

Hazardous Waste Rate Increase

Beginning January 1, 2020, the rate for moderate risk waste disposal services will increase throughout the county. In 2018 the King County Board of Health approved a multi-year adjustment to hazardous waste fees, with fees increasing 5.4 percent annually from 2019-22. The surcharge will increase from \$1.91 to \$2.01 for the minimum fee and from \$4.99 to \$5.25 for the per ton fee.

December MSWAC

The SWAC meeting on December 13 will take place from 9:30am to 2:00pm and will be a combined event with MSWAC and the Seattle advisory committees. The meeting will focus on the work of the Responsible Recycling Task Force.

Ardaugh Group's Glass Recycling Plant

Ardagh's plant receives glass from MRFs and produces new wine and beer bottles. There have been concerns about their regulatory compliance over the past few years regarding air emissions and stormwater runoff. The plant is located within a neighborhood that has a large population of people of color who are directed impacted by the pollution. Our Facilities Management Division (FMD) is the lead on renewing the lease and they will make the recommendation to King County Council. We've been in conversation with FMD to help them understand the significance of the plant for our regional recycling system. The lease ends in 2021 and the county is currently in negotiations.

Plastic Bag Press Event

The Responsible Recycling Task Force hosted their first media event on Thursday recommending plastic bags and film not be put in curbside recycling. This is the first effort for getting the message out. We'll be bringing you more of the messages intended to go out early next year. It's important to get the message out more than once because each media outlet interpreted our messaging slightly differently.

Marshall asked for an update on the Northeast Regional Transfer Station. Sweet answered that SWD met with the core cities—Sammamish, Kirkland, Woodinville, and Redmond. The meeting was to define the overall process for siting the facility. We're looking at the process for siting Algona and finding ways to streamline it. The next meeting will be on November 12. Cities will be able to provide feedback on the siting advisory committee. Marshall noted that there's a study from 2000 with a list of suitable properties. Waller added that the study is being looked at.

Livingston requested that King County monitor and keep the committee informed on Sound Transit's extension into Federal Way because they are considering building on the Midway closed landfill. He raised the concern that the costs of mitigating the closed landfill might not be fully understood.

Trim requested that representatives from Ardaugh Glass be invited to present to SWAC for the committee to better understand the issue and make a recommendation. Kassover and Marshall echoed Trim's request, adding that the loss of the glass plant would have a huge impact on the regional recycling industry and reduce union jobs. SWAC needs to provide King County Council with information on the rarity of these recycling plants.

Kelly asked Waller to reach out to the company to arrange a presentation. Sweet recommended Ecology be involved for the committee to better understand the environmental investigations. Dawson added that the community organizers should also be invited to provide their perspective.

Ristau asked if there are places for the public to take plastic bags. Gaisford answered that SWD has been working with the American Chemistry Council (ACC) that runs the bag take-back programs. The recommendation has motivated them to increase the number of stores with take-back capacity. Once the material is collected, it's primarily being sent to Trex.

Trim asked if the King County transfer stations will have take-back stations and expressed concern that stores will be overwhelmed by supply. Gaisford answered that two transfer stations do, Bow Lake and Shoreline, but it is preferable people take their plastics to retail locations because it's expensive for King County to recycle it. The same company that collects Styrofoam from King County picks up plastic from the transfer stations. More details can be shared at the next SWAC meeting on the process. SWD is in close conversations with the ACC to address issues with the take-back locations. Ristau added that it's easier for most customers to take their bags to a store than a transfer station.

Trim noted that Zero Waste Washington is releasing a report on the state of recycling in Washington with the most up-to-date information on curbside material collection by jurisdiction available. Once the report is out, they anticipate updates will need to be made. She will share the report with the committee when available.

MSWAC

Sweet reported that MSWAC followed the same agenda.

Responsible Recycling Task Force

John Walsh presented on the Responsible Recycling Task Force's (RRTF) plan for Action 3A, harmonizing curbside materials. ([LINK](#))

Walsh provided a recap of the process and reasoning behind building a best practices list that was presented during the August SWAC meeting.

Livingston noted that each change to the list has potential to create confusion for the public and asked how resilient the list is anticipated to be. Gaisford responded that SWAC and MSWAC will get to help decide that. Sweet noted that some messiness is likely to happen as part of the process, but responsiveness to our changing world is critical.

Trim asked for clarification on what the process is when specific cities do not want to follow the guidelines. Gaisford responded that both advisory groups shape what is recommended and last year both agreed that removing plastic bags and film is needed. The removal is only a recommendation, not a ban. Practically speaking, cities will continue to have their contracts directly with the hauler and we can't force them do anything they don't want to do.

Walsh added that we're communicating to the public not to put plastic bags and film in their recycling bins, even while the contracts still stand. The opportunity to address contract is further down the line.

