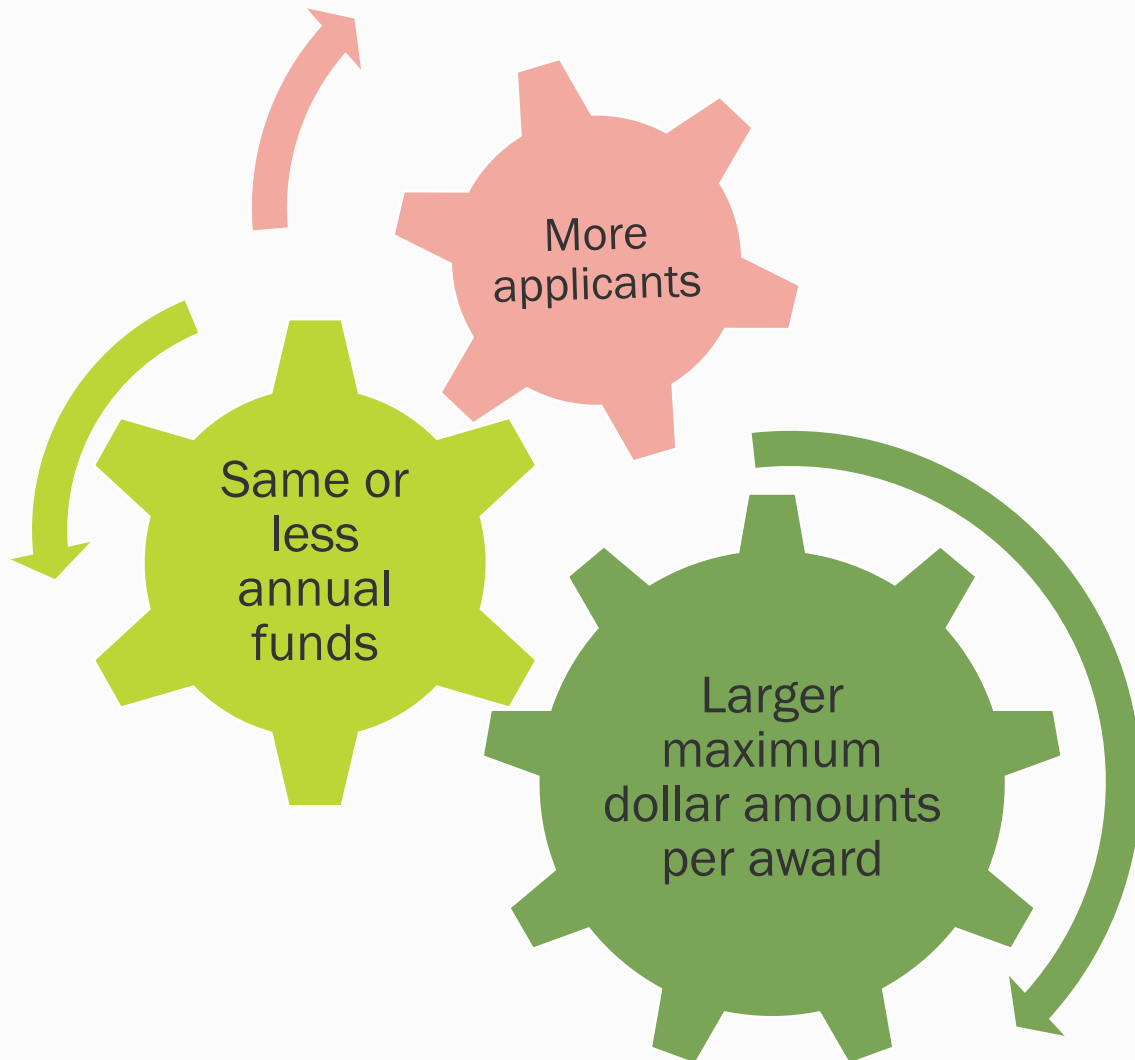




2020-2025 program interest

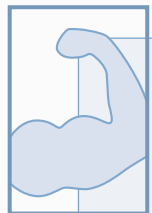


What we expect for future cycles



Less overall awards statewide, so how do we ensure they make the most impact?

