

**King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee  
July 19, 2019 - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.  
King Street Center 8th Floor Conference Center**

Draft Meeting Minutes

<b><u>Members Present</u></b>
April Atwood – Vice Chair
Kevin Kelly—Chair
Gib Dammann
Phillipa Kassover
Joe Casalini
Stephen Strader
Elly Bunzendahl
Barbara Ristau
Ken Marshall
Karen Dawson

<b><u>King County Staff</u></b>
Glynda Steiner
Hilary Leonard
Dorian Waller
Jeff Gaisford
John Walsh
Kerwin Pyle

<b><u>Others</u></b>
Cynthia Foley, Sounds Cities Association
Lane Covington, KC Councilmember Lambert
Joy Carpine-Cazzanti, Haz Waste Program
Jenna McInnis, City of Kirkland
Jennifer Jessen, PHSKC
Terra Rose, KCC
Vicky Beaumont, Haz Waste Program
Michelle Mouton, Haz Waste Program

**Minutes**

Minutes of the May SWAC meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

**Public Comments**

There was no public comment.

**Updates**

**Solid Waste Division (SWD)**

SWD Deputy Director Glynda Steiner provided SWD updates:

**Comp Plan**

Progress on city adoption of the Comp Plan is going well. SWD has given presentations to 19 cities with another 6 cities scheduled. 13 cities have taken action on the plan so far including: Woodinville, Maple Valley, Black Diamond, Auburn, Bellevue, Bothell, Redmond, Kenmore, Clyde Hill, Renton, Kirkland, Kent, and Sammamish. During the 120 day period final adoption requires approval by cities representing 75 percent of the total population of the cities that act.

**Area 8**

All the permits needed to begin operating Area 8 of the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill are in place. A ribbon cutting ceremony took place on Wednesday. The division will conduct a transition period between filling area 7 and Area 8 to ensure the first layer of waste in Area 8 has no sharp, heavy or bulky items that might puncture the new liner system.

**Green Schools Program**

The King County Green Schools Program recognized two school districts and 89 schools this year. The program has grown from serving 70 schools in 2008 to serving 306 schools, which equates to 62 percent of the k-12 schools in King County outside of Seattle. Schools can achieve recognition at three different levels for waste reduction and recycling practices. Of the participants, 88 percent of schools were able to achieve level one, 52 percent completed level two, and 41 percent completed level 3. 76 schools have been recognized as Sustaining Green Schools for maintaining and building on their level 1 through 3 practices.

### **Combined MSWAC/SWAC Meeting**

Gaisford alerted the committee that the November meeting will be a joint meeting between MSWAC, SWAC, and the City of Seattle SWAC. It will take place during the typical date and time for SWAC and will provide an opportunity to check-in on progress being made on the Responsible Recycling Task Force recommendations. There will also be a workshop after the meeting. More details will be shared closer to the date.

### **MSWAC**

Kassover noted that the MSWAC meeting touched on the Responsible Recycling Task Force's plan for Action 3A that will be shared with SWAC in August. They also heard an update on the organics summits and mattress recycling pilot.

### **Multifamily Recycling**

Jenna McInnis, Recycling Coordinator for the City of Kirkland [presented](#) on using code to increase multifamily recycling in Kirkland.

Multifamily recycling diversion in Kirkland lags behind single family. There are barriers to multifamily recycling including convenience, language barriers, and property layout. A 2014 survey of properties in Kirkland demonstrated that over half weren't reaching their potential recycling capacity. Kirkland has developed a toolkit of strategies (shown on slide) that can be tailored and deployed according to each property's needs. In addition to the strategies, the city code was modified to require, rather than encourage, onsite recycling that is at least equal to the capacity for garbage, has proper labelling, is co-located when possible, and dumpsters are preferred over carts. The code change is not actively enforced but is referenced while conducting outreach to help optimize service. For new properties, development engineers work with program staff to ensure enough space is allocated for garbage and recycling containers plus compost. Not every property reaches capacity, but the toolkit helps get people closer. Code alone is not enough. Code is most effective when paired with education and other strategies. Properties in Kirkland have unlimited access to recycling, but not composting. There is a food waste composting program available for multifamily at no cost to qualified properties. They must have the property manager on board, be recycling well, and have a certain number of units. It's not the right fit for every property. There are also two community drop-off collections for food waste. It has worked well for residents that are motivated and the community drop-offs have low rates of contamination. Access and equity of service can be improved with little things.

