AGENDA
Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting
May 26, 2020 | 9:30 am – Noon (Pacific time)

9:30 am  Call to Order & Introductions
9:35 am  Legislative/Budget Update
9:50 am  COVID Response & Impacts
10:35 am Ecology Update
11:15 am University of Washington WTE Project
11:45 am Future Agenda Topics
11:50 am Roundtable
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Laurie Davies
Proposal: **Repeal 70.95F RCW**  
Labeling of Plastics

Current Statute

- **Definitions**
- **Labeling Req. – Plastic Industry Standards**
  
  Label required to include:
  - Code identifying resin type used
  - A number placed within three triangulated arrows with letters below

- **Violations**

Comments Due: **May 29, 2020**

Contact:
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Washington’s Solid Waste Industry’s Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic

DOE SWAC Meeting
May 26, 2020

Brad Lovaas, Executive Director
Washington Refuse & Recycling Association
COVID-19

• Solid Waste always has been an Essential Business.
  – Collection & Disposal protect public health.
  – MRFs first link in essential supply chain.

• Solid Waste Industry is Resilient – Previous Challenges
  – Floods, Fires, Snow, Ice & Volcano Eruption.

• Pandemic Public Health Crisis – New.

• People First: Protect Workers & Customers.
COVID-19

• Collection, MRF and Disposal Operations were never halted:
  – Some Transfer Stations, Recycling Drop-off curtailed hours, etc. for self-haul.

• Operations modified:
  – Closed offices for walk-ins; Administration & Call Centers working remotely; and Safety Meetings & daily truck driver deployment done remotely.

• Collection changes & volumes:
  – Commercial & Construction – were in large part shuttered;
  – Accounts suspended (generally); some were closed; and,
  – Residential
    • Garbage Volumes Up – people at home. Service levels unchanged.
    • Recycling is up – contamination is up. Food soiled.
    • Yard Waste is up – nice yards
COVID-19

• WUTC Regulatory Structure reaffirmed by China Sword and COVID-19. Cost of Service Model.

• Cities that provide their own collection are experiencing the same COVID-19 effects as our companies. They are Enterprise Funds.

• Most contract cities have been accommodative. Commercial subsidizes residential. Commercial down. Construction all but halted. Residential & Yard Waste up.
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COVID 19 Responses and Impacts to LHJs

Email Survey to LHJs with 6 insightful and intriguing questions...

1. How much of your EH program time is going towards COVID-19 response?
2. What capacity do you have for Solid Waste activities?
3. What types of Solid Waste activities have you been doing since COVID struck?
4. Are staff going out in the field?
5. Do you think you will be able to spend all your LSWFA SWE money?
6. Any other comments/concerns?
Survey Responses (14 of 35 LHJs)

Impacts vary widely

• EH involvement seems to relate to LHJ size and local impact of COVID
• Some EH programs not involved with COVID
• Some heavily involved
• Level of involvement changes over time and local conditions change.
• As Washington “reopens” LHJ staff will be diverted from regular duties to help businesses and the public interpret the Governor’s Safe Start guidance.

NOTE: Low survey response – likely due to COVID
Solid waste activities

- LHJ capacity varies from 0-100% of normal
- Most LHJs focus on high priority activities, complaint investigations and compliance work that can be done safely
- Telecommuting and working from office as much as appropriate
Future Concerns

• COVID rebounds! More outbreaks occur!
• Financial impacts of COVID on economy and associated impacts on local government and LHJs
  • Reduced local revenue for counties and LHJS
  • Staff reductions
  • Program reductions
  • Facilities decline
  • Increases in illegal dumping and illicit activities
  • Impacts on MTCA and LSWFA funding
Department of Ecology

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Recycle Right</td>
<td>Dan Weston</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Recycling Development Center</td>
<td>Kara Steward</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Plastics Study</td>
<td>Alli Kingfisher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Plastic Bag Ban</td>
<td>Shannon Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>Tami Ramsey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>CROP</td>
<td>Peter Guttchen</td>
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Recycling Development Center

Chapter 70.370 RCW

Kara Steward & Tina Schaefer
Recycling Development Center

Chapter 70.370 RCW:

Center Advisory Board
14 members
Advisory Board Members

Corinne Drennan
Karl Englund, Cochair
Kyla Fisher
Deb Geiger
Margo Gillaspy
Nina Goodrich
Sego Jackson

