

This comprehensive solid waste management plan is both a planning tool and a guide. It sets the groundwork for management of the regional solid waste transfer and disposal system in King County from 2000 through 2020. It establishes goals, governing policies, and strategies for the operational, programmatic, and financial elements of the system.

This chapter of the Plan provides a brief history of how the system has evolved over the last 40 years and takes a quick look at some of the major issues for the current planning period. It then describes some of the mechanics of the planning process, including the participants and their roles, the legal and regulatory authorities that guide solid waste management planning and operations, and the other regional documents that are incorporated in the development of this Plan. The chapter concludes with a description of the organization of the King County Solid Waste Division and its mission and goals in relation to the overall planning process, followed by the overall governing policies for the system.

## **Evolution of the Regional Transfer and Disposal System**

This section summarizes the major historical influences in the development of our current system and some of the issues we face in the coming years. A more detailed chronology of events is provided in Table 2-1 beginning on page 2-4.

Prior to 1958, solid waste was typically dumped in fifteen open, unlined landfills in King County. The usual care and maintenance of these sites was to cover the waste with dirt twice a week; no environmental monitoring was required. In the late 1950s and early 1960s a number of these landfills were forced to close because they were located along the proposed construction routes for Interstates 5 and 405. Historical records show the affected landfills were handling more than 75 percent of the County’s solid waste. During this same time, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission began to issue certificates that would allow private companies to set up franchises to provide solid waste collection in cities and unincorporated areas in the state. The intent of the certificate system was to ensure public health and safety and the provision of affordable services in both urban and rural areas. This combination of events provided the impetus to develop the regional transfer station and landfill disposal system in place today.

In the early 1960s, the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill was opened, and the first County-operated transfer stations were built. With this new transfer system concept, wastes were taken by private solid waste handling companies in the county, and by the public, to the transfer stations, where loads of solid waste were consolidated and then transported to Cedar Hills for disposal. This waste handling system has evolved over the years and now comprises eight transfer stations and two drop boxes operated by the County, as well as two transfer stations operated by private companies that provide solid waste management services in the region.

Beginning in the late 1960s, several key pieces of legislation were enacted that drove sweeping environmental changes in solid waste management. In 1965, the federal Solid Waste Management Act was passed, which established the first national regulatory standards for landfills. The state followed in 1969 by passing its own Solid Waste Management Act (RCW 70.95), with regulatory standards for landfills and

other solid waste facilities, and later the state’s first Minimum Functional Standards (MFS) codified in the Washington Administrative Code. In 1976, the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) amended the earlier federal Solid Waste Management Act, setting more stringent standards for landfills, including requirements for landfill liners and daily cover. In response to the passage of RCRA, the state revised its MFS for solid waste facilities. Pursuant to the new MFS, actions were taken at the County’s landfills to ensure compliance. Environmental actions included placing daily cover over solid waste at the operating landfills and closing and remediating all of the original rural landfills.

In addition to regulating solid waste handling and disposal, the state also established a framework for preparing comprehensive solid waste management plans, delegating



▲  
*Glass recycling pilot program at the Vashon Island Landfill in 1972*

authority to the counties and the cities to develop the plans. With this Plan, the concept has been taken a step further by joining the efforts of King County, the 37 cities participating in the King County system, the privately owned solid waste management companies, the citizens, and others to effect comprehensive planning and operation of our system. The recommendations presented throughout this Plan reflect input from all of these key players.

Since the late 1980s, waste reduction and recycling have been the priority methods of managing wastes within King County’s solid waste system. Incineration of solid waste was considered in the 1970s and 1980s, but met with considerable opposition by the public because of concerns for the environmental impacts of ash and air emissions. Instead, in 1988, the County adopted an aggressive goal of 50 percent waste reduction and recycling to be achieved by 1995; that goal was met through the cooperative efforts of the cities, residents, businesses, private recycling firms, solid waste management companies, and the County. Since 1995, the single numerical recycling goal has been expanded to a two-tiered goal. The first component is a mission – to divert as much material as possible from disposal in a manner which reduces the overall costs of solid waste management to County residents and businesses, conserves resources, protects the environment and strengthens the County’s economy. The second component is a way in which to measure our success in attaining this mission. It consists of a set of specific measurable targets for residential and business recycling and disposal, as well as targets for individual programs (see Chapter 4 for more details). Through extensive public outreach programs for residents, schools, and businesses, both the County and the cities have become leaders in the promotion of waste reduction and recycling.

And what does the future hold? This 20-year planning period will see us through the closure of the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill. Following closure, the recommendation for disposing of waste generated in King County is to export it to another landfill (see Chapter 7). The move to waste export will require future modifications at the transfer station facilities, such as the installation of waste compactors.

There will be a continued emphasis on waste reduction and recycling in the future. Educational outreach programs for households, schools, and businesses will be enhanced, with the greatest emphasis on reducing the amount of waste produced.

One concern that has been expressed repeatedly by the cities that contract for solid waste collection services is how to maintain competitiveness in the solid waste hauling industry. There are currently only two major haulers in the area – Waste Management, Inc. and Rabanco, who handle nearly all of the mixed solid waste collection business in the region.



*The first load delivered to Area 5 of the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill in 1999*

The later chapters of this Plan present policy direction and recommendations for the future of our comprehensive solid waste system. An underlying objective of all the recommendations is to maintain viable systems and programs that meet our customers' future needs while keeping rates stable and as low as possible.

**Table 2-1.** Chronology of the Development of the Regional Solid Waste Management System

<p><b>Prior to 1958</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seattle-King County Department of Public Health manages the solid waste disposal system, dumping wastes in 15 open, unlined rural landfills across the County</li> </ul>
<p><b>1958 through the mid-1960s</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The state Attorney General's Office issues an opinion that it is the duty of counties in the state to provide for solid waste disposal sites for the public health of the inhabitants of the county (AGO 55-57 No. 245)</li> <li>• The proposed construction routes for Interstates 5 and 405 force the closure of several of the rural landfills</li> <li>• The King County Sanitary Operations Department is organized to establish a solid waste transfer system to handle wastes that can no longer be accommodated at the rural landfills</li> <li>• Five rural landfills – Duvall, Cedar Falls, Hobart, Enumclaw, and Vashon – are taken over and managed by the Sanitary Operations Department</li> <li>• The Cedar Hills Regional Landfill site is leased from the state and begins operation</li> <li>• The First Northeast, Kent, and Bow Lake Transfer Stations are constructed; the Kent station later closes; roofs are added at the First Northeast and Bow Lake stations; and the Algona, Renton, Factoria, and Houghton stations are opened</li> <li>• The federal Solid Waste Management Act is passed in 1965</li> </ul>
<p><b>1961</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission begins issuing Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity, which grant private companies the right to collect solid waste in defined geographic areas (RCW 81.77)</li> </ul>
<p><b>1969</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The King County Sanitary Operations Department is renamed the King County Solid Waste Division and made a part of the Department of Public Works</li> <li>• The state Solid Waste Management Act (RCW 70.95) is passed, which:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assigns primary responsibility for solid waste handling to local government</li> <li>- Requires that each county, in cooperation with the cities, prepare a comprehensive solid waste management plan</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Tipping fees are 75¢ per ton at the transfer station and 50¢ per ton at the landfill</li> </ul>

**Table 2-1.** *continued*

**1972**

- Seattle and King County ask the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle (Metro) Council to develop a County-wide solid waste plan in response to requirements of RCW 70.95
- Metro directs the River Basin Coordinating Committee (RIBCO) to undertake the planning effort
- The state adopts the first MFS for solid waste facilities (WAC 173-301)



**1974**

- Metro publishes RIBCO's first solid waste management plan for Seattle and King County, which recommends:
  - Regional management of solid waste
  - Consolidation of functions into a single agency
  - A feasibility study of an energy resource and recovery system, and construction of that system by 1981