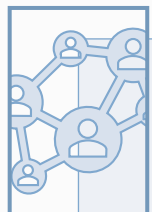
Goals in updating award categories



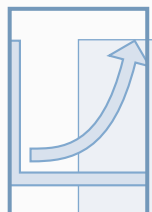
Clarify & strengthen
purpose of the Awards
program



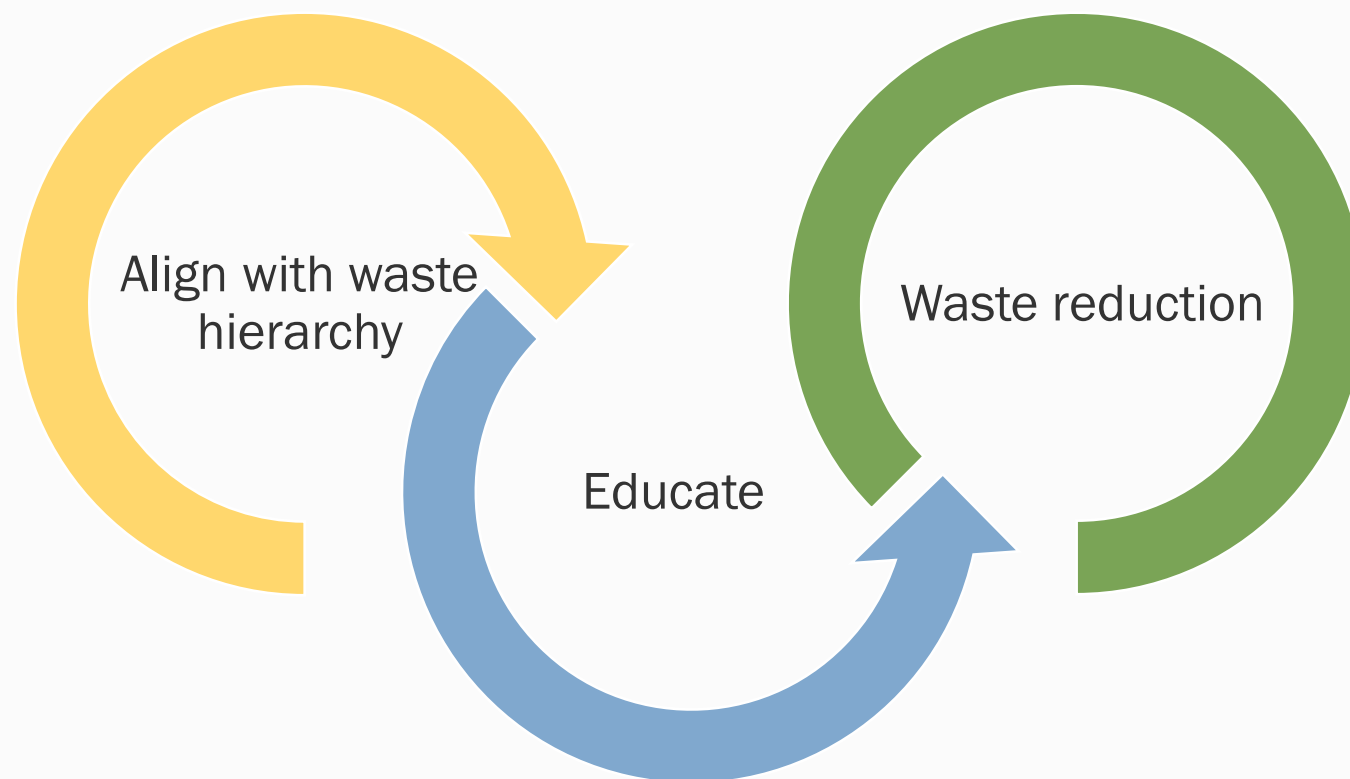
Provide straightforward
categories, guidelines,
and resources



More technical assistance
for applicants



Increase measurable
waste reduction in
participating schools





Waste Prevention & Reduction Award

The Waste Prevention & Reduction Award funds projects that prevent waste from occurring in the first place. This can look like switching to reusables, teaching repair skills, implementing food donation to rescue edible food, and more.



