

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
**** MEETING SUMMARY ****
January 22, 2020

Troy Lautenbach, Committee Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:37 A.M. and introductions were made. He asked for a motion to approve the October 3, 2019 meeting notes. There was a motion to adopt, the motion was seconded and the notes were approved.

Legislative Implementation Presentation

The entire presentation including all sections outlined below is posted on the SWAC website:

[Legislative Implementation Presentation.](#)

Food Waste Prevention - Mary Harrington, Contact: (360) 407-6915; mary.harrington@ecy.wa.gov

Thurston County used grant funds and their own money for food waste prevention in the county. Food diverted in 2017 resulted in 127,576 meals in 2018 for area hunger relief. A 50% reduction in disposal is equivalent to removing 344,608 passenger vehicles. A plan will be written with recommendations to reduce food waste generated by 50% by 2030. Stakeholders are being invited to participate in plan development. Five groups were created and will meet every other month.

Paint Stewardship - Megan Warfield, Contact: (360) 407-6963; megan.warfield@ecy.wa.gov

Last fall, stakeholder meetings between Paint Care and local government staff were held in Union Gap, Spokane, Olympia, Everett, and Vancouver. Paint Care is reaching out to MRW facilities and paint retail locations in attempts to build out the collection network. There is a latex paint recycler currently operating in Washington, Green Sheen Recycling in Kent. Paint Care will submit the proposed program plan for Ecology's review and approval in April or May. The program should be operational this October or November.

Plastic Packaging - Alli Kingfisher, Contact: (509) 960-1290; alli.kingfisher@ecy.wa.gov

Alli is the new policy specialist. The issue on the public's radar that there will be more plastics by weight in the ocean than fish by 2050. The study mandated an independent third party to do an assessment. Ecology is consulting with stakeholders and establishing a listserv. The web page will be ready shortly and available to the SWAC. Recommendations will be presented in a report to the legislature.

Recycling Contamination Reduction & Outreach Plans (CROPs) - Stacey Callaway, Contact: (360) 407-6940; stacey.callaway@ecy.wa.gov

Stacey is working with regional planners, who work with the solid waste managers in counties and cities. The statewide Recycling CROP is being developed. HB1543 Sustainable Recycling Act was signed last April. Counties with populations of more than 25,000 must develop a Recycling CROP. Technical assistance will be provided. Ideas and comments will be gathered on the web page. Feedback will be solicited again in the Spring. The plan will be released in April in a more formal comment period. The final product will be delivered by July 1. There is no deadline for comments or suggestions.

Recycling Development Center - Kara Steward, Contact: (360) 407-7643; kara.steward@ecy.wa.gov

The Recycling Development Center was created by RCW 79.370. It is a partnership among Ecology, Commerce, and the Utilities & Transportation Commission. The first Advisory Board meeting was on January 9th. The Board notes from January 9th are posted [online](#). The next steps are to identify principals, goals, criteria, and Board organization. A report is due to the legislature in 2020. The Recycling Steering Committee was organized due to an immediate problem of not being able to move recyclables to the current market. The Development Center will determine how to create options at the local or regional

level. The Board may make recommendations that are best handled by the Steering Committee or vice versa. Policy options will come from both committees and can easily affect current or future infrastructure. Options will be vetted by the SWAC, Steering Committee, and the Recycling Development Center. The goal is to avoid silos and have crossover communication. Find more info at the Board [website](#).

Legislative Update – Julie Robertson, Contact: (360) 407-6132; julie.robertson@ecy.wa.gov