▲  
*Self-haul customers at  
the Bow Lake Transfer  
Station*

**1975**

- Metro Council adopts the RIBCO Plan

**1976**

- RCRA is passed, amending and replacing the federal Solid Waste Management Act of 1965; RCRA sets more stringent standards for lining landfills, providing daily cover, and putting a higher priority on recycling

**1977**

- The RIBCO Plan is approved by the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology)
- The Bow Lake Transfer Station is rebuilt and expanded to its present configuration

**1978**

- The Tulalip Landfill closes and Rabanco begins to haul waste to Cedar Hills from its Pier 35 transfer station
- The Seattle-King County Department of Public Health adopts local MFS for solid waste facilities (KCBOHC Title 10)

**1981**

- RCRA and the newly adopted MFS require remediation and conformance measures at the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill

**Table 2-1.** *continued*

<p><b>1982</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• King County delegates preparation of the comprehensive solid waste management plan to the Puget Sound Council of Governments (PSCOG); the plan developed by PSCOG was never approved by Ecology</li> <li>• Tipping fees are \$15 per ton</li> </ul>
<p><b>1983</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The state adopts revised MFS (WAC 173-304) for solid waste handling facilities that supercede WAC 173-301</li> <li>• Bayside Disposal opens the Eastmont Transfer Station in Seattle, which becomes the second private transfer facility to operate as part of the regional transfer and disposal system; the station is currently owned and operated by Waste Management, Inc.</li> <li>• Tipping fees are \$26.50 per ton</li> </ul>
<p><b>1986</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• King County Council passes an ordinance authorizing the County to prepare a new plan for solid waste, taking back the planning authority delegated to PSCOG</li> <li>• Seattle and Kent join the regional system after Seattle is required to shut down its Kent-Highlands Landfill; Seattle’s agreement contained a 6-year deadline for either developing its own disposal system or deciding to remain part of the regional system</li> <li>• Tipping fees go to \$47 per ton</li> </ul>
<p><b>1988</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• King County considers solid waste incineration, but decides not to pursue it in the 1989 solid waste plan because of opposition from the public</li> <li>• King County Council establishes an aggressive waste reduction and recycling goal of 50 percent in 1995 and 65 percent by the year 2000</li> </ul>
<p><b>1989</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Waste Not Washington Act passes, updating RCW 70.95; the Act establishes waste reduction and recycling as the priority methods of managing waste in the state</li> <li>• Cities in King County (excluding Seattle and Milton) sign Interlocal Agreements to participate with the County in the development of the comprehensive solid waste management plan and operation of the system; these agreements:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hold the County responsible for providing regional solid waste management services, including transfer and disposal of mixed municipal solid waste</li> <li>- Name the County as the solid waste planning authority</li> <li>- Recognize the cities’ responsibilities for waste collection</li> <li>- Commit the cities to make use of the regional transfer and disposal system provided by the County</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Table 2-1.** *continued*

- King County issues the *1989 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan and Programmatic EIS*, which covers unincorporated areas and 29 cities in the County
- The King County Commission for Marketing Recyclable Materials is created to promote products made from recycled materials

**1990**

- The 1989 Plan is adopted by the King County Council and the cities, and approved by Ecology

**1991**

- Curbside recycling is made available throughout most of the County
- Seattle compensates the County for expenses incurred and then withdraws from the regional system after developing its own waste export disposal system
- The National Association of Counties recognizes the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill for its best management practices

**1992**

- The Solid Waste Division prepares the *Draft 1992 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan and EIS*
- Tipping fees are \$66 per ton

**1993**

- The *Final 1992 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan and EIS* is issued
- The state adopts new MFS for mixed municipal solid waste landfills (WAC 173-351)
- The County's Enumclaw Transfer Station is opened
- Rabanco's Third & Lander facility replaces the Rabanco Pier 35 facility; Rabanco continues to deliver wastes to Cedar Hills from its transfer station
- The Cedar Hills Regional Landfill is again recognized by the National Association of Counties for its best management practices

**1994**

- The 1992 Plan is adopted by the King County Council and the cities, and approved by Ecology
- The King County Council denies a proposed rate increase for solid waste disposal by the County Executive for 1995 through 1998



▲  
King County's  
Enumclaw Transfer/  
Recycling Station  
opened in 1993

**Table 2-1.** *continued*

<p><b>1995</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The King County Council passes Ordinance 11949, which establishes the following policies:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Once the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill closes, it will not be replaced with another landfill in King County, and the County will pursue waste export as its long-term disposal option</li><li>- The County will optimize capital investment and promote recycling and the marketing of recyclable materials</li><li>- The new waste reduction and recycling goal will be to “divert as much material as possible from disposal in a manner which reduces the overall costs of solid waste management to county residents and businesses, conserves resources, protects the environment and strengthens the county’s economy”</li></ul></li></ul>
<p><b>1996</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The King County Council passes Ordinance 12378, which establishes a policy that waste export should begin once the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill reaches capacity</li><li>• The Solid Waste Division issues the <i>Final Policy Report to the Metropolitan King County Council</i>, which presents the results of analyses recommended in Ordinance 11949, and a proposal for a two-step rate increase over the next four years</li></ul>
<p><b>1997</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• King County Council adopts the two-step rate increase</li><li>• Tipping fees are \$74.25 per ton</li></ul>
<p><b>1999</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Vashon Transfer Station opens, replacing the existing landfill at that site</li><li>• The second step of the rate increase is implemented, and tipping fees go to \$82.50 per ton</li></ul>
<p><b>2000</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <i>Draft 2000 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan and Programmatic EIS</i> are issued and comments are received</li></ul>
<p><b>2001</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <i>Final 2001 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan</i> is adopted by the King County Council and transmitted to participating cities for ratification</li></ul>



## Authorities, Responsibilities, and Governing Legislation

Solid waste handling, as defined in RCW 70.95.030, includes management, storage, collection, transportation, treatment, utilization, processing, and final disposal. The administration of solid waste handling systems in Washington is divided among the state, counties, jurisdictional health departments, and the cities. The governmental roles and authorities are delineated in legislation, regulations, and agreements.

The state establishes authorities, minimum standards, and planning requirements and delegates responsibility for implementation to the counties and cities. As such, state law authorizes counties to prepare coordinated comprehensive solid waste management plans in cooperation with the cities within its boundaries. Cities may choose to either prepare their own plans, or participate in the development of a single plan that covers the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county (RCW 70.95.080). Within King County, 37 cities (all cities in the County except Seattle and Milton) have chosen to participate in the development of a single plan, and have signed Interlocal Agreements (ILAs) with the County that establish the County as the solid waste planning authority.

The ILAs are contracts between the County and each city that establish the respective responsibilities between the parties for the management of the regional solid waste system. In addition to establishing the County as the solid waste planning authority, the ILAs establish cities or their agents as the solid waste collection authority, commit the cities to make use of the regional transfer and disposal system provided by the County, commit the County to provide technical assistance for waste reduction and recycling programs, commit the County to provide solid waste transfer and disposal services, and indemnify and hold the cities harmless against any claims related to the County's solid waste operations.

The ILAs are 40-year agreements that run through 2028, but do provide for review and renegotiation of certain terms and provisions, including the length of the agreement. A city that terminates its ILA and leaves the system would be responsible for covering its proportional share of existing County solid waste debt and liabilities. An estimate of solid waste disposal by the city's residents and businesses would be used to determine its share of responsibility. The city would also have to take on the solid waste management responsibilities and liabilities currently performed by the County. These include developing its own solid waste plan that must be coordinated with the County (RCW 70.95.080), contracting for its own transfer and disposal services, and fully funding its own waste reduction and recycling programs. The city would also be responsible for any related legal obligations. County tipping fee revenues lost because of the departure of a city would result in higher County tipping fees overall or a reduction in County solid waste services for the residents of cities remaining in the system.

In King County, private solid waste management companies collect most solid waste and recyclables. These private companies conducting business in unincorporated King County, and in cities that do not contract for services or provide collection of their own,

are regulated by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC). The WUTC uses the County’s Plan and other supporting ordinances when setting rates and regulating these companies. On tribal lands in King County, solid waste is collected by WUTC-regulated haulers and the City of Auburn’s contracted hauling company.

