



SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

August 4, 2021 Meeting Notes
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Remote via Webex

*Co-Chair: Dirk Wassink
Co-Chair: Nico Onoda-McGuire*

Committee Members	Present?	SPU Staff & Guests	Role
Kelsie Blanthorn – last meeting	Yes	Sego Jackson	Solid Waste LOB Policy Liaison
Rachtha Dahn – last meeting	Yes	Jemini Davis	Solid Waste Administrative Support
Joel Dashnaw	Yes	Jeff Fowler	Solid Waste LOB Director
Brie Kuhn	Yes	Susan Fife-Ferris	Solid Waste PPM Division Director
Adam Maurer	Yes	Katie Lynd	SPU Community Affairs Liaison
Dirk Wassink, Co-Chair	Yes	Stephanie Schwenger	Solid & Hazardous Waste Lead Planner
Adrian Tan	Yes	Diana Wadley	Guest - Department of Ecology
Hannah Scholes	Yes	Heather Trim	Guest – Zero Waste Washington
Celine Fujikawa	Yes	Andy Smith	Guest – King County
Ming-Ming Tung Edelman	Yes	Julie Sanduski	Guest – Juliesanduski@gmail.com
Sophia Ahn	Yes		
Rina Fa'amoe-Cross	Yes		
Danny Barksdale	Yes		
Nico Onoda-McGuire, Co-Chair	No		
Alessandra Pistoia	No		

1. Welcome & Introductions

- SWAC Co-Chair, Dirk Wassink called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM.
- Members and guests introduced themselves. Prompted by the SWAC chair, they each shared their name and the area they live in.
- This will be the last meeting for Kelsie and Rachtha. SWAC alumni are welcome to attend future SWAC meetings
- June meeting minutes were approved by SWAC members in attendance.

2. Getting to Know You Breakouts

SWAC members, guests and staff were placed into breakout rooms for icebreakers to get to know each other.

3. SPU's Solid Waste Framework

- Jeff Fowler shared a presentation which highlighted our four focus areas: Delivering Equitable Essential Services, Stewarding Environment and Health, Empower Our Customers, Community, and Employees, Strengthening Our Utility's Business Practices

- **A SWAC member asked** "In the Metrics box (Focus Area: Empowering Our Customers, community, and Employees), does the customer satisfaction rating come from the commercial customer survey?"
- **A SWAC member asked,** "Are there plans to develop metrics for a few of the strategies & actions that don't have metrics associated with them currently like the action to explore innovative ways to collect/managed difficult materials and the action to enforce all solid waste codes equitably?"
- **A SWAC member asked,** "Is there already available data for the listed metrics?"
- **A SWAC member asked,** "How were the metrics numbers determined?"
- Jeff Fowler confirmed to the SWAC that these questions were being captured by Jemini. Jeff will work with Solid Waste staff to provide updates on each question.
- SWAC members were placed into breakout discussions to discuss the presentation. Guests were invited to observe the discussions.

4. 2020 Waste Prevention & Recycling Report

- Stephanie Schwenger shared a 2020 Waste Prevention & Recycling Report Presentation which shared the preliminary results for waste generation, recycling and composting, and disposal tonnage in 2020.
 - **A SWAC member asked,** "Is C&D considered a divert in this report?"
 - Stephanie responded: Yes, it is.
 - **A SWAC member asked,** "Do you have a sense whether the numbers in this report will drive things up or down?"
 - Stephanie responded: We think it will drive things up if we can confirm the numbers that were reported are for Seattle only
 - **A SWAC member asked,** "Between single-use plastic carryout bags, paper carryout bags, thick reusable plastic carryout bags and green or brown compostable bags, is there a particular one the city advocates for?"
 - Seago responded: We would support bringing your own bag as the number one option
 - **A SWAC member asked,** "Did SPU do anything differently this year to get high numbers from commercial companies reporting?"
 - Stephanie responded: Yes, we partnered up with Finance and Administrative Services since they can enforce fines for non-compliance.

5. Around the Table & Community Insights

- Meeting follow-up survey will be sent to SWAC members on 8/5. Presentation will be included.
- Orientation event invite will be sent to all SWAC members. It is not required but is strongly encouraged
- North Seattle College will be hiring a solid waste position, contact Adam for more details.
- Waste Management partners with SPU for waste reduction grants. If interested, apply by 8/13/21, and contact Hannah for more details.
- Seattle Farmers Market is partnering with Refugee and Immigrant Woman to foster an inclusive, prosperous transition to the US through artisan skills training and small batch manufacturing. For more details, please visit www.refugeesarts.org or contact Ming-Ming for more details.

6. Adjourned 7:30 p.m.