Allen Langdon
Scott Morgan, Chair
Mike Range
Derek Ruckman
Tim Shestek
Jay Simmons
Heather Trim
Center Accomplishments

Oct 2019: Board nominated

Jan 2020:
Meeting 1 - brainstorming

July 2020:
Meeting 3 - NORPAC

Apr 2020:
Meeting 2 - Draft work plan

Oct 2020:
Meeting 4 - Spokane

Dec 2020:
Legislative Report

Completed
• Website
• Email list
• Meeting notes
• Draft work plan

Upcoming
• Subcommittee
• Board meetings
• Work plan
• Legislative report
Draft Work Plan

Partnerships, outreach, and sharing information

Business assistance, market analysis, and funding

Research on waste, recycling, policy and economics

Technology discussions, evaluations and investment
For more information

Board EZview website

Center email list

Email Ecology’s Center team
- RecDevCenter@ECY.WA.GOV

2020 Board meetings (remote attendance)
- Monday, July 13 in Longview, WA, at NORPAC
- Wednesday, October 14, in Spokane, WA
Scope of Work

**Task 1:**
Assess current plastic packaging management system in WA

**Task 2:**
Assess business use of recycled content in WA

**Task 3:**
Research global policy & technology options for managing packaging

**Task 4:**
Conduct stakeholder consultation

**Task 5:**
Develop recommendations to meet 2025 plastic reduction goals
| TASK | ACTIVITIES | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT |
|------|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1    | Assess current plastic packaging management system in WA  |
|      | - Amounts & types of plastic in WA  |
|      | - End-of-life management & contamination  |
|      | - Costs of current system  |
|      | - Necessary infrastructure to fully manage plastic packaging  |
|      | Research & data gathering  |
|      | Develop plastic packaging management flow model  |
|      | Task 1 report published to EZView  |
| 2    | Assess business use of recycled content in WA  |
|      | - Use of and demand for recycled content: plastic  |
|      | - Barriers to using more recycled content  |
|      | Research & data gathering  |
|      | Manufacturer & reprocessor interviews  |
|      | Task 2 report published to EZView  |
| 3    | Research global policy & technology options for managing packaging  |
|      | - Existing policy and technology options  |
|      | - Costs & savings of existing stewardship programs  |
|      | - Existing programs and databases to use in developing a state program  |
|      | Research & data gathering  |
|      | Task 3 report published to EZView  |
| 4    | Conduct stakeholder consultation  |
|      | - Consult on research and findings  |
|      | - Keep stakeholders informed  |
|      | - Provide opportunities for feedback  |
|      | Opportunities for stakeholder review & input  |
|      | EZView  |
|      | Study listserv & email inbox  |
|      | Study voicemail  |
|      | Public comment  |
|      | Task 3 report survey  |
| 5    | Develop recommendations to meet 2025 plastic reduction goals:  |
|      | - 100% recyclable, reusable, or compostable  |
|      | - 20% post-consumer recycled content  |
|      | - Reduce when possible  |
|      | - Identify legislative options to implement by 2022  |
|      | Draft recs due 7/15  |
|      | Final recs due 8/15  |
|      | Ecology prepares recs  |
|      | Delivery to Legislature 10/31  |
Task 3: Research global policy & technology options for managing packaging

- Existing policy and technology options
- Costs & savings of existing stewardship programs
- Existing programs and databases to use in developing a state program
Plastic Bag Ban

SB 5323

Shannon Jones
Department of Ecology
The Facts

- One paper bag holds the equivalent of two plastic bags
- Paper bags can be recycled or composted
- Reusable bags can be recycled at textile drop-offs
- Reusable bags last for years
  - It takes a little over 1 year of use for cotton bags to net positive (GHG emissions), and less for reusable bags made of recycled content

- Plastic bags=number 1 MRF contaminant**
- WM estimates plastic bags take up to 1,000 years to break down in landfill
- Plastic bags become micro-plastics harmful to human and environmental health
- 100,000 marine animals killed by plastic bags annually
- Washingtonians use 2 billion single-use plastic bags annually*
- Retailers spend $4 billion providing these bags
- Plastic bags are used ~12 minutes on average
Bag Ban Implementation Timeline

Join the Listserv today for updates!

