



SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

June 2, 2021 Meeting Notes
Webex
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

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

Committee Members	Present?	SPU Staff & Guests	Role
Kelsie Blanthorn	Yes	Sego Jackson	Solid Waste LOB Policy Liaison
Rachtha Dahn	Yes	Jemini Davis	Solid Waste Administrative Support
Joel Dashnaw	Yes	Susan Fife-Ferris	Solid Waste Planning & Program Management Division Director
Brie Kuhn	Yes	Katie Lynd	Community Affairs Liaison
Adam Maurer	Yes	Pat Kaufman	Recycle/Compost Commercial Program Manager
Nico Onoda-McGuire	Yes	Eric Gagnon	Guest – Department of Ecology
Alessandra Pistoia	No	Carolyn Bowie	Guest - Department of Ecology
Dirk Wassink	Yes	Shannon Jones	Guest – Department of Ecology
		Diana Wadley	Guest - Department of Ecology
		Heather Trim	Guest – Zero Waste Washington
		Hannah Scholes	Guest – Waste Management Outreach Team

1. Regular Business

- SWAC Co-Chair, Dirk Wassink called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.
- Members and guests introduced themselves. Prompted by the SWAC chair, they each shared their name and their ideal weather temperature.
- May meeting minutes were approved by SWAC members in attendance.

2. Solid Waste LOB Updates

Socorro Medina led a presentation on how to improve the quality of the traditional recyclables

- Surveys
 - The Commercial Customer Satisfaction Survey will start being fielded on 6/4. Reminder emails will be sent to SPU’s contact list on 6/11, and follow-up calls in-language will be targeted to minority businesses if there is a low response rate.
 - The survey will run through 6/25 and a summary should be available around 7/9
 - This survey is a requirement of our Solid Waste Collection Contract, to occur every-other-year – asked for methodology for selection of Commercial customers being surveyed
 - Can be received from Angela/Cascadia
- Reuse Systems Research
 - UW Evans School Research Team has written a great report on Reuse Systems and next steps for Seattle to reduce single-use plastics. It includes criteria that SPU can use evaluation and rank systems and possibly use by the broader reuse community.

- This will be available soon for those outside SPU to access.
- Director's Rule re: Single-use Packaging
 - SPU currently has the proposed revisions to Director's Rule SW-500, Temporary Exceptions to Food Service Ware and Packaging Products, out for public review and comment
 - The Director's Rule is used to provide temporary waivers from the requirement that all single-use, food-service ware be either compostable or recyclable for select products, and these waivers expire annually if not renewed
- This revision renews for an additional year the waivers that expire on June 30, 2021. In addition:
 - Requires compliance with state laws passed in 2020 and 2021.
 - Food-service businesses that use items listed under Temporary Waivers must post a notice and identify items as non-compostable and non-recyclable.
 - The full text of the proposed revision is available at www.seattle.gov/utilities/documents/rules-and-policies
- Food Rescue 10-Day Count at Grocery Stores Pilot
 - Recently conducted a 10-day food composition study at the loading docks of numerous Safeway and PCC grocery stores in Seattle. The goal is to gather data to help with future assistance and allocation of resources. Our hope is to decrease food going to garbage and edible food going to compost, as well as decrease contamination from packaging and identify unaccounted waste. During the pilot, the consultant:
 - Measured and graded quality of surplus food being donated.
 - Quantified contamination across composting, recycling, and waste streams.
 - Assessed stores' dockside operations and interviewed staff for areas of improvement.
 - Quantified costs of storage, transportation, and labor.
 - The participating grocery stores want to understand how to improve their food donation operations for better community outcomes. The participating food banks and meal programs (12 of them) that collect the food from the grocery stores, represent a diverse group of clients (geographically, culturally, demographically, housed/unhoused) and hopefully, will benefit from improved donation programs.
- 2021 Bag Ban Report
 - The report is completed and will be transmitted to Council by 7/1

3. Bag Ban & Report Update

- Statewide ban delayed by proclamation
 - Senate Concurrent Resolution 8402
 - Effective until end of COVID-19 State of Emergency
 - 6 months of outreach and tiered warnings over 6 months once implemented before any enforcement through fines. Goal is to gain compliance through process, not enforce through fines.
- Review of Law

- Busy over the last month developing our 2022 Budget Proposal, which will be reviewed and finalized by E-team, before sending to the MO for review and approval.
- Prohibits single use plastic carryout bags
- Requires 8 cent charge for all retail provided bags
- Requires 40% post-consumer recycled content or non-wood renewable fiber in large paper bags
- Requires 20% post-consumer content in 2.25 mil plastic bags
- Applies to restaurants, farmers markets, retail stores, grocers, convenience stores, etc.
- Not Included in the Ban
 - Bags used in store for bulk items
 - Green or brown compostable bags used in store*
 - Newspaper/dry cleaning/door hanger bags
 - Bags sold in packages containing multiple bags (garbage, pet waste)
 - Bags used to wrap items for sanitation or safety purposes
- Outreach Toolkit
 - Staff is working on improving MF and UDP customer access to special item collection currently and will be reviewing other potential SPU enhancements later in year
 - Designed with SPU and stakeholder input
 - Available in 17 languages
 - Downloadable and customizable
- SPU Bag Ban Outreach Plan
 - Direct mail
 - Website
 - Site visits
 - Free outreach materials
 - Ecology's enforcement strategy
- Potential to Expand Outreach for Recent Legislation
 - SHB 1145
 - Website
 - Non-wood renewable fiber
 - Amends bag ban law
 - 5022
 - Bans certain expanded polystyrene products
 - Customer request for food service-ware

4. SWAC Recruitment

- Updates from May presentation
 - Adopted and posted new SWAC Charter

- Launched SWAC Recruitment on May 15
- Developed Recruitment Timeline
- Recruitment Updates
 - 38 applications received
 - SWLOB, CA, and DON provided 1:1 outreach out to over 40 organizations
- Cohort Appointment
 - Adjust appointments to August 2022
 - New appointment letters in June
 - New document to sign: Member agreement, Photo release, and Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- Application Review Committee
 - Each applicant will be reviewed by 2 persons
 - Demographic information and names will be wiped
 - About 2 weeks to review 8-10 applications
 - About a 4-hour commitment
 - Committee members:
 - Sego, Katie, Sam (EJSE), Adam, Dirk, Nico
- Interview Committee
 - We will offer 8-10 interviews for 6 positions
 - Interviews will be 20-30 minutes long
 - There will be two groups for interviews, each group interviewing 4-5 applicants
 - About a 5-6-hour commitment
 - Committee members:
 - Sego, Katie, Sally (BET), BrieO, Joel, Nico
- What's Next?
 - We will offer 8-10 interviews for 6 positions
 - Proposed candidates will be sent to the SWLOB Director by July 16
 - Jeff will send on candidates for appointment to GM Office by July 21
 - Offers will be made to applicants by July 23
 - Appointments letters drafted and signed by July 30
 - 6 New SWAC members will join us on August 4

5. SWAC Chat

- SWAC voted to discuss reuse innovation in Seattle during breakout groups

6. Around the Table & Community Insights

- No SWAC meeting in July
- Open position in Seattle Housing Authority for Environmental Stewardship Sustainability Analyst position

Adjourned 7:00 p.m.