Dammann asked if the King County health department had any concerns about the food drop-offs. McInnis responded they didn't.

Strader asked when the code changes went into effect. McInnis responded that it was changed in 2015-2016, but outreach wasn't increased until 2016-17.

Marshall asked if drivers provide input on how property container cubbies are resized. Most cubbies are tight for drivers, especially when dumpsters are situated side-by-side. McInnis answered that they do value driver input and seek it out. Changes are made according to preapproved plans from Waste Management and new developments need Waste Management approval.

Marshall asked about the contamination rate when bins are situated side-by-side. McInnis responded that she has observed recycling has high levels of contamination when garbage and recycling containers are located far apart because people are more likely to use the recycling bin for trash disposal. Part of the strategy for improving property capacity is ensuring the garbage containers are the correct size. If the garbage is too full, people tend to add more contaminants into the recycling bin.

Marshall suggested that multifamily properties have an extra pickup for garbage at the end of the month for move-outs and an extra pickup for recycling at the beginning of the month for move-ins. McInnis responded that while the current presentation only addresses code, Kirkland has other pilots that directly address the trends in extra materials.

Elly asked if the code had language around shoots. McInnis responded that the code states properties need both a shoot for garbage and one for recycling as well as a compost cart. They're looking into eliminating diverter shoots as research has shown they don't reduce contamination. We also interested in changing the color of our garbage bins from green to black. At the moment the expense is prohibitive and it would confuse messaging if all the bins were not updated at the same time.

Kassover asked if the issues drivers face in navigating properties and doing pickups is effectively communicated out to partners. McInnis responded that when any big service change is made they work with the route supervisors and have good relationships with route managers. Changes won't be successful if they don't work for drivers. She also gleaned a lot of information from doing ride-alongs with drivers.

Dammann commented that Waste Connections started to transition their bin colors by changing just the lid color.

### **Mattress Recycling**

Kerwin Pyle presented an update on the Mattress Recycling [pilot](#).

In June 2017 SWD started a mattress collection program to increase recycling opportunities for King County residents. At the time, it was estimated that mattresses made up between 1200 to 2000 tons of our waste stream. SWD "piggybacked" on the City of Tacoma's mattress recycling contract with Spring Back Mattress Recycling in June 2017.

There are three primary recyclers in the area. Each of these recyclers charge customers drop off fees and all claim to recycle up to 99 percent of the materials collected. We put out an RFP and now work with the DTG Recycling Group.

When mattresses get to the facility, inspectors check for infestation and dismantle the mattress into the individual components. That largest component collected from mattresses is metal, second is wood or sometimes foam. There is lots of variability in the number of mattresses collected each month at Bow Lake. Data from 2017 and 2018 show that surges tend to take place in January through March and July through September. On average, we haul 2.5 loads each month, or about 5 tons. The cost to us per unit is \$16.

Ristau asked if the companies receiving the materials are also local. Pyle responded that it's typically a brokerage that resells the materials and we don't know where the materials end up.

Casalini stressed that it's important for the county to know where the stuff goes and asked where the residuals end up. Pyle responded that residuals come back to Bow Lake to be landfilled.

Dammann asked if big mattress sellers are required to recycle old mattresses. Pyle responded that it is not mandated. Sometimes a large vendor will bring a load to the landfill. When that happens, we try to connect the vendor with recycling alternatives. Those shipments don't happen very frequently.

Marshall asked if the RFP is open to the public and how long the contract term is. Pyle responded that it's open for renewal every 2 years with an option to extend and it is open to the public through the county's procurement website.

Dawson asked if SWD has physically audited the company's facilities to see where materials were going. Pyle responded that they've taken a tour of DTG. We don't currently know where the materials are sent but will investigate obtaining that information.

Steiner asked if legislation is in the works for a manufacturing stewardship program similar to the one for tires. Pyle responded that transfer station mattress collection is viewed by SWD as an interim step to a legislated statewide mattress product stewardship system. Oregon came close to passing one in 2019 similar to the ones that exist in Connecticut, California, and Rhode Island. In 2018, the Mattress Recycling Council in California collected 1.4 million units.