Stakeholder Collaboration
- Gather resources from existing bag ban ordinances
- Compile list of "gateway" stakeholders
- Set up web resources (Listserv, Ecology Web page, Easy View page)
- Collaborate with Ecology communications team

Systems Planning
- Develop enforcement plan
- Set up complaint hotline
- Establish social media plan and content

Bag Ban Begins
- Prohibition of single-use plastic carry-out bags
- 8 cent pass-through charge on recycled content paper carryout bags/reusable carryout bags made of film plastics
- Retail-provided bag must contain recycled content
- Encourage provision of reusable and recycled content carryout bags by retail
- Violations subject to $200 fine per day
- Retailers may use up existing inventory until April 1, 2021

May - June 2020
June - July 2020
July - August 2020
Autumn 2020
January 1, 2021
2021 and Beyond

Develop Outreach
- Establish communications plan
- Draft flyers/graphic design
- Develop employee training materials
- Develop FAQs for shoppers and retailers
- Share materials with stakeholders for input
- Translate materials to Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, Chinese, Amharic, Arabic, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Khmer, Lao, Oromo, Russian, Somali, Tagalog, Thai, Tigrinya

Material Distribution & Gear Up
- August: Develop online complaint form
- September: Populate web page with developed content
- October - December: Establish enforcement protocols & draft letter of correction
- October - Distribute materials to associations to share with members
- October - Launch complaint hotline
- November - Begin social media roll-out

Monitoring and Assessment
- Ongoing education and outreach
- Ongoing social media campaign
- December 1, 2024: Department of Commerce/Ecology submit report to legislature on reusable bag thickness, pass-through charges, and other revisions.
- 1/1/2026: Pass-through charge increases to 12 cents for reusable bags made of film plastic and 8 cents for recycled content paper carry-out bags
Statute

Senate Bill 5323

• Passed March, 2020
• Takes effect January 2021

Targets:

• Reduce marine plastic pollution, litter, and waste
• Reduce contamination in commingled recycling
• Promote re-use
• Create consistent policy and enforcement statewide
• Invest in increased paper manufacturing

Aspects:

• Prohibits single-use plastic carryout bags
• Requires pass-through charge for all retail-provided bags
• Requires minimum 40% post-consumer recycled content in retail-provided bags
• Preempts some existing ordinances
39 WA Reusable Bag Ordinances

                      Anacortes (2019)
                      Colville Tribes (2019)
                      Tukwila (2019)
                      Bothell (2019)
                      Poulsbo (2020)
Not Included in the Ban

- Bags used in-store for bulk items
- Newspaper/dry-cleaning/door-hanger bags
- Bags sold in packages containing multiple bags (garbage, pet waste)
- Bags used to wrap items for sanitation or safety purposes
  - Frozen food
  - Meat
  - Plants
  - Baked goods
  - Prescription drugs
Collaboration

**Key Stakeholders**

- NW Grocery Association
- Washington Food Industry Association
- Washington State Association of Counties
- Washington Retail Association
- Association of Washington Cities
- Zero Waste Washington
- Washington Hospitality Association
- American Chemistry Council
- Jurisdictions with existing bag ban ordinances

**Senate Bill 5323**

- Ecology will draft materials and solicit input
- Associations will share with their networks and aggregate feedback
Education & Outreach

Ecology's Strategy

• Utilize and adapt materials from existing ordinances
• Collaborate with retail establishments, associations, unions, and organizations
• Draft materials and share with stakeholders
• Promote benefits of reusable bags
• Educate about elements of bag ban

Retailer Expectations:

• Provide feedback to relevant associations regarding developed materials
• Educate staff to promote reusable bags
Bag Requirements

What the City of Seattle Law Requires:

- BANNED: Single-use plastic shopping bags
- FREE: Reusable paper shopping bags
- BANNED: Plastic carryout bags
- ALLOWED: Cloth or reusable paper or cloth bags

Seattle Stores:
- May not provide customers with single-use plastic or non-reusable paper shopping bags or bags labeled "unrecyclable," "unacceptable," or similar.