Table 2-2 lists the planning authorities, roles, and guiding legislation for solid waste planning, administration, and collection services in King County. The complete texts of the key pieces of guiding legislation are provided in Appendix E. The governing county solid waste management policies are provided at the end of this chapter. If any text discussion in this Plan is inconsistent with that in the policies, the policies are controlling.

**Table 2-2.** Authorities and Roles

<b>Authority for Regional Planning and Administration</b>		
<b>Authority</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Guiding Legislation, Regulation, or Agreement</b>
Washington Department of Ecology	Establish solid waste regulations for management, storage, collection, transportation, treatment, utilization, processing, and final disposal	Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 70.95
	Delegate authority to the counties to prepare joint comprehensive solid waste management plans with the cities in its boundaries, and review and approve those plans	RCW 70.95
	Set MFS for implementing solid waste regulations and establishing planning authorities and roles	Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-304 and 173-351
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission	Review the cost assessment prepared with the comprehensive solid waste management plan	RCW 70.95.096

Table 2-2. *continued*

Authority	Role	Guiding Legislation, Regulation, or Agreement
King County Board of Health	Permit solid waste handling facilities, including permit issue, renewal, and, if necessary, suspension (handling facilities include landfills, transfer stations, and drop boxes)	King County Board of Health Code (KCBOHC) Title 10
	Make and enforce rules and regulations regarding methods of waste storage, collection, and disposal to implement the state's MFS	KCBOHC Title 10
	Perform routine facility inspections	KCBOHC Title 10
King County	Prepare the comprehensive solid waste management plan and associated cost assessment	RCW 70.95.080 and Interlocal Agreements with the cities
	Establish disposal fees at the landfill, transfer stations, and drop boxes to generate necessary revenue to cover solid waste management costs, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facility operation</li> <li>• Capital improvements</li> <li>• Waste reduction and recycling</li> <li>• Grants to cities for recycling programs and special collection events</li> <li>• Self-haul and rural service</li> <li>• Administration and overhead</li> </ul>	RCW 36.58.040 and Interlocal Agreements with the cities
	Establish level of service and hours of operation for all King County transfer and disposal facilities	King County Code Title 10
Regional Policy Committee	Act as the Solid Waste Interlocal Forum	King County Motion 9297
Cities	Participate in the Plan process with the County and help to jointly implement the Plan	RCW 70.95.080 and Interlocal Agreements with the County

**Table 2-2.** *continued*

<b>Authority for Collecting Wastes and Recyclables</b>		
<b>Authority</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Guiding Legislation, Regulation, or Agreement</b>
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission	Certify and regulate recycling and garbage collection in unincorporated areas of the county and in cities that choose not to regulate collection themselves	RCW 81.77.030
	Require compliance with local solid waste management plans and related implementation ordinances	RCW 81.77.030
	Regulate the setting of collection rates and safety of operations	RCW 81.77.030
	Supervise the relationship between solid waste companies and the public	RCW 81.77.030
King County	Review impacts of the Plan on solid waste and recycling rates	RCW 70.95
	Establish solid waste and recyclables handling and collection systems in unincorporated areas of the county	RCW 36.58.040
	Designate minimum service levels for recyclables collection in urban and rural areas	RCW 70.95.092
Cities	May choose to contract directly with commercial solid waste haulers and/or recycling companies to provide collection services, to collect garbage and recycling themselves, or to allow WUTC to regulate these services	RCW 35.21.120
	Set rates for garbage and recyclables collection if they provide for it themselves	RCW 35.21.120

## Participants in the Planning Process

This Plan has been prepared by the King County Solid Waste Division with participation and input from many sources. The Plan was developed in conjunction with the cities, private solid waste management companies, Unincorporated Area Councils, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Division employees, and the public. The Plan also reflects comments provided by the Regional Policy Committee and the Utilities & Technology Committee of the King County Council. The following sections describe the role of each participant in the planning process.

### Cities

The cities are partners with the County in cooperatively planning for and managing solid waste and recyclables in King County. The cities are responsible for providing collection services within their boundaries. They also administer recycling promotions, education, and collection programs for their residents and local businesses.

All of the cities in King County, except for Seattle and Milton, are part of the County's regional system through Interlocal Agreements. Seattle has its own solid waste system and plan, and Milton is part of Pierce County's system. Bothell, which straddles the King-Snohomish County line, participates in King County's regional system. The thirty-seven participating cities are:

Algona	Federal Way	Pacific
Auburn	Hunts Point	Redmond
Beaux Arts	Issaquah	Renton
Bellevue	Kenmore	Sammamish
Black Diamond	Kent	SeaTac
Bothell	Kirkland	Shoreline
Burien	Lake Forest Park	Skykomish
Carnation	Maple Valley	Snoqualmie
Clyde Hill	Medina	Tukwila
Covington	Mercer Island	Woodinville
Des Moines	Newcastle	Yarrow Point
Duvall	Normandy Park	
Enumclaw	North Bend	

Currently, the cities participate in the solid waste planning process through several mechanisms. The cities' solid waste/recycling coordinators meet at least quarterly with County staff to discuss policies and programs. The cities also have representatives on two advisory committees – the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and the Regional Policy Committee (discussed later in this section).

The cities have been actively involved in developing the Plan throughout the process. City elected officials, administrators, managers, and solid waste/recycling coordinators have met with Division staff to discuss issues and recommendations for the 2001 Plan. The cities must also approve the final Plan, which requires adoption by cities representing three-quarters of the total population of the cities that act on the Plan during the 120-day adoption period.

### **Private Solid Waste Management Companies**

The County's waste transfer activity is shared between the public and private sector. Two private solid waste management companies – Waste Management, Inc. and Rabanco – collect more than 99 percent of the wastes set out at the curb. Waste Connections Inc. provides collection services on Vashon Island. Waste Management and Rabanco have provided specific input and proposals that are presented and evaluated in later chapters of the Plan.

### **Ratepayers**

Division staff held more than ten public meetings in developing the draft and final Plans to gather input from residents around the County. Meetings were held in Auburn, Bellevue, Duvall, Federal Way, Issaquah, Renton, and Shoreline. Division staff also met separately with the Unincorporated Area Councils, which represent unincorporated County residents. Both city and unincorporated area residents expressed similar concerns and a consistent interest in waste reduction and recycling. Their input was central to the development of recommendations in the Plan.

### **Solid Waste Advisory Committee**

An ordinance passed in 1984 established the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) to assist in developing programs and policies for solid waste handling. The 15-member committee represents a range of community interests, including private citizens, public interest groups, businesses, the waste management and recycling industry, and local government. One SWAC member represents the Suburban Cities Association. The SWAC advises the County on all aspects of solid waste management planning, including the development of programs and policies, and review of proposed rules, policies, and ordinances. The SWAC has contributed to the Plan at each stage of its development.

### **Division Employees**

This Plan incorporates input from Solid Waste Division employees who are directly involved in providing transfer, disposal, and recycling services to the public. Formal meetings were held with employees to discuss long-term goals and recommendations. Division staff also coordinated involvement among all Plan participants, conducted the analyses and forecasts required to evaluate recommendations presented in the Plan, and wrote and produced the document.

### **Regional Policy Committee and Utilities & Technology Committee**

The Regional Policy Committee, which assumed the duties of the Solid Waste Interlocal Forum, is the policy advisory body for regional issues governed by Interlocal Agreements between the County and the cities. The Committee consists of elected officials from the King County Council, the suburban cities, and the City of Seattle. Each

year the King County Council establishes a committee made up of King County Council members charged with review of solid waste and other utility issues. Both committees advise the Council on solid waste and other regional issues. These committees review the Plan and make recommendations to the King County Council on its adoption.

**Washington Department of Ecology**

Ecology sets guidelines for development of the Plan and delegates responsibility to the County and cities. Ecology has reviewed and commented on the draft Plan, and must approve the final Plan once adopted by the County and the cities.