Next steps in 2019 are to expand the pilot to Enumclaw and Shoreline. We're experimenting with better collection and transportation methods as not every transfer station has a loading dock. One of the reasons for the pilot was to determine cost. Right now, the customers are paying the minimum fee of \$25 to dispose of mattresses at Bow Lake. If a mattress is heavily soiled or wet, it's not recyclable.

Kassover asked when she can tell her city to begin taking mattresses to Shoreline. Pyle said he would follow up as soon as the pilot is ready.

Marshall asked how many mattresses come back. Pyle responded that less than 4 percent by number of individual units.

Strader asked what percentage of the mattresses received go to the recycler? We have the waste characterization study that tells us the small impact, but not an exact number.

### **Haz Waste**

Representatives from the [Hazardous Waste Management Program](#) presented a program update.

Joy Carpine-Cazzanti, Government Relations provided a refresher of the program structure and history. The Hazardous Waste Management Program has been around since 1990. Cities in King County at that time decided to form one collaborative program. The jurisdictional scope means it's authorized under the King County Board of Health (BOH). It is also authorized by the State Department of Ecology. The multi-agency operation partners with Public Health Seattle and King County, the Sound Cities Association, Seattle Public Utilities, King County Solid Waste, and King County Water and Land Resources. Haz Waste staff are embedded across four different agencies that operate under a unified workplan.

Kassover asked if the program handles many spills on county roads. Gaisford responded that such spills are beyond the program's scope. Those spills are handled by DOT or Ecology.

Michell Mouton, Communications Manager talked about the new program brand. The program does its best to stay responsive to community needs by providing relevant services to a changing population within a changing industry. The community service area is large and diverse, and communities of color often experience higher rates of exposure to hazardous waste and are historically underserved. We are working with community groups to get input on how to best meet their needs. We began working on a more transformative way of achieving our goals. Our Racial Equity Plan is directly implementable for our services as well as areas such as our operating standards, strategic planning, and hiring process. With community feedback, the program updated the brand, improved materials, and is set to launch a new website this fall.

During the Spring, the program launched a campaign, Guilt Free KC, to build awareness around collection services. We also created a campaign site for people to easily access and understand what products in their home are considered hazardous waste. We'll be doing more campaigns on an annual basis.

Vicky Beaumont, Operations Manager provided an overview of the upcoming Comp Plan update. The process required by Ecology is similar to the process for updating the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan. The primary difference is local approval is granted by the BOH instead of King County Council. We're in the early stages right now and will have a more complete schedule when we deliberate on our scope of work. We're currently soliciting consultant proposals and anticipate the consultants will be onboard by August.

Carpine-Cazzanti added that the program offers grants to cities and tribal partners based on population for collection events or Hazardous Waste education. We also send the waste mobile around King County to provide access to people not close to one of our fixed facilities. If you want one of our brochures on collection events and the waste mobile, let us know. We also just kicked-off a workgroup of city and county staff for better collaboration and communication.

Bunzendahl asked how the waste mobile gets scheduled. Gaisford responded there's an annual schedule based on areas where the program doesn't have a facility and population. We work with cities to get the word out.

Kassover asked if the program works with the healthcare sector and local government on hazardous waste mitigation. Beaumont clarified that the program only deals with moderate risk waste in terms of quantity. Only businesses considered small quantity generators are clients because they produce waste up to a certain level. Hospitals, for example, would not qualify. It's all state regulated.

Dawson asked if the Green Schools program could incorporate using natural cleaners as part of the program and if the home kits being passed around could be made available to students with asthma through their primary care provider. Beaumont responded part of the comp plan update is better understanding the greatest threats facing the people we serve. Depending on what the results show, our current strategies for outreach and education could change. In the meantime, we're partnering with nonprofits to reach more people. We do a lot of education and outreach through a partnership with SPU, including a garden hotline for pesticide information.

Dammann commented that he appreciated the Round UP pamphlet put out by King County last year as it made it easier to talk with community hardware stores to change their practices around carrying the product. Gaisford requested that the pamphlet be sent to him so he could distribute to the group.

Kassover asked if hearing aid batteries are something the program collects. Gaisford responded they are.

### **Member Comment**

Waller reported that county IT staff are working on solving the log-in issues that members have been having. The problem should be resolved within the next few weeks. The Executive's office has submitted 3 people to join the SWAC committee and two others are being processed. There are still two open positions for the Cedar Hills neighbor spot and the Agriculture representative without any applicants.

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 11:28am.