



Chair: Signe Gilson

Vice Chair: David Ruggiero

Secretary: Laura Feinstein

In attendance: Signe Gilson, Chair; Laura Feinstein; Carl Pierce; David Ruggiero; Rita Smith

Absent: Mark Gibbs; Todd Johnson; George Kukahiko

Staff: Vicky Beaumont; Linda Rogers, Jeff Neuner, Shirli Axelrod, Marcia Rutan

Guests: Bill Lasby, Seattle-KC Public Health; Andy Leung, Seattle-KC Public Health Intern

5:10 pm Call to Order

Administration:

Chair Report:

- August 2010 minutes approved
- **August action items:**
 - Rita Smith was unable to draft SWAC position statement for Council on the Solid Waste proposal for 2011-2012. Will follow-up for October.
 - David Ruggiero was unable to draft letter regarding EOW pilot which is to be directed to Council Member O'Brien and Director Tim Croll. Will follow-up for October.

Monthly Topics:

4. North and South Transfer Station Rebuilds – Update & Discussion

Jeff Neuner and David Ruggiero presented updates on the North and South Transfer Station rebuilds projects.

- South Transfer Station -
 - Cleanup is 99% done
 - Removed 40,000 tons of contaminants removed
- North Transfer Station –
 - 9/14 stakeholders meeting
 - Reviewed 7 proposals; intent of meeting was to eliminate 3 of the proposals
 - All proposals addressed 3 zoning issues in different ways
 - Next meeting scheduled for 10/23; consultant will return with more detailed traffic flow proposals for further review
- The SWAC will weigh in when number of proposals are narrowed down – more towards end of year

5. Waste Prevention Annual Report – Briefing and Discussion

Shirli Axelrod briefed the SWAC on the 2009 SPU Waste Prevention outcomes. Highlights included:

- In several programs, the reportable tons increased again in 2009, with both greater activity and better reporting. This occurred in spite of the effects of the recession on activities generating building materials and carpet, and others. 2009 total: 35,828 tons

- The total reported in 2008 was 45,388 tons. Major changes were reductions in building materials and sustainable building, affected by the recession, and reduction in backyard organics
- Major new activities in 2009 focused on implementation of the “Food+” program of composting food service establishment wastes including food service ware, and the ban on polystyrene take-out food containers
- At this stage in the maturity of SPU’s Waste Prevention efforts, some programs finished their intended duration, and for that reason were not funded or staffed after 2009; other programs were impacted by budget tightening in 2009 and beyond.
 - The programs finished in 2009 were:
 - Lean Path large commissary kitchens food waste diversions
 - PaperCuts city departments paper waste reduction campaign
 - Programs affected by budget tightening were
 - Transfer Station Reuse program received no funding after 2009
 - Community Grants funds were cut to \$20,000
- Reuse of materials from the NWS Flower & Garden Show (plastic pots, table covers) and from SPU’s reservoir rebuilding capital project (“hypalon” reservoir liner) indicate the potential for project-specific waste prevention assistance to selected parties of interest
- SPU observed that several successful diversions as a result of waste prevention efforts tend to become reportable as “recycling”, within SPU’s systems of tracking, as is the case for electronics waste now covered by the statewide stewardship system, E-Cycle Washington. This leads to some tons no longer being reportable in what is referred to as “prevention”, although the program activity may still be funded/staffed within what Solid Waste Line of Business (SWLOB) sorts as Waste Prevention.

6. Multi-Family Recycling and Organics – Briefing

Marcia Rutan reviewed the Seattle Multi-Family food Waste Collection Test Project which started in 2007, with the final report issued in 2009. Initially, 9 apartment buildings were recruited (all in North Seattle) that received free food waste collection service for 6months. The objectives for this first research phase included:

- Test a variety of recruitment, incentive and education options
- Test the use of compostable cart liners for keeping carts clean
- Work with the contract hauler to begin providing this service and resolve collection service issues
- Utilize the help of building managers and on-site tenant “champions” to distribute materials and to support the program
- Track collection weights and volumes for each building, and monitor cart cleanliness and odor

Phase 2: The program was expanded in spring, 2008, when 34 additional buildings were recruited from additional neighborhoods throughout Seattle. Phase 1 outreach variables included:

- On-site and off-site tenant trainings
- Free counter-top bins and compostable bags
- Door-hanger delivery of education materials
- A mid-project “prompt” mailing

Key Results:

- 40.1 tons of food waste were collected during the two 6-month pilot periods
- 43 properties, totaling 2,593 units, participated in the test project
- An average of 1.1 pounds of food waste per unit per week was collected, with a range of .3 to 2.7 for the various buildings. This is 28% of the food waste generated (according to Seattle waste composition data). The level of diversion includes the percentage of residents participating and how thoroughly participants separated their food waste for collection.
- Extrapolating from the test project results, one ton of food waste per year is collected for every 35 units receiving food waste collection services

- 28% of the total available food waste was diverted to composting
- 37% of participating properties continued to subscribe to the service after the pilot project ended
- Key success factors were mainly compostable bin liners (replaced after every pick-up), and an on-site “champion.”

Out of about 5,500 total Seattle properties, currently 273 properties are signed up for food waste service. 2,200 properties have yard waste service, and could easily put food waste in.

SWAC discussion resulted in identifying key points for recommendations and SWAC position. These included:

Universal Multi-Family Organics:

- Diversion is a trend for City to encourage
- Cost impact is not a significant
- Provides equal access – single family residents already have organics diversion ability
- Pilot and follow-on approach very well thought out

Be sure to:

- Emphasize gradual rollout with careful education
 - Inform residents of deadline
 - Letters to residents after deadline
 - Recruitment – continue current efforts, or how do we use available resources?
 - 200 signups goal for 2010
 - \$100 credit good only until mandatory date? Or keep?

Action Item:

- David Ruggerio, Rita Smith, and Laura Feinstein will combine ideas for one letter to Council Member O’Brien and Director Tim Croll with SWAC position and recommendations.
- Linda Rogers to provide to provide Marcia Rutan with copy of SWAC’s letter.

7. 2010 Annual Work Plan, looking ahead to 2011

Due to the length of discussions on items 4, 5, and 6, this agenda item is deferred to October meeting

8. Wrap Up

Recommendations :

- No new recommendations from this meeting – refer to April meeting

Action Items:

See above

Preliminary Agenda for Next Meeting – October 20, 2010

- Approve meeting minutes for September, 2010
- Annual work plan; discussion - SWAC directions
- Sheryl Shaperio – SWAC recruiting for 2011-2013 term
- C&D legislation

Future meeting items:

- **Future** – 2010 Work Plan items, invite expert on modern landfills

7:00 PM Meeting adjourned.