**Related Regional Planning Documents**

The comprehensive solid waste management plan is just one component of regional planning for land use, development, and environmental protection in King County. Table 2-3 lists the various plans that are incorporated by reference or considered in preparation of this Plan.

**Table 2-3.** Relationship of the County’s Plan to Other Plans and Regulations

<b>Plans Incorporated by Reference</b>	
<b>Seattle’s Solid Waste Plan – On the Path to Sustainability, August 1998</b>	
Published by:	City of Seattle
Elements:	Strategy for collection and disposal of the city’s residential, commercial, and special wastes, as well as goals for recycling and waste reduction.
Relationship:	The City of Seattle is not included in King County’s solid waste plan. Pursuant to RCW 70.95 080, King County reviews the Seattle plan to ensure consistency with the County’s plan. Seattle’s plan was considered in the preparation of this Plan.
<b>Local Hazardous Waste Management Plan for King County, May 1997</b>	
Published by:	City of Seattle Public Utilities Department, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP), Seattle-King County Department of Public Health, and cities within King County
Elements:	Plan for managing hazardous wastes produced in small quantities by households and businesses/institutions, and for preventing these wastes from entering the municipal waste streams or being indiscriminately disposed in the environment.
Relationship:	King County’s Solid Waste and Water and Lands Resources Divisions are two of the partners in the preparation and implementation of this Plan.

**Table 2-3.** *continued*

<b>Regional Wastewater Services Plan, December 1999</b>	
Published by:	King County Wastewater Treatment Division
Elements:	Plan addressing management of biosolids, which are a by-product of wastewater treatment; recommends continued emphasis on recycling biosolids as an agricultural soil amendment, and developing new technologies to improve the quality of biosolids for that use.
Relationship:	Although biosolids are solid waste, they do not enter the region’s mixed municipal solid waste stream; biosolids management is addressed in the Regional Wastewater Services Plan.
<b>Related Plans</b>	
<b>King County Comprehensive Plan, Updated annually</b>	
Published by:	King County Office of Regional Policy and Planning
Elements:	Guide for land use and development in the unincorporated areas of King County, building upon the Smart Growth Initiative and its major themes – Livable Communities, Linking Land Use and Transportation, Rural Legacy, and Environmental Protection. Also delineates Urban and Rural Areas of the County to be consistent with the state’s Growth Management Act. Implemented through the zoning code and clearing and grading code, which include standards and processes addressing solid waste facilities.
Relationship:	This plan adopts by reference the current solid waste management plan. It holds King County Solid Waste Division, in cooperation with waste haulers certified by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, responsible for managing solid wastes generated by unincorporated area residents and businesses in a manner that protects quality of the air, water, and public health. The Plan calls for the County to divert as much material as possible from disposal to reduce overall costs and conserve resources. It also holds that solid waste disposal capacity should be provided on a regional basis and facilities dispersed throughout the County in an equitable manner.



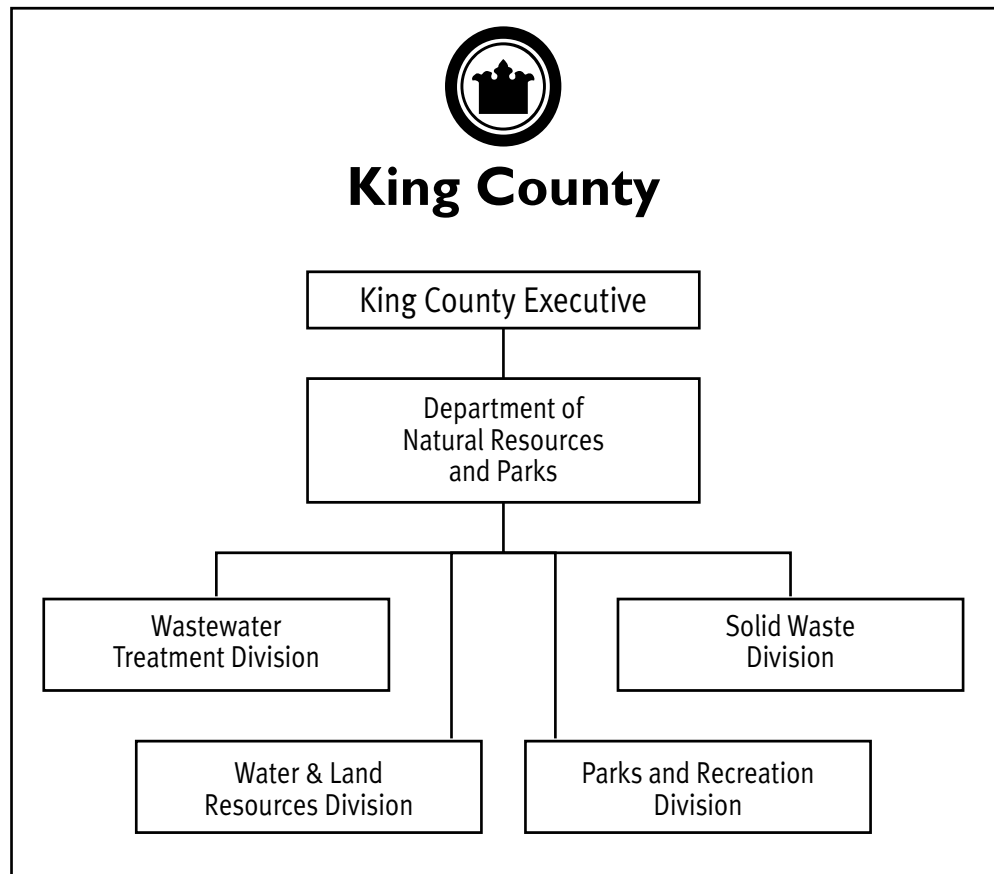
**Table 2-3.** *continued*

<b>Ground Water Management Plans for:</b>	
East King County, 1999; Issaquah Creek Valley, 1999; Redmond-Bear Creek Valley, 1999; South King County, 1999; and Vashon-Maury Island, 1999	
Prepared by:	Regional Ground Water Management/Advisory Committees
Published by:	King County DNRP and Seattle-King County Department of Public Health; adopted by Ecology
Elements:	Sets goals to protect groundwater quality and ensure groundwater quantity for current and future uses.
Relationship:	King County is responsible for protecting groundwater from contamination by leachate from both active and closed landfills.
<b>Surface Water Management Plans, including:</b>	
Bear Creek Basin Plan, 1995; Coal Creek Basin Plan, 1987; East Lake Sammamish Basin – Watershed Management Committee Basin and Nonpoint Action Plan, 1992; Green-Duwamish Watershed Nonpoint Action Plan, 1989; Hylebos Creek and Lower Puget Sound – Executive Proposed Basin Plan, 1991; Issaquah Creek Watershed Management Committee Basin and Nonpoint Action Plan, 1996; Lower Cedar River Basin and Nonpoint Pollution Action Plan, 1997; May Creek Basin Action Plan, 1998; and Soos Creek Basin Plan, 1990	
Published by:	King County and Associated Cities, Councils, Committees, and Citizen Groups
Elements:	Sets forth a cooperative plan for basin-wide protection of habitat and water quantity and quality from both point and nonpoint sources.
Relationship:	The Solid Waste Division is responsible for ensuring that it avoids sensitive watersheds when siting facilities and that it conducts operations and monitoring to eliminate any harmful impacts from surface water runoff.

## Organizational Structure and Mission of DNRP and the Division

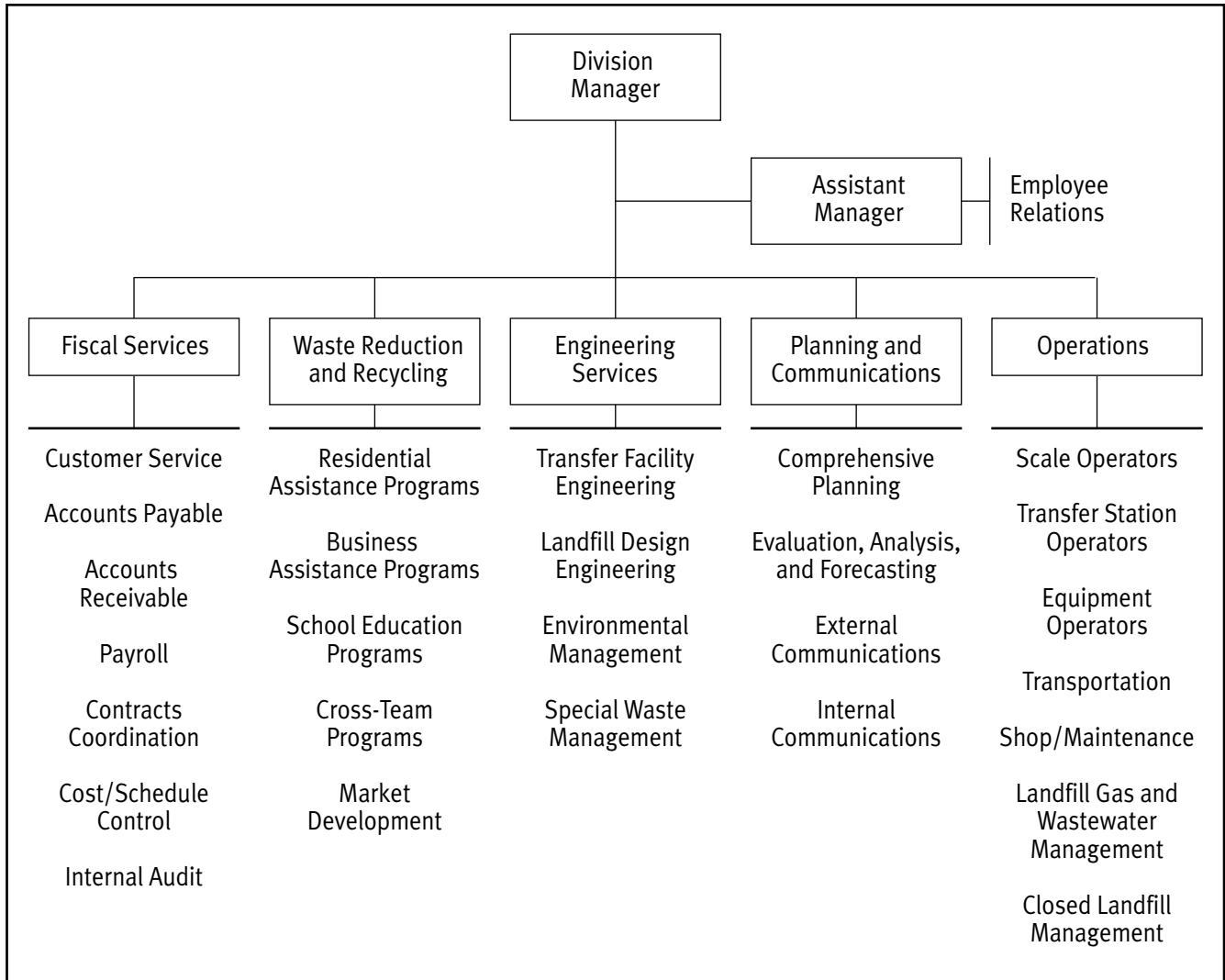
The Solid Waste Division is part of the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP). Figure 2-1 shows the organizational and reporting structure of the Department. The overall mission of DNRP is to “Be the steward of the region’s environment and strengthen sustainable communities by protecting our water, land and natural habitats, safely disposing of and reusing wastewater and solid waste, and providing natural areas, parks and recreation programs.”

**Figure 2-1.** King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Organizational Chart



The Solid Waste Division, in cooperation with the other divisions within DNRP, is responsible for carrying out this mission. In keeping with DNRP’s mission, the Division’s mission statement is to protect human health and the environment by providing quality services that responsibly manage King County’s solid waste. The organizational structure of the Solid Waste Division is shown in Figure 2-2 on the following page.

**Figure 2-2.** King County Solid Waste Division Organizational Chart



## Governing Policies

The policies that follow were adopted by Ordinance 14236 by the King County Council on October 15, 2001. If any text discussion in this Plan is inconsistent with that in the policies, the policies are controlling.

### County Planning Policies

**PL-1.** The county shall continue to monitor the type, amount and generation sources of waste entering the county's solid waste system.

**PL-2.** The county shall monitor and prepare an annual report on the amount of solid waste disposal at public transfer stations and at the regional landfill.

**PL-3.** The county shall complete a survey of self-haul customers at county transfer facilities, using zip codes to obtain more accurate information on where self-haul customers live.

**PL-4.** The county should support state legislation that would require the private haulers to provide accurate reports on curbside collection and recycling and disposal at private transfer stations.

**PL-5.** The county should continue to conduct waste characterization studies every three years as part of its ongoing waste-monitoring program.

**PL-6.** Forecasts for waste tonnages should be updated every year to allow responsive planning for facilities and operations.

### County Waste Reduction and Recycling Policies

**WRR-1.** The council finds that existing county policies for waste reduction and recycling have been valuable for guiding the efforts of King County, suburban cities and the private sector. These policies recognize that successful waste reduction and recycling efforts depend on changing the behavior of individuals and organizations rather than accommodating existing behavior. Based on these findings, the mission of King County's waste reduction and recycling programs is to divert as much material as possible from disposal in a manner which reduces the overall costs of solid waste management to county residents and businesses, conserves resources, protects the environment and strengthens the county's economy. The county should evaluate its success in achieving this mission through measures that are consistent with:

1. Decreasing the total amount of waste generated and disposed per county resident, acknowledging that business activities, average household size and other external factors affect this amount.
2. Recycling additional materials out of its disposal stream at least as long as such action is likely to create a long-term, net economic benefit compared to the costs of disposal. An analysis of the costs and benefits of recycling should include current and projected values for collection, hauling and processing costs and the return in commodity prices for recycled materials versus the current and projected costs of collection, hauling and disposal of the same materials.

**WRR-2.** The county should enhance existing waste reduction and recycling programs, add more recycling opportunities at county transfer stations, pursue markets for additional diversion of organic materials, and increase marketing efforts to support and further waste reduction and recycling goals.

**WRR-3.** The county and cities should manage solid waste generated by their respective agencies in a manner that demonstrates leadership for residents, businesses, and institutions.

**WRR-4.** The county shall encourage and promote waste reduction and recycling in order to reduce the amount of solid waste disposed in the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill or through waste export.

**WRR-5.** The county should use the following measurement targets to identify the region’s effectiveness in meeting objectives in waste reduction and recycling. These targets should be evaluated at least every three years when data becomes available from the waste monitoring studies.

1. Disposal rates per residential customer should be held constant throughout the planning period. The residential target is 18.5 pounds of solid waste per person per week calculated by dividing the estimated amount of waste disposed by households by the estimated number of residents in the county’s solid waste system.
2. Disposal rates for per employee should be held constant throughout the planning period. The employee target is 23.5 pounds of solid waste per employee per week calculated by dividing the estimated amount of waste disposed by businesses in the county by the estimated number of employees.
3. The curbside and on-location recycling rates for single family, multi-family and non-residential entities should be increased over the planning period as follows:

Year	Single Family (1 to 4 Dwelling Units)		Multi-Family (5 or more Dwelling Units)		Non-Residential
	Curbside Recycling Rate (percent)	Curbside Disposal Rate (lbs/household/week)	Recycling Rate (percent)	Disposal Rate (lbs/household/week)	Recycling Rate (percent)
2006	50%	31.4 lbs.	35%	20.8 lbs.	43%
2012	52%	30.7 lbs.	40%	20.3 lbs.	46%
2018	53%	30.5 lbs.	40%	20.1 lbs.	48%

**WRR-6.** The county should provide grant funding to cities to support their waste reduction and recycling programs for which all cities will be eligible. Grant funds are intended to implement recommendations in this plan, based on the communities’ prioritized needs.

**WRR-7.** The county shall coordinate with cities in planning and implementing waste reduction and recycling programs, and in designing and conducting future studies and market assessments for the region.

**WRR-8.** The county and cities should hold annual meetings to coordinate work plans and ensure that grant-funded and county programs are coordinated and complementary.

**WRR-9.** The county should provide drop box collection sites for primary recyclables to serve areas where household collection is not provided.

**WRR-10.** The county should, where feasible, provide areas for expanded collection of secondary recyclable and reusable materials at new and upgraded transfer stations.

**WRR-11.** The county and the rural cities should periodically assess the feasibility of expanding curbside collection of recyclables in rural areas not currently receiving this service.

**WRR-12.** The county and cities should add secondary recyclables to collection programs when feasible and supported by the community.

**WRR-13.** Cities should consider providing scheduled events to collect secondary recyclables at selected sites.

**WRR-14.** Those cities exercising contracting authority for solid waste collection should consider including collection of recyclables in the waste collection service offered to both residents and businesses.

**WRR-15.** The cities and county should provide coordinated education, promotion, incentive, and technical assistance programs to businesses, residents and schools for waste reduction, source reduction, resource conservation and recycling.

**WRR-16.** The county should provide technical assistance to manufacturers in the use of recycled materials and the application of product stewardship principles.

**WRR-17.** The county should encourage the cities to establish rate-based incentives for solid waste collection services that encourage participation in recycling programs and reduced generation of garbage.

**WRR-18.** The county should promote environmentally sound management of all organic materials in the mixed municipal solid waste stream.

**WRR-19.** The county should implement programs that are designed to increase the demand for recycled and reused products, create and sustain markets for recycled materials, and integrate waste reduction and recycling programs with other resource conservation activities.

**WRR-20.** Using waste characterization studies and market assessments, the county should regularly evaluate regional recycling markets and technologies to ensure that programs and services support the region's recycling and waste reduction goals.

**WRR-21.** The county should work with cities and private collection companies to develop programs to improve the recycling rate in the small business community.

**WRR-22.** The cities and the county should address the needs of small businesses by providing technical assistance and programs that target recycling and waste reduction in the workplace.

**WRR-23.** The county should promote material exchanges and reuse centers and evaluate other venues for reuse.

**WRR-24.** The cities and county should provide for collection of primary recyclables including glass, tin and aluminum cans, mixed waste paper, newspaper, #1 and #2 plastic bottles, and yard waste and evaluate adding other materials as either primary or secondary recyclables by targeting specific commodities.

**WRR-25.** The county should target primary residential recyclables, yard debris, food waste and compostable paper, non-residential paper and cardboard, and green and urban wood for future diversion from the waste stream through recycling or waste reduction.

**WRR-26.** The county shall update the list of secondary recyclables yearly in its annual report based on state recycling survey data and information from city and county programs.

**WRR-27.** The county should work with the cities, commercial haulers and the public to identify new materials to be designated as primary recyclables.

**WRR-28.** The county should develop and implement a regional product stewardship strategy, provide technical assistance to manufacturers in the use of recycled materials and the application of product stewardship principles.

**WRR-29.** The county should pursue product stewardship strategies to reduce costs of waste disposal, to place more responsibility on manufacturers to reduce toxicity of their products, to conserve energy, and to plan for product reuse and recycling in product development.

**WRR-30.** The county shall maintain government procurement policies that favor the use of recycled and environmentally preferable products.

**WRR-31.** The county should implement and promote the green building principles in all county-funded capital projects.

**WRR-32.** The county should foster sustainable development through promotion of sustainable building principles in construction projects throughout the county.

**WRR-33.** The county should promote reuse and recycling of source separated construction, demolition and land clearing materials through participation in organizations like the Reusable Building Materials Exchange.

**WRR-34.** The county should foster sustainable building principles through public education and partnerships with organizations such as the U.S. Green Building Council.

**WRR-35.** The department of natural resources and parks should develop and promote landscape best management practices, including water conservation, reduced use of pesticides, and grasscycling.

**WRR-36.** The county shall make recycling a priority at new and renovated transfer stations by maximizing recycling opportunities while taking into consideration user needs, site constraints, costs and benefits, and market availability. The county should evaluate the potential for accepting new recyclable materials at county facilities. Potential new recyclable materials include, but are not limited to: scrap and processed metal, used oil and antifreeze, computers, recyclable construction and demolition debris, household hazardous waste, and reusable household items.

**WRR-37.** Where feasible, the county should provide areas for source-separated yard waste collection at all existing, new or upgraded transfer stations and drop boxes.

**WRR-38.** The county shall implement programs to provide for affordable collection and recycling of woody debris generated by major storm events or for residents in areas affected by the Puget Sound Clear Air Agency's burn ban.

**WRR-39.** The county should work to convert landfill gas, a valuable green resource, into a marketable energy product as soon as possible.

### **County Collection Policies**

**CP-1.** The county solid waste system shall provide for and designate urban collection service levels for mixed municipal solid waste, recycling and yard waste for residents in all parts of the county except for Vashon Island, Skykomish Valley, and Snoqualmie Pass.

**CP-2.** The county should promote collection service that has as little impact as possible on roadways and traffic. The cities should consider using their contracting authority to specify which transfer stations the collection companies use.

**CP-3.** The county and cities should seek to manage demand for self-haul services for customers who self-haul regularly, by encouraging subscriptions to curbside collection.

**CP-4.** The county shall seek to manage demand for self-haul services for customers who self-haul occasionally, by working with cities and private collection companies to develop cost effective options for disposing of bulky wastes.

**CP-5.** The county should not consider the possibility of eliminating service to self-haulers, as this would conflict with the county's goals of environmental protection and customer service.

**CP-6.** A solid waste collection district may be established for the purpose of requiring mandatory curbside collection service if the county and the cities agree that it is in the public interest and necessary for the protection of public health.

**CP-7.** The county, in consultation with the cities and Solid Waste Advisory Committee should explore the benefits and costs of a uniform method of recycling collection throughout the region.

**CP-8.** The county should host special recycling collection events and investigate options for expanding this recycling option.

**CP-9.** If authorized by the state legislature, the county should work with the cities to establish region-wide waste disposal incentive rates that encourage recycling and reduce disposal.

**CP-10.** The county, in conjunction with the city of Seattle, the cities within the region and Public Health – Seattle & King County shall offer collection of household hazardous waste in conformance with the adopted local hazardous waste management plan prepared under chapter 70.105 RCW.

**CP-11.** The county should improve collection services for household hazardous waste in the eastern and southern portions of the county in conformance with the local hazardous waste management program. Enhancements should include implementing a pilot stationary collection service at a transfer station and implementing a pilot program to augment current mobile collection services.

**CP-12** The county should work with the cities, regional businesses, and regional manufacturers to develop alternative collection opportunities and product stewardship programs.

### **County Regional Transfer System Policies**

**RTS-1.** The county's objectives for its transfer system are:

1. Meeting customer needs for convenient, uniform services;
2. Seeking to maintain operating costs for solid waste management lower than those in other jurisdictions;
3. Preparing the mixed municipal solid waste transfer system for eventual waste export;
4. Keeping rates stable and rate increases as low as possible while meeting the costs of managing the system and providing services to solid waste customers; and
5. Protecting environmental quality and public health and safety while providing cost efficient services.

**RTS-2.** The county should provide for the future of the solid waste transfer system by maximizing use of existing transfer stations, making existing transfer stations as efficient as possible, evaluating the need for new transfer facilities, and focusing capital improvements on balancing service needs of commercial and self-haulers.

**RTS-3.** The county should focus capital investment to:

1. Maintain the county's system facilities in a safe condition for both the system's customers and the system's employees;
2. Upgrade its transfer facilities to serve a future waste export system when the Cedar Hills regional landfill reaches its permitted capacity, or at such earlier time as the county may decide;
3. Improve transfer stations to improve efficiency, capacity and customer service; and
4. Expand, relocate or replace, or any combination thereof, transfer stations when safety, efficiency, capacity or customer services needs cannot be met by existing transfer facilities.