Organics Management & Recycling Award

The Organics Management & Recycling Award is for projects that focus on diverting waste from landfills, incineration, or improper disposal through food recovery methods, composting, or recycling.



Waste Assessment Award

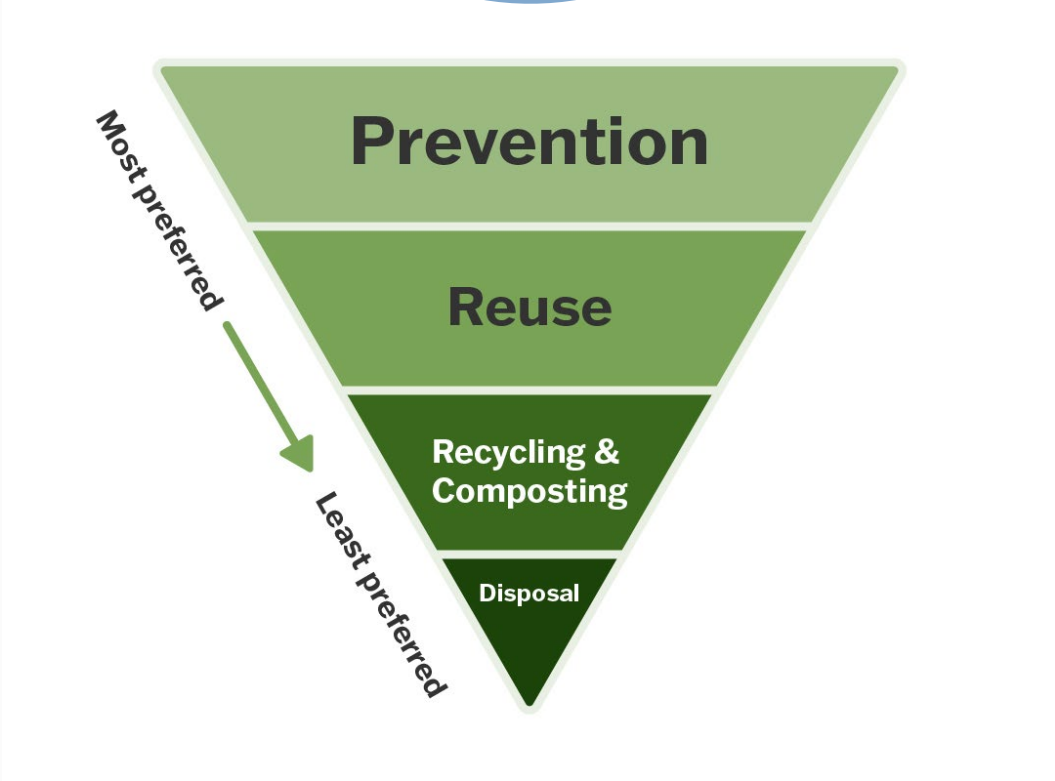