Kassover noted that the MSWAC committee provides great representation from about thirty cities and the plastic bags removal has been comprehensively discussed over the last year. It's a robust process. If cities were not onboard with the recommendation, the committee would know it.

Welker added that the King County Climate Collaborative is also onboard and there's a lot of momentum to move in this direction. Dawson noted as a processor, the effort to address contamination upstream is appreciated and King County has done a good job engaging all stakeholders.

Trim recommended adding a step to the process for cities to have more flexibility. Kelly responded that MSWAC's weigh-in incorporates the city perspective into the process.

The committee unanimously voted to approve the process, criteria, and inclusion of the green bin in the process.

Walsh provided a recap on the shredded paper criteria presented at the September MSWAC meeting and posed the question whether putting shredded paper in the green bin on the "Not Acceptable" list should be approved.

Atwood displayed a screenshot from one of King County's Facebook accounts of a post that stated shredded paper should be put in the garbage. Gaisford noted that they would investigate getting the post removed. It should not have been posted.

Dammann asked if there are models that have successfully removed plastic from the shredded paper. Dawson clarified that most commercial employers get shredded paper picked up directly from a paper processor and only the City of Seattle currently has shredd listed on their acceptable list for residents.

Gaisford clarified that the process will be for residential containers only. Dammann noted that limiting the process to residential muddles the uniformity of the communications to the public.

Trim noted that shredded paper should not go to a compost facility because of the toxins in the inks.

The committee voted to approve putting shredded paper in the green bin on the "not acceptable" list with one vote no.

Equity and Social Justice

Alejandra Calderon presented on King County's Equity and Social Justice (ESJ) commitments ([Link](#))

King County is prioritizing racial justice to confront the historical racial inequities that continue to exist in our community and our organization. SWAC is responsible for advancing King County's ESJ vision, which includes: being inclusive and collaborative; diverse and people focused; responsive and adaptive; transparent and accountable; racially just; focused upstream and where needs are greatest. Some of SWAC's work addresses specific community ESJ needs such as the Cleanup LIFT program, equitable transfer station services, community-focuses recycling programs, waste prevention programs, and community litter cleanup. Our policies and practices can further inequality whether intentional or not. It's up to us to ensure our system is building equity for all people to thrive. Quality of life indicators demonstrate that communities of color are less likely to have access to equitable opportunities.

King County has been explicitly focusing on ESJ since 2006. In 2008, the ESJ initiative began but work did not start in earnest until 2010 when the ESJ Ordinance was created. In 2016, the Office of Equity and Social Justice was established and produced a 6 year strategic plan with 6 areas of governance. The plan prioritizes efforts on upstream policies, practices, and systems to ensure ESJ is being incorporated from the start. The Solid Waste Division recently put together our own ESJ Strategic Plan that is supported by the ESJ committee and all staff. Part of the plan is to have quarterly discussions and trainings on ESJ at SWAC meetings. The discussions will center around community engagement practices, organizational hiring practices, organizational culture, and illegal dumping.

Waller asked the room to reflect on examples of inequity in their lives and work and what can be done to address it. He noted that the committee must do their part address the lack of diversity represented by SWAC by assisting with the recruitment of new members.

Trim requested maps displaying illegal dumping sites overlaid with their proximity to transfer stations, air pollution, and the socioeconomics of the community. Calderon responded that SWD has maps with that info that could be shared. South Park gets quite a lot of illegal dumping despite its proximity to a transfer station.

Kassover commented that she was glad to see translation as an ESJ priority in order to better serve King County's refugee and immigrant communities. Calderon added that SWD has several great outreach programs, such as Recicla Mas, that brings education direct to communities.

Dawson commented that Cedar Grove has found paying for training and employee's time to upskill has helped their organization address systemic equity barriers. She requested King County consider how to make future community landfill meetings and townhalls more equitable because in the past the loudest voices in the room prevented others from participating in the discussion.

Calderon noted that SWD is currently piloting a program for employees to obtain a Commercial Driver's License in order to gain access to some of the highest paid positions in SWD operations.

Dammann requested that the SWAC quarterly reports include graphics displaying progress being made in providing community services. Calderon noted that part of the ESJ strategic plan includes graphs that demonstrate how SCRTS is expanding our community service area.

Ristau asked for specifics on what efforts have been made to diversify SWAC membership. Waller responded that he's been directly engaging with higher education, cities, unions, community organizations, and various affinity groups for people of color. People need to be able to commit the time to participate. In order to create change, it's going to take a group effort in producing more candidates.

Marshall noted that they have an apprenticeship program for truck drivers and heavy haulers that could be a good partnership opportunity for SWD.

Member Comment

The committee acknowledged Livingston and Bunzendahl's last meeting and thanked them for the work they put in for SWAC.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am