- There are three agency request legislation bills: anti fouling boat paint, drought preparedness, and water banking.
- The disposable wipes bill (HB 2565) requires manufacturers to clearly label a product that is truly disposable. If a product is not labeled clearly as required or is mislabeled, manufacturers are subject to inspection and enforcement by the Attorney General and local government. The House Environment Committee held a hearing on January 21st. A fiscal note by the Attorney General assumes local government will respond based on referral or complaint.
- There was bipartisan support at a hearing on January 21st re: right to repair without going through the manufacturer. The next step is to schedule a stakeholder meeting. Large companies signed in on the bill (Tesla, Microsoft).
- A \$1.5M request was made for supplemental grants to local government for homeless cleanup. The grants would be through Local Solid Waste and Financial Assistance with a 25% match. The program is competitive and Ecology will try to spread funds statewide. Draft guidelines have a cap of \$60,000. Funds will go to each region and leftover will be distributed elsewhere. The Governor has his own homeless proposals using rainy day funds. He included \$2.5M from his budget for cleanup of abandoned sites. Local jurisdictions would move people to shelters, Department of Transportation and Ecology would do the cleanup. Proviso language indicates money is only for the I-5 corridor, but any cities on the border are eligible. This will change to public land, not just state land. The \$2.5M will come to Ecology and would pass through for DOT right-of-way land, or land that crosses over to counties/cities. A fact sheet was handed out. The \$2.5 is only for abandoned cleanup on public lands. Our request also has a match, and the Governor's does not.

Waste to Energy Presentation - King County Solid Waste - Jamey Barker, Contact: 206-477-4625; jamey.barker@kingcounty.gov; Pat McLaughlin, Contact: 206-477-4501; pat.mclaughlin@kingcounty.gov

The presentation is posted on the SWAC website: [Waste to Energy Presentation](#).

- Through regional dialogue and an effort to update the county's comprehensive plan (last updated in 2001), the question about where garbage will go needed to be answered. The county embarked on studies to address the question. The county decided to use Cedar Hills Landfill to convert landfill gas to natural gas. After the 2001 plan was approved, a report was done on a transfer station and an energy conversion study was done. Waste to Energy (WTE) mass burn was technically feasible, but it was best to maximize Cedar Hills when updating the 2019 plan. A third party was asked to confirm findings and come up with ways to improve the economics. The county was asked in the budget ordinance to have another third party compare waste export by rail with waste to energy after Cedar Hills closed. They think their current plan will last through 2038.
- The county looked at different approaches. An effort would be made to reduce disposal of materials like diapers and kitty litter that are not recyclable. Right now, it's "zero waste of valuable resources". If a waste to energy facility was built, it would not be recognized as renewable energy. The WARM model is the tool for evaluating which way to go in disposal technology. Landfilling of ash is a significant component of the operating cost. King County's waste is significantly larger than the national average. This happens if you use the national average mixed MSW. This is due to carbon sequestration from dimensional lumber.

- Siting and permitting were determined to pose "difficult to quantify risks". WTE doesn't eliminate landfilling. There would be a small reduction, but 200,000 tons per year of ash would still have to go out of the county on rail. There is no space for it at Cedar Hills.
- Key takeaway messages: there are real challenges, WTE is an expensive option, and there are challenges with emissions and whether they could be captured or scrubbed. Modern technology does work and preserve green space, and reduce the amount of landfill substantially. The county needs to keep an eye on this evolving technology. The county was focused on a disposal solution for where garbage would go in 2028, and is shifting the dialog now. About 70% of what goes to the landfill today is recyclable material. The county wants to shift the focus to the 70% and the recycling strategy.
- The county will embark on a tour to explore alternatives around managing recyclables and waste. Food waste numbers are staggering and analyzed as the largest landfill waste. There are established technologies for diverting that waste. Food can be of better service to feed people, use for renewable energy, etc. The county will also look at fiber processing and policy choices. There was a challenge with comprehensive planning. The county identified a roadmap, but fell short in recycling commitments. The problem is due to confusion in different communities. Confusion breeds contamination, which needs to be eliminated.
- CROPs will be very important and the county wants to support them. The county will update the comprehensive plan and get commitments to a singular harmonized approach to help define recycling and disposal programs. Four or five tours are identified between March and Summer to look at other regions for help. There is a very vocal stakeholder pushing co-location. The University of Washington students will do a comparison of waste to energy versus green energy/zero energy. Early studies looked at advanced material recovery in 2017. The county is thinking of a broader systems approach. It will likely be a combination of both policy and technology. The desire is to work across traditional boundaries.