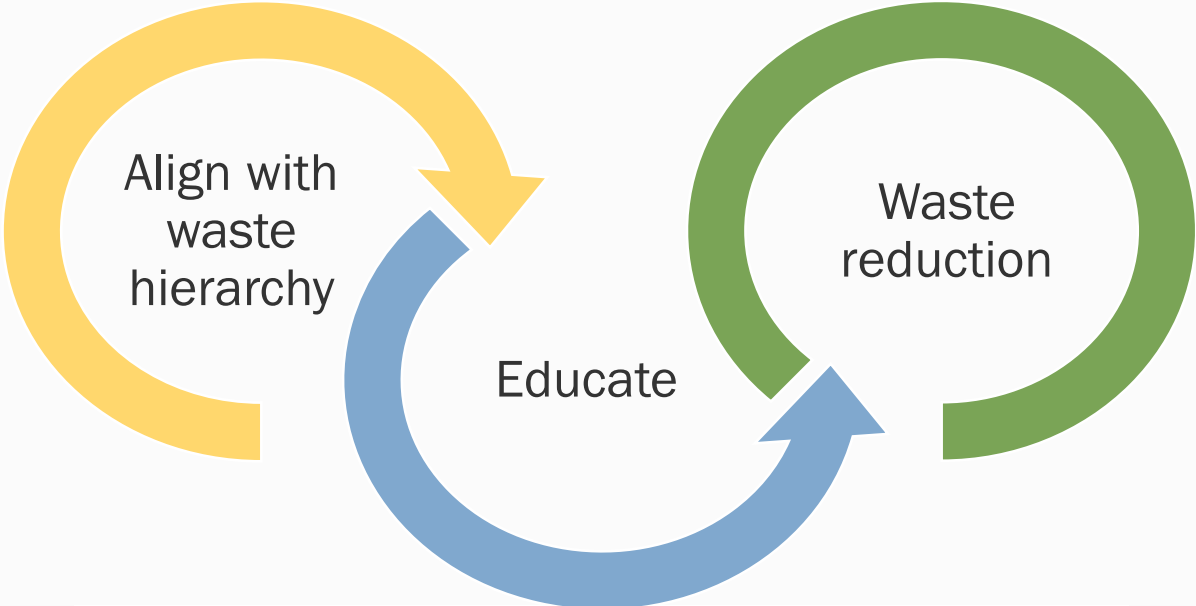
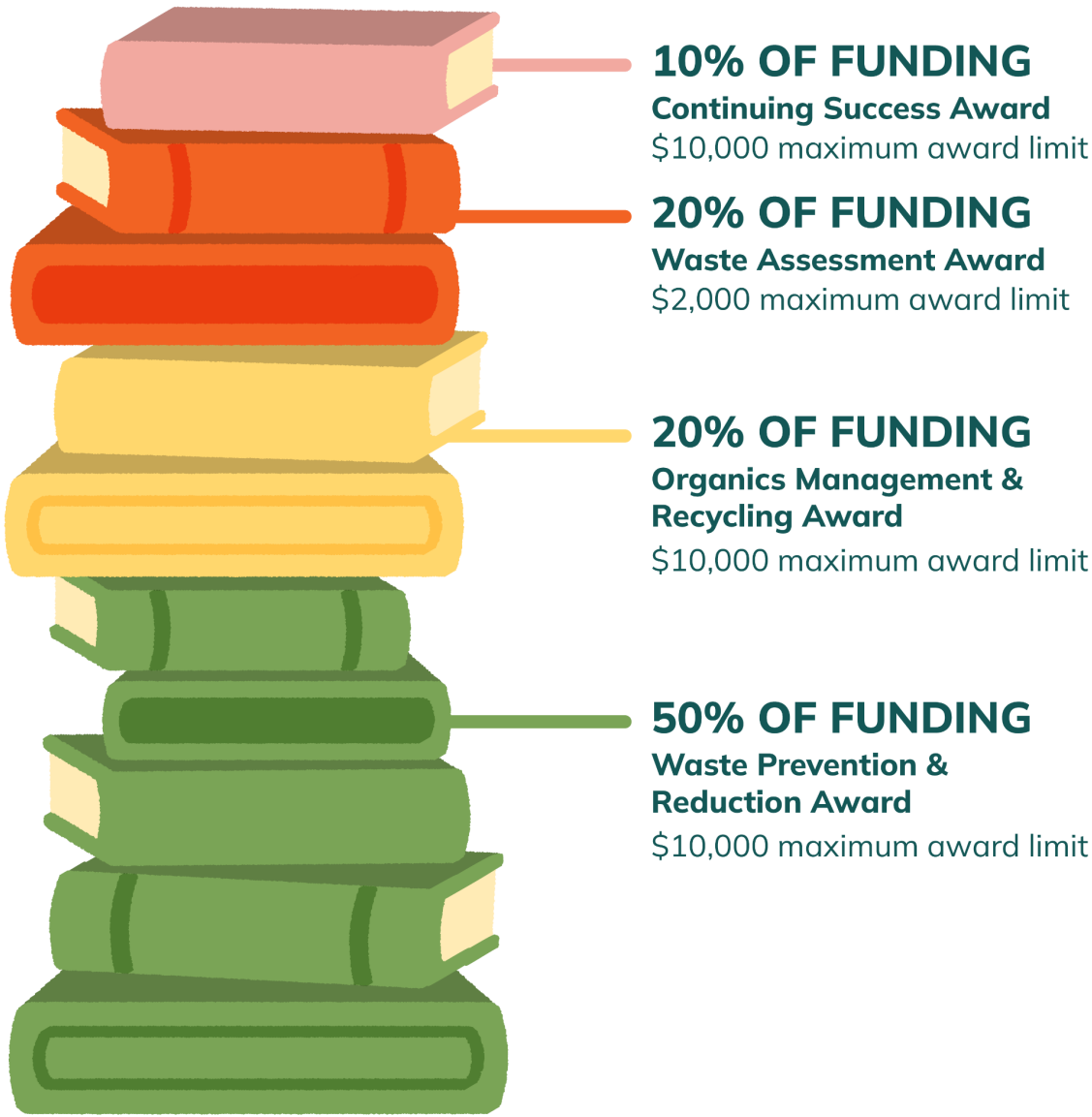
The Waste Assessment Award provides funds to conduct waste assessments to help applicants better understand their waste streams and issues. A waste assessment is the first step in effectively reducing waste and a great place to start for new applicants.



