



King County

Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE – NON-PROJECT ACTION AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE SCOPE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Proponent / Lead Agency: King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Solid Waste Division (the Division)

Date of Issuance: June 26, 2017

Purpose of Announcement: The purpose of this announcement is to invite comments on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the *2019 King County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan* (Plan).

Description of Proposal: Washington State law requires that each county, in cooperation with the cities located in the county, prepare a coordinated Plan as outlined in RCW 70.95.080. The current Plan, the *2001 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan*, along with a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) non-project EIS that addressed the potential impacts of implementing the plan, was adopted in 2001. Actions taken by the Division since then to update the 2001 Plan are:

- In 2005, the Division, in collaboration with the cities, began preparation of the 2007 Transfer and Waste Management Plan (Transfer Plan) (<http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/about/Planning/documents/Transfer-Waste-Export-Plan.pdf>), as well as preparation of a SEPA EIS that supplemented the 2001 Plan's EIS. The County Council adopted the Transfer Plan in 2007; and
- In 2011, along with a SEPA Determination of Non-Significance (DNS), and in 2013 the 2001 Plan was reviewed and updated. However, these reviews were not formally adopted by the King County Council or by our partner cities.

The Division is now updating the 2001 Plan with the *2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan*. The proposed 2019 Plan presents strategies for managing King County's solid waste over the next 6 years, with consideration of the next 20 years. The Plan includes policies, recommendations, and goals for: solid waste system planning; waste prevention, recycling, and solid waste collection; solid waste transfer and processing system; landfill management and solid waste disposal; and solid waste system finance.

The proposed 2019 Plan would incorporate a number of major policy and program changes, including:

- A reevaluation of the 2007 Transfer Plan which may mean changes to the transfer system that were not discussed in the 2001 Plan or its 2011 and 2013 reviews
- Recommendations from the Division's Sustainable Solid Waste Management Plan (<http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/about/Planning/documents/Sustainable-Solid-Waste-Management->

[Study-Final-July-2014.pdf](#)) to study options for resource recovery, and changes to how the solid waste rate is structured

- Possible policy changes such as instituting mandatory recycling requirements throughout the County, a new 70% recycling goal, and new construction and demolition debris recycling and disposal policies
- Consideration of anaerobic digestion (AD) and advanced materials recovery (AMR) processing as possible transfer/processing options
- Extending the life of Cedar Hills Regional Landfill by optimizing development of the site for landfilling
- Consideration of waste-to-energy and other alternative conversion technologies as long-term disposal options, in addition to waste export, and partial early export

The following alternatives will be considered in the environmental review:

Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Solid Waste Collection

- Alternative 1: No Action (maintain existing programs at current levels)
- Alternative 2: Implementation of waste prevention and recycling strategies to achieve a 70% recycling goal, with County and City emphasis on education, incentives, and limited regulations; and corresponding collection standards
- Alternative 3: Implementation of waste prevention and recycling strategies to achieve a 70% recycling goal, with County and City emphasis on education, incentives, and moderate regulations; and corresponding collection standards
- Alternative 4: Implementation of waste prevention and recycling strategies to achieve a 70% recycling goal, with County emphasis on education, incentives, and maximum regulations; City emphasis on education, incentives, and limited regulations; and corresponding collection standards

The Solid Waste Transfer and Processing System

Service Level Improvement Alternatives

- Alternative 1: No Action (maintain existing service levels such as existing station hours, recycling services, fees, disposal restrictions, etc.)
- Alternative 2: Improve service levels with system-wide standards
- Alternative 3: Improve service levels with facility-specific standards

Facility Improvement Alternatives

- Alternative 1: No Action (maintain, improve, and develop transfer and processing system as currently planned, including closure of Algona, Houghton, and Renton transfer stations when replacement capacity is available, and development of new Northeast and South County recycling and transfer stations)

- Alternative 2: Maintain and improve existing transfer and processing system with or without closure of older transfer stations, with demand management but with no development of new capacity
- Alternative 3: Maintain and improve existing transfer and processing system with or without closure of older transfer stations, and develop new capacity
- Alternative 4: Create resource recovery centers (AD and AMR) at existing and new recycling and transfer stations

Landfill Management and Solid Waste Disposal

- Alternative 1: No Action – complete Cedar Hills Regional Landfill as currently permitted, then export to an out-of-county landfill
- Alternative 2: Maximize development of Cedar Hills Regional Landfill for landfilling, then export to an out-of-county landfill
- Alternative 3: Implement waste-to-energy (incineration) at Cedar Hills Regional Landfill or another location in King County, with residual municipal solid waste and residual ash sent to Cedar Hills Regional Landfill or exported to an out-of-county landfill
- Alternative 4: Implement emerging recovery technologies for mixed municipal solid waste (AD and AMR) with increased private sector role and location, with residual municipal solid waste sent to Cedar Hills Regional Landfill or exported to an out-of-county landfill
- Alternative 5: Implement emerging recovery technologies for mixed municipal solid waste (AD and AMR) at the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill, with residual municipal solid waste sent to Cedar Hills Regional Landfill or exported to an out-of-county landfill

Location of Proposal: The Plan covers activities and facilities that provide service to most of King County. The unincorporated areas and thirty-seven of the 39 cities in the county (including all but the cities of Seattle and Milton) comprise King County’s solid waste system.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Required: King County Solid Waste Division, the lead agency for this proposal, has determined that at least one of the alternatives under this proposal has the potential to result in significant adverse impacts on the environment. An EIS is required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). The EIS will cover aspects of the built and natural environment for each alternative, including, but not limited to, the following areas:

- Earth
- Air (including Odor, Climate)
- Water
- Plants and animals
- Energy and Natural Resources
- Environmental Health (including Noise)
- Land and Shoreline Use (including Aesthetics, Light and Glare, and Historic and Cultural Preservation)
- Transportation
- Public Services and Utilities.

Scoping: Agencies, affected tribes, and the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. Comments on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and required permits or other approvals are welcome. Written comments may be submitted by email at SWD.CompPlan@kingcounty.gov, by the website at <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/about/planning/comp-plan.asp> or by mail, addressed to King County Solid Waste Division, 201 S. Jackson Street, Suite 701, Seattle, Washington 98104, Attn: Beth Humphreys, Project Manager.

Comment Deadline: The deadline for submittal of comments is July 17, 2017.

SEPA Responsible Official: Pat D. McLaughlin

Position/Title: Division Director, King County Solid Waste Division

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Address: King County Solid Waste Division, 201 S. Jackson Street, Suite 701, Seattle, Washington 98104

Date:



Signature:

