

**King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee
February 16, 2018 - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
King Street Center 8th Floor Conference Center**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present	King County Staff	Others
April Atwood – Vice Chair	Nori Catabay	Cynthia Foley, Sound Cities Association
Elly Bunzendahl	Michael Denson	Phillip Schmidt-Pathmann, NEOMER
Gib Dammann	Jeff Gaisford	
Karen Dawson	Kathy Hashagen	
Jean Garber	Beth Humphreys	
Phillippa Kassover	Ross Marzoff	
Kevin Kelly - Chair	Meg Moorehead	
Keith Livingston	Terra Rose	
Barbara Ristau	Glynda Steiner	
Penny Sweet	Dorian Waller	

Minutes

The January 2018 SWAC minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Updates

Glynda Steiner, Assistant Solid Waste Division (SWD) Director, gave the following updates:

Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (Comp Plan)

About 35 people attended the three Comp Plan open houses hosted by the division. (Kingsgate Library in Kirkland, King County Library Service Center in Issaquah, Kent Senior Center.) SWD has also made seven Comp Plan presentations and an additional five have been scheduled through March 6. Including:

- The Cities of Bellevue, Woodinville, Bothell, Kirkland, Redmond, and Federal Way
- North Highline Unincorporated Area Council, Greater Maple Valley Area Council, Four Creeks-Tiger Mountain Community Service area, and the West Hills Community Association.

In response to a question Meg Moorehead said that cities wishing to receive a presentation should contact Dorian Waller 206-263-1368 (Dorian.Waller@kingcounty.gov) or Meg Moorehead 206-477-2355 (Meg.Moorehead@kingcounty.gov.)

The Solid Waste Division thanked Kirkland City Councilmember Penny Sweet for the op-ed in the Kirkland Reporter encouraging residents to participate in the Comprehensive Plan adoption process.

New Recycling Rule

Effective January 2, 2018 there is a new recycling rule at county recycling and transfer stations and drop boxes. The new rule is part of King County’s waste acceptance rules.

To conserve natural resources and lengthen the life of the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill, the county's Solid Waste Division no longer accepts cardboard, scrap metal, yard waste and clean wood (unpainted, untreated wood such as lumber and pallets) as garbage from self-haul customers at SWD-operated recycling and transfer stations and drop boxes that accept those materials for recycling. Self-haul customers will be required to recycle those materials in marked recycling bins or areas at county facilities that accept the materials for recycling.

SWD will share the impact of this change on recycling at county facilities with the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC). Barb Ristau suggested a round of applause about the mandatory recycling at transfer stations. Steiner shared that customers have in general been supportive of the changes.

The division asked cities to help get the word out about the new recycling rule. Ten cities have posted an article or notice on city websites, in social media or in city newsletters. When asked, SWD will share draft articles and notices to assist with that process.

South County Recycling and Transfer System

The Solid Waste Division has met with the City of Algona to discuss the new recycling and transfer station. Highlights of the conversation included:

- SWD will schedule a time for Mayor Hill and Diane Quinn to visit Factoria with a focus on hazmat handling.
- SWD offered to provide the city with a briefing on the "Living Building Challenge."
- SWD will create an opportunity for the City of Algona to convey their "values" as a point of reference for artists to consider.
- The division offered to use Peak Democracy to help with community engagement efforts.

Keith Livingston recommended that the division consider design options to position the new station as community resource rather than just a utility. Consider a well thought out community room and other amenities. Doing so would allow a greater opportunity for education and outreach as well as a way to increase buy-in.

Domestic Plastics Processing Meeting

King County Solid Waste Division's LinkUp Program and Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) co-hosted a meeting on January 30 to discuss China's recent effort to protect its environment by placing restrictions on the import of mixed plastic (#3-#7) also called the China Sword. The goal of the meeting was to explore and discuss the potential to collect, process, and recycle mixed plastics domestically. The meeting provided background on impacts of plastic pollution. Attendees articulated the need to find the means to process plastics responsibly, safely and closer to home. Representatives from Seattle Public Utilities, King County Solid Waste Division, local material recovery facilities, plastics processing and recycling facilities, economic development organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and several city, county, and state agencies were in attendance.

China Sword is an important topic that is being discussion both nationally and locally. The topic will appear on a future SWAC agenda. Comments included:

- In response to a question Jeff Gaisford noted that Cedar Grove has been issued its health department permit for its Maple Valley facility. Cedar Grove has an adequate

amount of processing capacity. Karen Dawson said that together with King County, Cedar Grove is looking for opportunities to promote the use of compost among residents and their local governments. To that end Cedar Grove is hosting an event March 28 focusing on the benefit of soil health and closing the loop; encouraging the use of the compost generated from materials collected in those jurisdictions. SWAC and the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Committee (MSWMAC) have been invited to this event via an email from Waller. In addition, there are ongoing efforts to educate architects about ways to use compost to meet soil health requirements.

- In response to a question Gaisford said currently the specifications of King County building projects require the use of compost but do not specify the compost must come from a local source. The division and others within the County are discussing that idea.
- Livingston said the public doesn't consider compost produced from local material as superior to brand names. He suggested education on the value of local recycled brands is important.
- Kevin Kelly noted HB 2914 is moving through Washington State's legislative process. The bill is with the Senate. It is expected to pass. The bill instructs the Department of Ecology to craft a plan to combat contamination in response to the China Sword by the summer.
- There is a Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) sponsored event next week to discuss the impact of the China Sword.
- The Carbon tax being discussed by the state will also impact SWD. Given the impact of the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill it may impact solid waste rates.
- Members requested a discussion of these and other legislative issues be added to future SWAC agendas.

MSWMAC

The division presented the Comp Plan and discussed upcoming Local Hazardous Waste Management Plan (LHWMP) rate increases. MSWMAC members were concerned about the idea that the rate increases were underway before a MSWMAC conversation had occurred. MSWMAC will receive a presentation about the LHWMP rates in March. SWAC requested a similar presentation. In addition, SWAC member Penny Sweet was re-elected as MSWMAC Chair.

Comp Plan Status Update

Moorehead provided highlights of the Comp Plan outreach efforts. About thirty five people attended the three open houses comprising a mix of agency staff and citizens. To date, 246 participants in the English version and one participant in the Spanish version have completed the online survey. The division has also gathered a number of comments as part of the survey. SWD continues to use social media sites to call attention to public engagement options and has received a few comments via those avenues as well. The division has also received 16 comments via mail or email.

In addition to the original communications plan the division also distributed posters to King County libraries and created a video spot that played on the County's government access TV channel.

SWD will produce a report on public engagement and findings after the public comment period concludes on March 8.

Members expressed consternation about the idea of reporting the outcome of the Peak Democracy work numerically. Jean Garber noted that the “survey” results will not represent the population as a whole because respondents are self-selected and are not a representative sample. SWD noted that though it is possible to see IP addresses, it is not possible to determine where the people associated with the addresses reside. It is also not possible to see whether a single individual uses multiple computers to provide input. Garber noted that like responses to an environmental impact statement, it is not possible to know if the response represents the population or is overly influenced by respondents with specific agendas.

Livingston said it is important to avoid reporting the results numerically because regardless of how carefully they are characterized, readers will assume that they are statistically valid. SWAC members also discussed various names that could have been used in reference to the Peak Democracy work rather than “survey.” Suggestions included a poll, a virtual public meeting, a questionnaire or exploratory research. SWAC members discussed the benefits and costs of a statistically significant survey.

Living Building Challenge

SWD staff Nori Catabay is the Internal Green Building Team program manager in SWD’s GreenTools program. SWD staff Nori Catabay introduced her [presentation](#) on the Living Building Challenge (LBC) by citing several King County initiatives in support of principles championed by the LBC, such as SWD’s Zero Waste goal, and the supporting policies and recommended actions outlined in the current draft Comp Plan and in the county’s 2015 Strategic Climate Action Plan. Policies such as these support the work of the King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C), the Sustainable Cities Roundtable, and the Regional Code Collaboration as convened by the GreenTools program, both providing support and resources to municipalities who strive to improve green building practices in their jurisdictions.

King County has often taken the lead in the country in mainstreaming green building practices, e.g. the Shoreline Recycling and Transfer Station was the first industrial project to receive LEED Platinum certification and the Houghton Transfer Station was the first project to pilot the Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard which is now used in all King County divisions with capital projects. The Solid Waste Division has had a successful track record of being innovative and positively impacting both the building industry and the solid waste industry.

The LBC has its roots in the Pacific Northwest. It was initially launched by the Cascadia Green Building Council, a chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council. The LBC is a green building certification program designed to certify projects with one of three certificates that exemplify the highest performing green building standards in the world. The standards include 20 Imperatives and seven “Petals” or aspects of design (place, water, energy, health & happiness, materials, equity, and beauty). The three certifications are:

- Full Living Building Challenge Certification - a project has achieved every applicable Imperative of the Living Building Challenge. These buildings are at the absolute pinnacle of sustainable building in the world.
- Petal Certification - a project that has achieved at least three aspects of design (called “Petals”) including one of the three core Petals—Water, Energy, or Materials—as well as Imperative One, Limits to Growth, and Imperative 20, Inspiration and Education. Within their areas of focus, Petal-certified projects represent the highest levels of achievement internationally.
- Net Zero Energy Building Certification - recognizes the priority of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on fossil fuels. These projects achieve the core Net Positive Energy Imperative through combination of designing for energy efficiency, and producing renewable energy.

The LBC is an international green building rating system with 390 registered projects pursuing LBC certification. Continuing in the practice of showing leadership and prioritizing community, environment and excellence, the Solid Waste Division has an opportunity to have the first industrial solid waste and recycling project consider LBC certification. SWD recently benefited from a Bullitt Foundation grant to assess the feasibility of designing the new South County Recycling and Transfer Station (SCRTS) to LBC standards.

Comments included:

- In response to Garber’s question Catabay said that county code requires a minimum of LEED Platinum but is permissive; allowing changes to higher standards as technology and standards change.
- Moorehead noted that it is SWD’s goal to have net carbon neutral operations by 2025; reducing carbon where possible and offsetting where necessary.
- The Green Building Program is internal to King County and was applied to 425 King County projects in 2017. In response to Livingston’s comment, Catabay said that sharing information, practices and achievements of the program is done via tours, SWANA presentations, and sharing practices with interior designers and others in the industry. It is also shared with various jurisdictions who are sharing it with constituents.
- Elly Bunzendahl noted that it is important to demonstrate to others; create an example so specification writers and contractors know what to do. She also reminded attendees about the [code innovations database](#) online for municipalities. It is a resource that shares strategies others have used along with supporting examples and documents.
- Gib Dammann said that four years ago the Department of Permitting and Environmental Review (DPER) had a green building path that streamlined permits. The path helped to influence clients to use low-fume paints etc. However, the path no longer exists. SWD is working with DPER to update those codes.
- A member noted how Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste is measured and counted in green building standards continues to change. A discussion of C&D is a topic of an upcoming SWD agenda.
- In response to a request Dorian Waller said he would publish which topics have been identified for discussion at future SWAC meetings.

- Dammann noted that though Trex decking is made from recycled materials, it lasts in landfills forever. When considering the life cycle of materials used, it's difficult to know what to consider good or bad.
- Bunzendahl told a story about a contractor. His task is to remodel timeshare condos every ten years as required by the contract with the timeshare owners. Despite his best efforts to reuse and recycle he has not been successful in finding homes for the furnishings and other materials. She said that people have standards that have not been influenced by lifestyle considerations.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.