Continuing Success Award

The Continuing Success Award provides funds to a school or school district that has achieved significant waste prevention/ reduction, organics management, and/or recycling through ongoing projects. Awarded funds will help continue or grow existing projects.

Funding distribution & award limits



Updates to Program



Greater details and examples in guidelines



New award limits and applicant history to promote wider funding distribution



Application updates to streamline process and address burdens/scoring bias



Greater transparency with scoring process



Example and template documents for applicants

School Awards Guidelines



Waste Not Washington School Awards Guidelines and Scoring Criteria

Waste Reduction in Washington Schools

Washington State Department of Ecology
Olympia, Washington

Publication 25-07-047 - July 2025



Waste Not Washington
School Awards

Award Categories

There are four categories of awards, each with a separate application form. The following section provides details, eligibility, funding, and examples for each of these categories.



Waste Prevention & Reduction Award

Waste Prevention & Reduction

Award Description

This category awards funds to applicants who implement policy, programs, and/or projects within a school or school district to prevent waste from occurring in the first place. In addition to waste prevention, this category will fund efforts for waste reduction such as reuse, repair, and food rescue. By "focusing upstream," choosing less wasteful practices, or educating students about the impacts of individual choices and overconsumption, this award will fund school choices to prevent negative environmental impacts and will benefit both the school and its students.

Award Eligibility

Projects are considered to fit this category if the majority of work and funding is geared toward waste prevention and reduction (like the following examples). Projects in this category can have elements of the other award categories if not major focus of work or funding. Ecology will favor projects that demonstrate waste prevention and reduction efforts with measurable and measured outcomes.

Award Funding

This award category will be allotted up to 50% of annual funding and has a maximum award amount of \$10,000. These efforts are considered priority projects for schools and therefore receive more funding than any other category.

Examples

- Switching from single-use to reusable items like:
 - food serviceware: bulk food or beverage containers and dispensers, trays, utensils, cups
 - classroom supplies: markers, pencils, notebooks, etc.
- Adding waste prevention policy into school contracts and staff position descriptions, examples:
 - Requiring sustainability clauses in food vendor contracts for reusable materials

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July 2025

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page 11

Appendix B. Score Cards

Waste Prevention & Reduction Award Evaluation Score Card Applicant History

Number	Criteria	Possible Score
1.1	Applicant school has not received a Waste Not Washington School Award in the past 5 years. Exception – Applicant school received a waste assessment award. - No award within 5 years (with exception) = 5 points - School received award within 5 years = 0 points	0 – 5 points
1.2	Applicant school has applied for the Waste Not Washington School Awards in the past two years without being awarded funding. Ecology will verify answer in application. Applicant has applied twice over the past two funding cycles without being awarded = 5 points Applicant has applied once over the past two funding cycles without being awarded = 3 points Applicant has never applied for the award program before = 1 point Applicant received an award in the past 5 years (see 1.1) = 0 points	0 – 5 points
1.3	Applicant has conducted a waste assessment within the past 3 years and results or other proof from that waste assessment are submitted as a supporting document. Yes = 5 points No = 0 points Ecology will verify these points based on emailed supporting documentation as part of application.	0 – 5 points
1.4	Has an on-staff school or school district grant writer, resource conservation specialist, or staff whose position is dedicated to securing external funding for your school been part of developing this application?	0 points
Applicant History Section Total		15 points

ECY 25-07-047
July 2025

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page 20



Waste Not Washington
School Awards



Learn more

Interested in learning more about school awards?