**RTS-4.** The county should prioritize efficient service to commercial haulers while still providing services for self-haul customers, provided that nothing in this policy permits limiting standard hours of operation at county transfer facilities for self-haul customers without council approval by ordinance.

**RTS-5.** Compactors should be installed at transfer stations in order to achieve operating efficiencies by processing waste more quickly in less space, reducing truck trips between the stations and the disposal site, saving transportation and equipment costs, reducing odors and litter, and preparing for economical waste export. The county should prioritize, to the extent practicable, compactor installation at those transfer stations with the greatest tonnages.



**RTS-6.** The county shall evaluate the feasibility of siting an additional transfer facility to serve residents of northeast King County.

**RTS-7.** The county shall establish criteria and standards for determining when a county owned and operated transfer station has exceeded its capacity to efficiently serve the needs of its customers and where new or relocated transfer facilities are needed.

**RTS-8.** Before restricting access to any customer class at a specific transfer station, the executive shall transmit for council approval by motion a demand management plan for that transfer station. The demand management plan shall identify strategies such as incentive rates, programmatic changes and structural changes designed to minimize conflicts between commercial haulers and self haulers and improve customer service. The demand management plan shall include an evaluation of the costs and benefits of these strategies, the impact of implementing these strategies on different sectors of commercial and self haulers that use the transfer station, and impacts on illegal dumping. The demand management plan shall be formulated with the participation of affected cities.

**RTS-9.** The county, in coordination with affected cities, should continue to improve county transfer station operations to ensure efficient queuing, unloading and exiting.

**RTS-10.** The county shall designate county-owned transfer stations as either capable of being expanded on-site or constrained from on-site expansion. The purpose of this designation is to maximize the use of existing sites by concentrating capital investment on sites where significant improvements are both physically possible, and supported by the host city. Facilities capable of being expanded may require new construction or major rebuilding in order to provide a full range of solid waste disposal and recycling services for county residents and businesses. Facilities constrained from on-site expansion will receive necessary safety and efficiency improvements, including compactors.

**RTS-11.** In designating transfer stations as either capable of being expanded on-site or constrained from on-site expansion, the county shall consider the size of the site, other physical characteristics and constraints, the level of support for needed improvements by the host city. The system as a whole shall be assessed to maximize the equitable distribution of full service facilities.

**RTS-12.** The following transfer stations are designated as capable of being expanded on site: First Northeast, Factoria, Bow Lake, Enumclaw and Vashon.

**RTS-13.** The following transfer stations are designated as constrained from on-site expansion: Houghton, Renton, and Algona.

**RTS-14.** The following transfer stations are authorized by the county as adjunct transfer stations to receive, consolidate and deposit mixed municipal solid waste into larger transfer vehicles for transport to and disposal at county authorized disposal sites: Waste Management's Eastmont and Rabanco's Third and Lander facilities.

**RTS-15.** The county should maintain the use of drop boxes to serve rural customers in the Skykomish and Cedar Falls area until periodic analyses of demographic and disposal trends in the rural areas determine that improvements in the type and level of service and facilities may be needed. The county should explore the use of an access card to provide access to drop box facilities for residents and property owners in the area so that individual property owners could be billed on a monthly basis.

**RTS-16.** The county should continue to provide solid waste services through the county transfer facilities. However, the county will remain open to considering and implementing future private sector proposals for the transfer system as part of its annual evaluation of the timing of waste export. In evaluating future private sector proposals for the transfer system, the county should

balance financial costs and benefits with other relevant factors, including environmental considerations and fairness to existing labor. The county should consider expanding the role of collection companies in the provision of transfer services when the collection companies demonstrate that such expansion reduces the overall costs of solid waste management to county residents and businesses, maintains or improves service levels, and advances the goal that solid waste disposal facilities be dispersed throughout the county in an equitable manner. The county's goal will be to make the transition to waste export as equitable as possible to those affected by the transition.

**RTS-17.** All public and private transfer facilities shall comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and proposed facility improvements shall be required to meet applicable legal requirements. Legal requirements include, but are not limited to those regarding environmental protection, public health and safety, procurement and labor.

**RTS-18.** The county shall prepare the capital improvement program required to implement the Final 2001 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan under K.C.C. 4.04.200 through 4.04.270. Proposed capital improvements are subject to council appropriation and the county's annual budget process. The proposed capital improvement program should demonstrate how the following considerations are addressed:

1. Protecting the safety of customers and employees at any solid waste facility;
2. Planning for permit acquisition requirements and timing;
3. Mitigating impacts to the surrounding community including but not limited to noise, traffic, dust, odor and litter;
4. Including public comment and input, including comment and input from the host jurisdictions, in project development;
5. Preparing for waste export;
6. Minimizing service disruption at transfer facilities and throughout the system during capital construction;
7. Ensuring that no more than one transfer station is closed for capital improvements at any time;
8. Demonstrating the extent to which sites requiring capital improvements are functioning at or near operating capacity for either traffic or tonnage;
9. Demonstrating how the planned capital improvements were evaluated according to the criteria and standards for transfer facility efficiency; and
10. Achieving operating savings.

**RTS-19.** The capital improvement program for King County shall only fund projects and improvements at facilities owned and operated by King County.

**RTS-20.** Prior to making any improvements to transfer stations or locating new transfer facilities, the executive shall work with affected communities to develop mitigation measures for environmental impacts created by the construction, operation, maintenance or expansion of transfer facilities.

**RTS 21.** The county is encouraged to exceed minimum environmental requirements in the operation of its solid waste handling facilities where feasible. The county shall investigate the use and cost of technology and equipment that may allow the county to exceed minimum legal environmental requirements, including, but not limited to, those related to concerns such as air quality and sound.

**RTS-22.** The county shall evaluate the potential for establishing a special services transfer facility to handle bulky wastes and recycling, and serve self-haul customers.

## **County Disposal Policies**

**DSW-1.** All county landfills, both active and inactive, shall be designed, operated, and monitored to meet or exceed applicable federal, state, and local standards for protection of public health and the environment.

**DSW-2.** The county should not seek to site a replacement landfill for the Cedar Hills regional landfill in King County. Upon council approval by ordinance, the county shall initiate solid waste export.

**DSW-3.** The county shall contract for long-term disposal capacity at an out-of-county landfill or landfills. It is anticipated that export of the region's mixed municipal solid waste will begin when the Cedar Hills regional landfill has reached its permitted capacity. However, the county will remain open to considering and implementing private sector proposals for early waste export. An orderly transition to waste export should occur before Cedar Hills is closed.

**DSW-4.** The county shall continue to monitor waste export prices and the availability of landfill space and report back to the region on its findings at least annually to determine if future landfill space should be reserved and purchased in advance of use. The policy of King County shall be to monitor and analyze conditions impacting the appropriateness, feasibility and timing of waste export on a continuous basis. The executive shall report to the council at least once every three years and more if circumstances warrant on such conditions. When such conditions warrant, and upon council approval by ordinance, the division shall initiate solid waste export.

**DSW-5.** It is expected that rail hauling will be the preferred method of exporting the county's solid waste in the future. The county shall continue to monitor the long-term availability of future rail capacity to ensure that adequate transport capability exists.

**DSW-6.** The county shall plan for implementing waste export and include in the county's plan details on the sequence of phasing in waste export, the financial and staffing impacts, and the status and future capacity of rail transportation.

**DSW-7.** At least one year prior to the initiation of waste export, the county should develop comprehensive emergency response procedures for the region's waste export system.

**DSW-8.** If the need arises for the county to develop one or more such facilities, the process for siting intermodal facilities where containers are transferred from trucks to rail cars or barges shall include:

1. Involving all affected jurisdictions and interested parties in the siting process in decision making, and providing access to relevant information to affected jurisdictions and interested parties;
2. Listening and responding to input from all affected jurisdictions and interested parties; and
3. Developing jointly with all affected jurisdictions and interested parties criteria for identifying prospective sites that comprehensively evaluate environmental, technical, financial, and community needs.

