

# Solid Waste *News*

November 2014

## Letter from the Director: *Welcome to our first newsletter for cities*

I am pleased to introduce this inaugural edition of the Solid Waste Division's quarterly cities newsletter.

After meeting with city leaders over the past months, I learned the need for regular, timely communication between the cities and the Solid Waste Division (division) is great. This quarterly publication will highlight division news and initiatives, introduce new and innovative programs, and provide updates on capital projects, studies, and plans. The newsletter will also provide links to the division's website where more information can be found.

Please reach out to me or the division's Intergovernmental Relations Liaison, Diane Yates, to let us know how the division can improve our communication efforts.

— **Pat D. McLaughlin, Division Director**

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## Capital Projects Update

### *Factoria Replacement Begins*

In September, work to replace the 50-year-old Factoria Transfer Station began in Bellevue. The old facility will be replaced with a new recycling and transfer station that will expand the household hazardous waste collection area and include collections of recyclable materials like yard waste, clean wood, scrap metal, and appliances. New waste compactors will decrease the number of transfer trailer truck trips required to and from the station by about 30 percent.

Construction is expected to last until Dec. 2017, and the new facility will be built in the same general area as the existing transfer station.

At the beginning of construction, SWD issued its first "Neighbor Newsletter" to 5,100 residents and businesses surrounding the Factoria Transfer Station. The division will continue to regularly update all interested parties as the project progresses.

More information on the Factoria Transfer Station Replacement Project can be found here: [your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/facilities/factoria-replacement-project.asp](http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/facilities/factoria-replacement-project.asp)



*Existing Factoria Transfer Station currently being dismantled.*



*Artist rendition of new Factoria Recycling and Transfer Station.*

## Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan Update

The Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan presents proposed strategies for managing King County's solid waste over the next six years, with consideration for the next 20 years.

In October, SWD began working with both of its advisory committees to update the draft 2013 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan. A new draft is scheduled to be available for comment in September 2015.

The 2013 draft plan is available on the division's website: [your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/about/Planning/documents/2013-swd-comp-plan.pdf](http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/about/Planning/documents/2013-swd-comp-plan.pdf)

The previously adopted 2001 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management can be found here: [your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/about/planning/documents/Comp\\_Plan\\_table-of-contents.pdf](http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/about/planning/documents/Comp_Plan_table-of-contents.pdf)

## Division Controls Its Costs, Keeps Rates Stable Through 2016

When the division proposed its current rate of \$120.17 per ton in Sep. 2012, we were sure another rate increase would be needed in 2014. Fortunately, because of new interlocal agreements and careful control of expenditures, the division is pleased to announce rates will not increase in the 2015/2016 biennium.

More information on SWD's disposal fees can be found here: <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/facilities/disposal-fees.asp>

The most recent rate study can be found here: [your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/about/Planning/documents/Executive-proposed-fees-2013-2014.pdf](http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/about/Planning/documents/Executive-proposed-fees-2013-2014.pdf)

## Sustainable Solid Waste Management Study

Consistent with the SWD mission to continuously improve waste prevention, resource recovery, and waste disposal, the division commissioned a Sustainable Solid Waste System Study to evaluate operational and strategic planning options and to develop an implementation approach to expand these efforts.

The entire study can be found here: [your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/about/Planning/documents/Sustainable-Solid-Waste-Management-Study-Final-July-2014.pdf](http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/about/Planning/documents/Sustainable-Solid-Waste-Management-Study-Final-July-2014.pdf)

## Transfer and Waste Management Plan

In 2013, the King County Council adopted an ordinance directing the division to review the adopted 2006 Solid Waste Transfer and Waste Management Plan and determine if changes could be made to the transfer system plan. The review is considering whether a new Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station should be built to replace the Houghton Transfer Station, or if customers can be served by the Factoria and Shoreline stations when Houghton closes. The review is also assessing the planned closure of the Renton Transfer Station and the effect on self-haul customers using the station.

The division is currently in Phase 2 of the review process, and a draft report is due to the King County Council on March 31, 2015. The final report is due June 30, 2015.

For more information, visit the project website: [your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/about/plan-review.asp](http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/about/plan-review.asp)

## Cedar Hills Landfill Tours

Tours of the landfill can be arranged by contacting the landfill administrative office at 206-263-1000, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Requests can also be submitted online. Tours are generally held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in a SWD vehicle that can accommodate up to nine people.

[your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/facilities/cedarhills.asp](http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/facilities/cedarhills.asp)

## Upcoming Meetings

For upcoming meetings, follow these links:

Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee (MSWMAC): [your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/about/mswmac.asp](http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/about/mswmac.asp)

Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC): [your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/about/swac.asp](http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/about/swac.asp)



## A Glimpse at the Division's Innovative Recycling Programs

### *Division Diverts Recyclables, Saves Landfill Space and Resources*

Since April, transfer station operators at the Shoreline Recycling and Transfer Station have been working on the Resource Recovery Pilot Project to understand the feasibility of targeting, sorting, and recovering valuable resources like clean wood, scrap metal, and cardboard.



During the month of October, the project expanded to Enumclaw with an emphasis on customer engagement, a key component of success. To actively involve self-haulers and change the way they think about disposing waste, signs were placed throughout the station encouraging customers to "Sort it Out" by putting the right materials in the proper bins. Receptacles are color-coded – green for cardboard, blue for metal, and orange for clean wood – so customers can help sort recyclables instead of dumping directly onto the tipping floor.

The project will expand to the Bow Lake Recycling and Transfer Station in early 2015.

### *Putting an End to Wasting Food and Wasting Resources*

It is estimated each King County resident wastes 390 pounds of food each year because of improper storage, buying more than is needed, and even simply throwing food away.

Tossing moldy bread or sour milk is not only a waste of food; it is a waste of resources, like water and energy, and a contributor to climate change. In order to combat this growing problem, the division implemented the Food: Too Good To Waste program.

On the program's website, residents can challenge themselves to reduce the amount of food they waste each week, and learn how they can shop smart, store it right, and love the leftovers.

More information on the Food: Too Good To Waste program can be found here: [your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/wasteprevention/too-good-to-waste.asp](http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/wasteprevention/too-good-to-waste.asp)

