Encampment Trash Program
RV Remediation Pilot
Customer Review Panel
February 26, 2020
Keeping Seattle clean is an essential element of a safe and vibrant community. Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) has several programs to clean up or reduce litter and debris. These services have expanded as needs have evolved.

All Clean City programs are funded through Seattle’s General Fund. In 2020, about $10.5 million was budgeted for these efforts. Approximately 8% of Clean City budget is allocated for unsheltered services.
Encampment Trash Program

**Goal:** to deliver effective service options for garbage collection at unsanctioned homeless encampments (UHEs).

SPU selects UHEs to service, based on:

- Safe traffic & pedestrian conditions
- Safe conditions for encampment residents
- Safe conditions for outreach
- Trash collection location at least 20 ft away
- Site not immediately scheduled for removal
Activities in each UHE include:

- Disposal of garbage in designated collection areas
- Disposal of bulky items encountered
- Disposal of hazardous materials encountered
- Coordination with local outreach non-profit groups
- Distribution of authorized (purple) bags
- On-call trash pick-up for items 20ft from active camp
2019 Annual Highlights

- Continually service 10 UHEs city-wide
- Redesigned bags
- Contract agreement for outreach
## 2019 Encampment Trash Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>3 Yr Cumulative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Garbage Collected</td>
<td>238,000</td>
<td>490,640</td>
<td>263,439</td>
<td>992,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People contacted</td>
<td>587</td>
<td>4,695</td>
<td>3,478</td>
<td>8,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bags Distributed</td>
<td>7,800</td>
<td>25,731</td>
<td>33,944</td>
<td>67,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bags collected</td>
<td>2,506</td>
<td>4,180</td>
<td>3,628</td>
<td>10,121 (15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharps Collected</td>
<td>10,809</td>
<td>21,147</td>
<td></td>
<td>31,956</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Garbage Collected
- 2017: 238,000
- 2018: 490,640
- 2019: 263,439 (46% decrease)
- 3 Yr Cumulative: 992,079

### People reached
- 2017: 587
- 2018: 4,695 (26% increase)
- 2019: 3,478
- 3 Yr Cumulative: 8,760

### Bags distributed
- 2017: 7,800
- 2018: 25,731 (32% increase)
- 2019: 33,944
- 3 Yr Cumulative: 67,475

### Bags collected
- 2017: 2,506
- 2018: 4,180 (13% increase)
- 2019: 3,628
- 3 Yr Cumulative: 10,121 (15%)
Next Steps

• Exploring paying homeless individuals to collect and dispose garbage.
• Expand existing consultant contracts with non-profit outreach providers.
• Expand garbage collection to service 10-20 sites at any given time.
• Continue exploring options for improved sharps collection in UHEs.
RV Remediation Pilot

**Goal:** to allow for safe clean-up of areas with problematic RVs and vehicles in the City right-of-way (ROW).

An inter-departmental team selects RV hot spots to clean, based on:

- Health Risks
- Safety Risks
- Occupancy
Inter-Departmental Team (IDT)

- **Seattle Public Utilities**
  - Illegal Dumping
  - Spill Response & RV pump out pilot

- **Seattle Police Department**
  - Community Police Team (CPT-Patrol)
  - Parking Enforcement (Traffic)

- **Human Service Department**
  - Navigation Team
  - System Navigators

- **Finance and Administrative Services**
  - Junk vehicle affidavits
  - Seattle Animal Shelter

- **Parks & Recreation Department**
- **Seattle Department of Transportation**

External Partners

- **Outreach Non-profits**
  - Salvation Army
  - Union Gospel Mission
  - YouthCare
  - REACH
  - Hepatitis Education Project

- **BIA’s**

- **Lincoln Towing**

- **Burlington Northern**
In 2019, the RV Team collected **387,495** pounds of litter and spent a total of **191** hours cleaning. Crews also completed **12** “scrapes” on RVs/vehicles posing an immediate hazard (fire and/or structural damage).

In 2019, **1,512** (93%) of all RVs/vehicles encountered left voluntarily. Only **116** (7%) RVs/vehicles did not move and were towed or junked.
Next Steps

- Integrate non-profit outreach providers into the RV Protocol.
- Potential Expansion of the number of pilot sites serviced.
- Update data tracking and monitoring on SharePoint site.
- Integrate long-range planning capacity into RV Remediation Protocols.
- Explore pressure washing in clean up activities.
- Continue collaboration with SPU’s RV pump out pilot
RV Wastewater Pilot
RV Spill Incidents on the Rise

RV Response Trend
(spill and complaint response and scheduled clean up sites)

Number of Incidents

Year

Mission:

To ensure that every resident of the City of Seattle, regardless of housing status, has a safe and clean means for disposal of human waste.
Human Centered Approach

- Distribute services by leveraging existing Outreach community.
- SPU providing a new tool for a familiar face.

Community Outreach Partnerships:
- Sodo BIA
- REACH
- St. Vincent DePaul
- Navigation Team
RV Wastewater Pilot

- Utilize Private Vendors to pump out blackwater
- Not a controlled study
RV Mobile Pump Outs

• 14 RV tanks pumped out of 20 service attempts.
• Failure due to clogged plumbing
• 2 RV Dwellers admitted illegally dumping waste in recent past
• Estimate 700 gallons of waste collected
Cost vs Budget

Pilot Program supported by General Fund Allocation of $180,000 for 2020

• Vendor costs average $150/RV
• Pilot Goal to capture 10% of theoretical waste load.
• Significant uncertainty in level of need to service entire community:
  • # of RV’s with tanks?
  • Rate to fill at tank?
  • Latent demand?
Future Plans

Permanent RV Dump Station Options Analysis in Progress

Potential for Homeless response required in City NPDES stormwater permit issued by State in 2024
Thank you.
Questions?