Bolsas que están permitidas:
- Bolsas de papel pequeñas
- Bolsas de plasticas transparentes para frutas, verduras y alimentos de venta a granel

Thank you for pledging to #BYOBtoBothell. The average reusable bag will replace over 700 single-use plastic carryout bags. Even better? This bag is made from recycled water bottles.
Enforcement

**Statute:**
- Complaint based (with Ecology or local government)
- Local governments can follow up with education and outreach
- Violation= Civil penalty up to $250
  - Each calendar day of violation is a new violation
  - Appealable to pollution control board under RCW 43.21B

**Ecology’s Strategy**
- Needs further development
- Complaint via established forum
  - Notice of Violation/Warning Letter
    - Repeat Offense
      - Onsite investigation
        - Up to $250 fine and required proof of compliance
COVID-19 Impacts

On Schedule

• At this time, no discussion of ban suspension

• Bans have been suspended in: California, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon, Colorado, Washington D.C., New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, and some WA ordinances

• Many have only delayed for several months or will begin implementation in January 2021

Safety Concerns?

• No safety difference with reusables

• Plastic bags still carry contaminants

• Study by U.S. National Institutes of Health study

• Transmission can only be avoided by sanitizing hands and bags.
Grants

Tami Ramsey
Contact Info

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Tami Ramsey, Grants Coordinator
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Waste Reduction Recycling & Education Grants

*Application period closed May 21, 2020.*

- $250K - 1 year (7/30/20 – 6/30/21)
- Up to $60,000 in state funds (plus 25% match)
- 13 apps received = $550,970
- Open to local gov’ts and non-profit orgs (competitive)
- Contamination Reductions & CROPs prioritized
- June - anticipated final funding list
Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance
*Revised 2019-21 LSWFA Guidelines*

- Pilot project - Homeless encampment response
- Eligible costs - cleanup, disposal, infrastructure
- Eligible funds – P&I and SWE (no new $$)
- Amend current agreements before October
- Contact grant manager to get started
eSignature - Grants

*Until further notice*

- eSignature protocol
- 2 acceptable types of eSignatures
- Instructions available
- Contact regional grant manager for assistance
Flexibility – SWM Grants

*COVID-19 Impacts*

- Adjusting how the work gets done
- Amending agreements
- Allowing “administrative leave” charges with conditions
- Contact grant managers for guidance
Recycling CROPs and Local Planning
Chapter 70.95 RCW

Peter Guttchen
What the law says

• Ecology must create a statewide Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plan (CROP) by July 1, 2020.

• Counties with a population of over 25,000 must include a CROP in their local Solid Waste Management Plan by July 1, 2021.

• Counties can adopt the state’s CROP in lieu of creating their own plan.

• Ecology must provide technical assistance and guidance to help local jurisdictions determine the extent of contamination in their regional recycling and to develop CROPs.

RCW 70.95.090(10) and RCW 70.95 100
Counties with a population of 25,000 or more are required to prepare a CROP by July 1, 2021.

Cities with their own Ecology-approved SWMPs in a county with more than 25,000 people also need to prepare a CROP.
What’s planned for the CROP

• Uniform standards – start with the basics and where we all agree.
  • Paper, Metal Cans, and Plastic Bottles
  • Empty, Clean, and Dry

• A list of key and problematic contaminants.

• The costs and impacts of contamination.

• Proven outreach strategies.

• High-level MRF-shed maps and tools showing the flow of recyclables.

• Recommendations to address larger system issues and other material streams.
What’s planned for the CROP

Best management practices for contamination reduction in single-family, multifamily, dropbox and commercial programs including:

- Data collection tools and resources.
- Collection options.
- Criteria to help select what materials to collect.
- Policy, planning, and contracting options.
- Community outreach, education, and engagement strategies
- Examples of local programs and other resources like Ecology’s [Recycle Right](#) campaign.
What’s planned for the CROP

A template for developing your local CROP

• “Plug & play” language for the basics.
• Guidance on how to customize your CROP.
• How to amend your SWMP to include your CROP.
• Ecology’s CROP approval process.
• How to get help from Ecology.
What’s not planned for the CROP

This initial version of the CROP will not include:

• A list of materials your community will be required (or not required) to collect.

• Specific strategies to reduce contamination in other material streams including organics and C&D debris.

• Detailed strategies to reduce contamination at MRFs and mills.

• Detailed upstream waste reduction strategies and policies.

• Market development initiatives.

• Specific initiatives to address plastic waste.
Two months to harvest

• Draft completed – outreach to stakeholders

• Public Comment Period – June 1 - 15

• Draft finalized by June 30

• State CROP published by July 1, 2020

• Technical assistance to grow local CROPs
Get in touch...

Peter Guttchen
Statewide Lead Planner
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564-999-3289 - cell

Stay informed...

Join our CROP email list.
Have a question? Contact our experts!

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