

King County Solid Waste News

December 2015



The Shoreline Recycling and Transfer Station is now accepting polystyrene blocks and coolers and plastic bags and wrap as part of a pilot program.



New Recycling Pilot Program at Shoreline

On Dec. 1, the Solid Waste Division began a new pilot program at the Shoreline Recycling and Transfer Station to accept polystyrene blocks and coolers in one container, and plastic wrap and bags in another container. This pilot will help to determine the feasibility of offering those recycling options at other division recycling and transfer stations.

All materials must be clean, dry, and free of food, liquids, and other contaminants such as tape, stickers, and labels. The collected polystyrene and plastic wrap and bags will be transported by King County Solid Waste Division to a recycling facility in Kent.

Commonly referred to as "Styrofoam," polystyrene products include packaging material for electronics and insulating coolers. Plastic wrap includes stretch wrap, pallet wrap, and bubble wrap, as well as the plastic wrap from toilet paper, paper towels, and beverage cases. Plastic bags include grocery bags, bread and produce bags, shopping bags, dry cleaning bags, and bags used to deliver newspapers to households on rainy days.

New Investigator Helps Keep Industry Aware of Policies

In October the Solid Waste Division was excited to partner with the King County Sheriff's Office to bring on Detective Michael Rayborn to serve as a construction and demolition (C&D) investigator.

Through education and enforcement, Detective Rayborn will be helping the C&D industry to stay in compliance with new recycling and waste management policies as written in Ordinance No. 18166. Developed by division staff and passed by the King County Council, this ordinance seeks to enhance the amount of C&D being recycled. With two major components, the policies primarily affect privately-owned C&D management facilities and construction projects.

The first component is banning the disposal of construction and demolition materials that have well established recycling markets. The second part of the ordinance creates a system for designating responsibly managed C&D processing facilities and verifying that they are complying with the disposal bans.



Detective Michael Rayborn is helping to ensure construction and demolition debris is recycled instead of being sent to the landfill.

Yard and Food Waste Pilot Program on Vashon Island

In October, the Solid Waste Division partnered with Zero Waste Vashon, a nonprofit organization of Vashon Island residents, to develop a year-long pilot program to accept yard and food waste at the Vashon Recycling and Transfer Station.

In the first two months of the program, 318 customers brought 76.54 tons of yard and food waste to the station, diverting those materials from the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill and instead sending it to Cedar Grove Composting.

In 2016, the division will conduct waste characterization studies to track the quantity and types of yard and food waste brought to the station by customers.

More information about the Vashon station and the pilot program can be found here: your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/facilities/vashon-transfer.asp?ID=344



Division Brings on Additional Intergovernmental Liaison

The Solid Waste Division is pleased to announce it has hired Olivia Robinson to serve as the division's second Intergovernmental Relations Liaison.

Before coming to the Solid Waste Division, Olivia worked in various levels of government throughout the region. She served on the staff for Congressman Jim McDermott and former Congressman Jay Inslee. Olivia also spent eight years at the Puget Sound Regional Council where she staffed the Operations Committee and worked on military and food policy issues for the agency.

In addition to serving as a backup to Intergovernmental Relations Liaison Diane Yates, Olivia will help prepare legislative packets that directly support the division and our city partners' shared goals of achieving a 70 percent recycling rate and zero waste of resources.

Olivia can be reached at 206-477-3566 or Olivia.Robinson@kingcounty.gov.



Don't Forget to Recycle your Tree

Give your Christmas tree a second life by turning it into compost and mulch. City residents have several options to make sure their trees do more than take up room in the landfill.

- **Curbside collection** – If you have curbside yard waste collection service, you can place your tree at the curb with your regular yard waste. Contact your recycling hauler for details and restrictions.
- **City events** – Some cities offer free tree recycling events for their residents. Contact your city for details.
- **King County recycling and transfer stations** – Five Solid Waste Division transfer stations accept Christmas trees for yard waste, including Bow Lake, Enumclaw, Shoreline, Vashon, and the Cedar Falls drop box. Trees must be less than eight-feet in length and less than four inches in diameter. The minimum fee for yard waste is \$12, and that covers up to 320 pounds.

For directions to transfer stations and hours, please visit your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/facilities/transfer.asp. Please note all division facilities and offices will be closed on December 25 and January 1.

Find more green holiday tips by visiting our website.

- Recycling holiday lights: your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/ecoconsumer/holiday-light-recycling.asp
- Waste prevention and recycling during the holidays: www.kcgreenholidays.com/

Moving Forward with South County Transfer Station

The Solid Waste Division is moving forward to complete an environmental review process for constructing a new facility in south King County to replace the outdated, undersized Algonia Transfer Station. In November, the division issued a [Revised Determination of Significance and Request for Comments on Scope of Environmental Impact Statement](#) in accordance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The scoping comment period has closed and comments from this and prior scoping periods will be considered by the division.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared that evaluates the environmental impacts of building a new recycling and transfer station in south King County on one of these two properties:

- 901 C Street Southwest in Auburn, or
- 35101 West Valley Highway South in Algonia

A third option, considered a “no action alternative,” would retain the current Algonia Transfer Station until the end of its useful life.

The division has begun writing a Draft EIS, which will be issued in February 2016. Once the draft is issued a comment period will provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the document and a public meeting will be held. Those comments will then be evaluated and considered to inform the Final EIS, due by October 2016.

Information about the project is available on the division's website at: your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/facilities/algonia/index.asp.



The county continues to move forward with finding a replacement site for the aging and outdated Algonia Transfer Station.



King County

Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

Waste
Prevention

Resource
Recovery

Waste
Disposal