# **SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)**



April 6, 2022 Meeting Notes Webex 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

> Chair: Joel Dashnaw Co-Chair: Brie Kuhn

Committee Members	Present?	SPU Staff /Guest	Role
Danny Barksdale	Yes	Sheryl Anayas	SPU – Senior Program Manager, CPT
Joel Dashnaw	Yes	Jemini Davis	SPU – Solid Waste Administrative Support
Rina Fa'amoe-Cross	Yes	Pat Kaufman	SPU – Commercial Recycling Manager
Celine Fujikawa	Yes	Katie Lynd	SPU – SWAC Program Coordinator
Brie Kuhn	Yes	Socorro Medina	SPU – Recycling & Composting Program
			Manager
Nico Onoda-McGuire	No	Carolyn Bowie	Guest – Department of Ecology
Alessandra Pistoia	Yes	Katie Swanson	Guest – Tilth
Hannah Scholes	Yes	Heather Trim	Guest – Zero Waste WA
Adrian Tan	Yes	Diana Wadley	Guest – Department of Ecology
Ming-Ming Tung Edelman	Yes		
Dirk Wassink	Yes		

## 1. Welcome & Introductions

- SWAC Co-Chair, Brie Kuhn, called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM
- Members and guests introduced themselves. Prompted by the SWAC co-chair, they each shared their name, affiliation, and what they feel is the first sign of spring.
- March meeting minutes were approved by SWAC members in attendance

#### 2. Comments on SWLOB Updates for SWAC

SWAC members individually viewed the updates from the SWLOB

- A SWAC member asked, "Is there a timeline available for the deliverables proposed by the Community Partnerships Team?"
- A SWAC member asked, "Will results of the waste composition study at South Transfer Station be available for SWAC to review?"

These questions were recorded by SPU staff. We will follow-up with SWAC to provide answers.

# 3. Love Food Stop Waste Digital Campaign

Sheryl Anayas gave an overview on the waste prevention program she manages.

- Campaign was started to explore tactics beyond in-person outreach
- Roughly 30% of Seattle's landfill-bound waste is food waste
- Overall campaign goal is to encourage residential households and individuals in the City of Seattle to reduce food waste at home
- LFSW resources are available on our website and translated in up to 11 languages

#### Next steps

- Expand launch of Campaign #2
- Work with more local ethnic media channels
- Continue to collect feedback & review data
- Continued work in digital space
- A SWAC member asked, "How did SPU determine which non-English communities to target in this campaign?"
- A SPU member responded, "We used data from the US Census Bureau to identify communities within Seattle."
- A SWAC member asked, "Does SPU have a way to really measure food waste?"
- A SPU member responded, "It is difficult to do, but yes. We are able to utilize the data from the waste composition study that is completed every few years."
- A SPU member commented, "A recent waste study showed that about 14% of food in garbage was identified as edible."
- A SWAC member asked, "Do you have a breakdown of which food groups are wasted more?"
- A SPU member responded, "There will be further categorization in the future that will give us more details."

# 4. Multifamily Recycling & Outreach

Socorro Medina provided an overview on SPU's efforts to provide residents with information to improve recycling

# • Seattle's Multifamily Sector

- o 6,500 buildings
- o 200,000 households
- o 280,000 residents
- 36% of total population

#### Goals

- o Increase participation in food scraps collection
- Decrease contamination in compost and recycle

### Output & Outcomes

 Since 2016, 1610 properties and 208,649 have benefited from technical assistances offered by SPU

# Opportunities & Future Goals

- Nearly 60% of the materials are recyclable/compostable
- o Increase participation in recycling and reduce plastic bag contamination
- Collaborate with Solid Waste Development Review Specialists to ensure that future buildings have easy access to recycle/compost
- A SWAC member asked, "Is it difficult to engage resident to change their behaviors in terms of recycling and composting?"
- A SPU member responded, "I believe that customers are motivated to do the right thing. The people we talk to are thankful for the resources we provide."

### 5. Meeting in-person

- SWAC members completed an anonymous survey during the meeting to gauge how the group feels about holding SWAC meetings in-person
- Results will be compiled after the meeting and shared with SWAC

#### 6. Around the Table

- Second Use will host three handmade markets over the course of the year, each curated to showcase a diverse range of work. The first takes place on April 23.
- In March, Ecology approved the Hazardous Waste Management Plan for The Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County. All current Ecology approved Local SW & HW Plans and CROPs are now posted in one place -<a href="https://app.box.com/s/u0cwvenm0wp0axx4yurjgtajigk00c74">https://app.box.com/s/u0cwvenm0wp0axx4yurjgtajigk00c74</a> (The file structure is still in development, and input is welcome.)
- Carolyn Bowie has been hired into Ecology
- Public Comment Period begins next week and will last for 4 weeks
- Refugee Arts Initiative is hosting their grand opening on June 16. SWAC is invited.
- King County Solid Waste Division is making \$1.8 million in funding available for local recycling, reuse and waste reduction projects through its Re+ Circular Economy Grant Program. Proposers are eligible for \$20,000 to \$300,000 per project. Application deadline is Friday, May 6, 2022, at 2 p.m. <a href="https://kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/solid-waste/garbage-recycling/re-plus.aspx">https://kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/solid-waste/garbage-recycling/re-plus.aspx</a>

### 7. SWAC Chat

 Café-style Conversations were setup via WebEx breakout rooms. Attendees had the option to transition between different breakout rooms to have more in-depth conversations on solid waste matters.

Adjourned 7:30 p.m.