University of Washington – Evans School Project Update – Dawn Marie Maurer, Contact: (425) 649-7192; dawn.marie.maurer@ecy.wa.gov

Four students are involved with the project: Andrew Chesterfield, Hannah Navarro, Alex Reynolds, and Donnie Strohfus. The proposed project is to research viability of siting and permitting a waste to energy plant in Washington. They will research existing operations, impacts of incineration on waste management hierarchy, identify relevant research, and engage with stakeholders. The goal is to provide the report to Ecology by June 5th this year. They will present to the SWAC and probably the Recycling Development Center and Steering Committee. A question was asked if chemical processes are being looked at. The Recycling Development Center is looking at that, but this group is not. The goal is to have a final contract by next week.

Roundtable

Kris Major, Spokane Regional Solid Waste System: Kris invited the Evans School to tour the waste to energy facility in Spokane and see how it fits into the community system. A suggestion was made to have a SWAC tour, but Ecology can't pay for the cost.

Danny Joe Stensgar, Colville Confederated Tribes: A new resolution was just passed that no longer allows plastic on the reservation.

Art Starry, Thurston County Environmental Health: Mark McElroy is the new Public Works Solid Waste Manager. He will work with their SWAC to determine the direction of the plan, and whether they will start

over or use materials from the existing plan. There was a recent meth lab cleanup. The last lab cleanup was 12 years ago, and the county hopes this is not the beginning of trend.

Domenic Calabro, EPA Region 10: A RFP will come out in a few weeks from EPA to advance anaerobic digestion technology. Last year, \$100,000 was earmarked and the Washington State University Energy Office was selected to do a renewable natural gas project with workshops this Spring. In 2020, \$3M is earmarked. Local government, non-profits, and tribes will be eligible to apply. More details will be sent in a couple weeks. They would like to have representation from Washington.

Ron Jones, WSRA: The annual conference is May 17-20 in Vancouver, WA. Registration is open and the agenda will be posted at end of month. The 3rd Annual Policy Forum was held in December and was very successful. The policy committee meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. The association is following 11 bills. If you want to be engaged, email Megan Smothers (Executive Director) or Ron Jones at recycle@wsra.net. Two WRED events are scheduled in late February. Tours of electronics, paper mill and recycling facilities are scheduled in late March.

Ron Jones, City of Olympia: Glass is removed from recycling due to China Sword, and to allow haulers to bail materials in a different way. The conversation started with a fast-track for removal by January 1st. No more glass and polycoat are allowed in curbside. There was also a request from a processor, and separate collection options were vetted. Collection is very expensive and labor intensive. Drop off sites were chosen as an option. The recycling rate will take a big hit, but it's about improving the quality. Concrete recyclers are using glass as aggregate material, and the city will continue to study this option.

Heather Trim, Zero Waste Washington: Let her know if you are interested in testifying pro and being on panels.

Accepted Recyclable List Changes and Survey for Municipalities – Heather Church, Contact: (509) 202-6946; heather.church@ecy.wa.gov

The survey is voluntary. There was some conflicting info, due to receiving responses from different staff members at separate times. The goal is to use the survey as a tool to show the progression of trends in Washington, and make it a resource for everyone. Staff are working with the data team to determine the best way to post the results online. There is a lot of data out there including regional recycling reports, best management practices, and zero waste management reports. Staff are creating a template that is accessible by everyone in one location, and we don't have a timeline yet. The goal is to send the next survey this summer, and it would be live by the end of June. Staff hope to finish it earlier, but can't guarantee. The survey captures data on recycling that is not being done. Ecology is trying to identify technology and staff resources to illustrate that data in a comprehensive manner. Staff are working on a platform and database to analyze the reasoning behind the questions. The 2018 data is coming out soon in the next three months (data is always one year behind). Since staff don't receive comprehensive reports the first time around, it needs to be decided where to draw the line. Staff are encouraged to draw a hard line to get data out. The survey was sent to municipal contacts (not MRFs or processing locations), so data points are very different. The data helps communities understand what is happening and is a good resource for conversations.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Beth Gill