**DSW-9.** The county shall continue to monitor and maintain closed landfills that fall under its jurisdiction.

**DSW-10.** The county shall continue to work with cities, the state, and federal agencies to explore beneficial reuse options for all closed landfills. Any future monitoring or environmental system installation shall be designed to facilitate reuse of the sites.

### **County Construction, Demolition and Landclearing Debris (CDL) Policies**

**CON-1.** The county shall ensure a satisfactory level of CDL transfer and disposal in the county, and encourage and expand recycling of CDL.

**CON-2.** The county shall continue to limit CDL disposal as provided in the King County Code, the existing CDL contracts and the Solid Waste Acceptance Policy at least until May 31, 2004 when existing contracts expire.

**CON-3.** The county should support private efforts to reduce the overall amount of CDL being disposed of in the county solid waste system by encouraging separation of recyclable or reusable portions of CDL from the waste stream. Separation can occur at a construction or demolition site or at one of the CDL receiving facilities, or at a landfill.

**CON-4.** The county should encourage a CDL management system that maximizes reuse and recycling and provides for the safe and efficient disposal of the remaining CDL.

**CON-5.** In keeping with state and regional system goals and recommendations for waste reduction and recycling, the preferred method for managing CDL is to separate out the recyclable or reusable portions of the CDL waste stream and reduce the overall amount of CDL waste disposed of in the county's solid waste system. Separation can occur at a construction or demolition site, at one of the CDL receiving facilities, or at a landfill.

**CON-6.** The executive in consultation with the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and appropriate staff from cities in the region shall propose to the council alternatives for future handling of CDL that will best suit the region as a whole. A goal of the preferred alternative should be to increase the amount of CDL recycled from work and disposal sites. The council shall approve the CDL handling program by ordinance.

### **County Special Wastes Policies**

**SPW-1.** The county shall accept contaminated soil only at the Cedar Hills regional landfill. After the Cedar Hills regional landfill closes contaminated soil should be handled by the private sector.

**SPW-2.** The county shall accept asbestos-containing materials for disposal only at the Cedar Hills regional landfill if accompanied by required federal, state or local asbestos disposal documentation. After the Cedar Hills regional landfill closes, asbestos-containing materials should be handled by the private sector.

**SPW-3.** The county shall evaluate providing one solid waste transfer facility that would accept small volumes of asbestos-containing materials from residential customers.

**SPW-4.** The county shall make safety and public health the top priorities in managing the disposal of biomedical wastes. The county shall accept treated biomedical wastes at the Cedar Hills regional landfill and county transfer facilities only if it has been treated according to standards contained in the county Solid Waste Regulations. After the Cedar Hills regional landfill closes treated biomedical wastes should be handled by the private sector. The county shall also evaluate the possibility of accepting small volumes of treated biomedical wastes at county transfer stations after the Cedar Hills regional landfill closes.

**SPW-5.** The county shall evaluate providing a separate receptacle for disposal of small quantities of sharps generated by residents or small businesses at some or all transfer facilities.

**SPW-6.** The county should develop and implement educational programs for residents on the proper disposal practices for sharps and other biomedical wastes.

**SPW-7.** The county should work with pharmacies and health care providers to educate individuals on proper disposal of medical waste, and to establish voluntary take-back programs for home-generated sharps and other used medical supplies.

**SPW-8.** The county shall accept disposal of de-watered vector wastes only at the Cedar Hills regional landfill. The county should reevaluate and revise recommendations from the 1994 Vector Waste Disposal Plan to provide wet vector waste management alternatives after the Cedar Hills regional landfill closes.

**SPW-9.** The county should develop and implement long-term management solutions for the special handling required for de-watered vector wastes. The county should dispose of de-watered vector wastes through future waste export contracts after the Cedar Hills regional landfill closes unless other management options are identified in the county's evaluation of long-term management solutions.

**SPW-10.** The county should accept limited numbers of waste tires at transfer stations and should dispose of limited numbers of waste tires at the Cedar Hills regional landfill. Once the Cedar Hills regional landfill is closed, the county should dispose of waste tires through future waste export contracts.

**SPW-11.** The county shall authorize disposal of controlled solid waste that cannot be handled by the county facilities at locations outside the county on a case-by-case basis.

### **County Enforcement Policies**

**ENF-1.** The county shall exercise its enforcement authority to ensure that the county solid waste management system meets all applicable standards for the protection of human health and environmental quality in the region.

**ENF-2.** Enforcement shall be achieved through permitting and compliance for solid waste handling facilities; management of waste flows within the region; regulation of acceptance of special wastes; and control of illegal dumping and litter.

**ENF-3.** The county, cities and towns should work cooperatively to manage waste flows within the region. The responsibilities for waste handling and process for managing waste flow are established by interlocal agreement.

**ENF-4.** The county shall not accept hazardous and dangerous wastes, as defined under federal, state and local law, for disposal at county facilities.

**ENF-5.** The county should maintain a waste-screening program at county disposal facilities to ensure that material in the solid waste stream is handled in conformance with county and state regulations. The purpose of the waste-screening program is to safely process solid wastes and to prohibit hazardous and dangerous wastes from the county waste facilities.

**ENF-6.** The county should implement a comprehensive public outreach and education program to assure that proper waste handling practices are observed.

**ENF 7.** The county should develop programs and strategies designed to reduce illegal dumping and littering.

**ENF-8.** The county should continue the community litter cleanup program administered by the solid waste division of department of natural resources and parks as long as financial assistance from the state is available.

**ENF-9.** The county should continue to seek state funding to support efforts by the county and the cities to clean up illegal dumping and litter on public lands and waterways.

**ENF-10.** The county should reconvene the illegal dumping task force to improve coordination among county agencies, cities, and other relevant public agencies responsible for illegal dumping cleanup, education and prevention programs.

**ENF-11.** The county should implement a coordinated effort to develop an illegal dumping clean-up, education and prevention program targeted at county-owned or controlled properties.

**ENF-12.** The county should establish an illegal dumping hotline to provide a single point of contact for the public to report illegal dumping. To the extent possible, this hotline should be coordinated with other similar hotlines.

**ENF-13.** The county should consider legislation to strengthen enforcement against illegal dumping and litter in the unincorporated areas of the county.

#### County Financing and Rates Policies

**FIN-1.** The county shall maintain, conduct, operate and account for the disposal of solid waste as a utility of the county. The solid waste system shall be a self-supporting utility financed primarily through fees for disposal.

**FIN-2.** The county shall charge garbage disposal fees directly to users of the solid waste disposal system to pay for solid waste services.

**FIN-3.** The county shall maintain a rate structure based on tonnage, recognizing that the structure does not provide a self-hauler subsidy, unless the executive demonstrates that a different rate structure would benefit the system as a whole.

**FIN-4.** The county should keep garbage disposal fees as low as possible and should manage the solid waste system to keep rate increases as low as possible while meeting the costs of managing the system and providing service to solid waste customers.

**FIN-5.** The county should provide technical assistance to the cities in developing collection contracts and grants.

**FIN-6.** The county should develop and implement a grant program for the cities that will consolidate grant programs and contracts wherever possible. The county should provide technical assistance to aid the cities in identifying, applying for and administering grants.

**FIN-7.** The county should provide opportunities to expand the role of cities in developing and reviewing regional solid waste policies and rates by establishing a Solid Waste Policy Work Group to work in conjunction with the Solid Waste Advisory Committee to make recommendations regarding system operations to the King County executive. As part of these recommendations, the executive shall evaluate the costs and benefits of alternative rate structures on individual customer classes.

**FIN-8.** The county is committed to working with the cities that are impacted by transfer stations to explore funding to mitigate potential impacts from these facilities. Any statutorily authorized host fees should be in amounts directly attributable to the solid waste facility provided that the cities can establish that the fee is reasonably necessary to mitigate for impacts of the solid waste facility as required in state law.