Visit the School Awards webpage



www.ecology.wa.gov/schoolawards

Sign up for our email list!



https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic_id=WAECY_234



Thank you

Heather Church

Waste Reduction and Recycling Specialist

schoolawards@ecy.wa.gov

(509) 688-5358

Agenda

Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting
September 17, 2025 | 9:30 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.

~~Call to Order & Zoom Meeting Instructions~~

~~9:30 a.m. | 5 minutes | Jay Blazey (Vice Chair)~~

~~SWAC Update~~

~~9:35 a.m. | 5 minutes | Jay Blazey (Vice Chair)~~

~~Ecology Updates~~

~~9:40 a.m. | 5 minutes | Peter Lyon, SWM Program Manager~~

~~Designated Recyclables List~~

~~9:45 a.m. | 15 minutes | Diana Wadley, Lead Local Planner~~

~~RRA Advisory Council~~

~~10:00 a.m. | 15 minutes | Dan Weston, Statewide Recycling Coordinator~~

~~Statewide Container Colors and Labels~~

~~10:15 a.m. | 20 minutes | Patrick Merscher, Organics Specialist~~

~~Food Donation Work Group Report~~

~~10:35 a.m. | 20 minutes | Jade Monroe, Food Center Planner~~

~~Waste Not Washington School Awards~~

~~10:55 a.m. | 15 minutes | Heather Church, Waste Reduction & Recycling Specialist~~

Member Updates & Roundtable

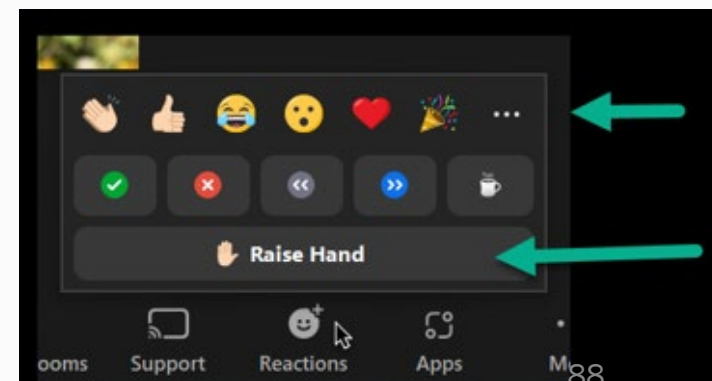
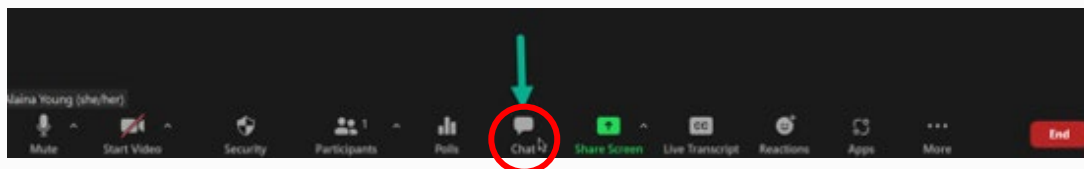
11:10 a.m. | 15 minutes | Jay Blazey (Vice Chair)

Adjourn

11:25 a.m.

We want to hear from you!

- If you would like to provide comments, **please write your name in the chat or raise your hand.**
- We will call on you to speak in the order that we see names in the chat or hands raised.
- Please turn on your camera and unmute yourself when it's your turn.
- You may also **write your comment in the chat** and we will read it for you.



Member Updates & Roundtable



Thank you for joining us today!