



# SOURCE REDUCTION AND PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP

## **Reduce total waste generation through source reduction, and encourage product stewardship and producer responsibility programs.**

The City can reduce GHG emissions within its geographic boundaries and globally by reducing total generation of waste through source reduction, also known as waste prevention. Source reduction is achieved through actions that encourage extension of product life, such as repair, refurbishment, and reuse; product design and manufacturing practices that reduce the amount of material used; more efficient use of consumable products; and less consumption of materials overall.

Source reduction reduces GHG emissions from collection, processing, and disposal, and also results in avoided emissions from manufacturing. Avoided emissions due to source reduction are often larger than any other waste management option, including recycling and composting.

Source reduction can be challenging to implement, as the City has less direct control over the quantity of waste generated than over how it is managed once it is generated. Nonetheless, there are many ways the City can influence waste generation and encourage source reduction through setting policies, implementing programs, influencing pricing, supporting product stewardship, and educating and engaging residents and businesses.

### **MSW SOURCE REDUCTION**

Reduce total MSW generation by expanding investment in existing waste prevention programs and establish new programs that facilitate source reduction by households and businesses.

### **C&D SOURCE REDUCTION**

Facilitate source reduction of C&D waste through support of new and expanded programs promoting salvage, deconstruction, and reuse.

### **PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP AND PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY**

Collaborate with local, state, and regional partners to encourage and support product stewardship and producer responsibility programs, and pursue local regulation for select products, where appropriate, when state and regional action is not forthcoming.

### **SOURCE REDUCTION IN CITY OPERATIONS AND PURCHASING**

Use the City's purchasing power to support source reduction, product stewardship, reuse, cradle-to-cradle manufacturing, and recycled-content production; and employ source reduction strategies in City operations.



# MSW SOURCE REDUCTION

## **Reduce total MSW generation from households and businesses.**

The U.S. EPA has ranked source reduction (i.e. reducing total waste generation) as the most preferred method of management for MSW. The City already promotes source reduction through existing programs for reuse, onsite organics management, and sustainable building, and can enhance its impact on waste generation by strengthening and expanding policies, programs, and other activities that encourage source reduction.

<b>KEY ACTIONS BY 2020</b>
<b>Expand investment in existing programs for reuse and onsite organics management.</b>
<b>Support edible food donation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strengthen and expand programs for commercial food businesses to donate edible food to feeding programs.</li><li>• Support feeding programs in keeping food fresh and composting leftovers.</li></ul>
<b>Provide technical assistance and consulting services to help commercial kitchens find efficiencies and reduce waste.</b>
<b>Engage in or support efforts to reduce product packaging.</b>
<b>Continue to support and promote yellow pages and junk mail opt-out service, and work to change regulations related to white pages delivery.</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL ACTIONS BY 2020 (NOT PART OF SWMP)</b>
<b>Consider launching a campaign to help households reduce food and drink waste through better planning, purchasing, storage or preparation.</b>
<b>Engage in efforts or establish new waste prevention policies, programs, and other activities that encourage extension of product life, such as repair, refurbishment, and reuse; product design and manufacturing practices that reduce the amount of material used; more efficient use of consumable products that result in less residual material; and less consumption of materials overall.</b>

# C&D SOURCE REDUCTION

**Facilitate source reduction of C&D waste through salvage, deconstruction, and reuse.**

In addition to increasing the recycling rate of C&D waste, the City can encourage source reduction through existing programs for sustainable building, and by implementing the new C&D-related programs recommended in the SWMP Revision.

<b>KEY ACTIONS BY 2020</b>
<b>Expand investment in existing programs for sustainable building.</b>
<b>Support new and expanded C&amp;D source reduction programs, including grading standards for salvaged structural lumber to expand the market, and house moving promotion.</b>
<b>Develop training programs for hybrid deconstruction techniques as an alternative to traditional demolition of residential and small commercial structures.</b>
<b>Continue to support and expand material exchanges, and promote building with salvaged and reclaimed materials, through LEED, Built Green, and other partners.</b>

# PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP AND PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

## **Encourage and support product stewardship and producer responsibility programs.**

The principles of product stewardship include minimizing the environmental impacts of products and packaging throughout all lifecycle stages. The City has already played leading roles in successful efforts to advance product stewardship for specific materials at the local, state, and regional levels. By continuing to work with others to support the implementation of producer responsibility programs that embody the principles of product stewardship, the City can contribute to reductions in the life cycle impacts of products and packaging.

### **KEY ACTIONS BY 2020**

**Support ongoing efforts to add more products to Washington State’s electronics product stewardship law, and to establish other statewide product stewardship programs for additional materials.**

**In collaboration with local, state, and regional partners, develop a strategic framework for product stewardship actions, including life cycle GHG emissions as one product selection criterion.**

**Pursue local regulation for select products, which may include take-back, where appropriate when state and regional action is not forthcoming.**

**Contribute to standards setting for “eco-labels” and environmental certifications for product and packaging suppliers.**

# SOURCE REDUCTION IN CITY OPERATIONS

**Use the City’s purchasing power to support source reduction, product stewardship, reuse, cradle-to-cradle manufacturing, and recycled-content production; and employ source reduction strategies in City operations.**

City of Seattle purchasing guidelines call for the use of green products and practices, which include the purchase of recycled content products. The City can build on these existing guidelines and practices to further direct its purchasing power toward materials that achieve GHG emissions reductions.

In addition, the City can apply source reduction strategies to reduce the climate impacts of waste associated with its own operations.

<b>KEY ACTIONS BY 2020</b>
<b>Expand city green purchasing efforts to city facilities construction and standard specifications for work in the public right-of-way.</b>
<b>Incorporate end-of-life management, product stewardship, and lifecycle GHG emissions considerations into City procurement guidelines (in addition to existing considerations, such as toxicity).</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL ACTIONS BY 2020 (NOT PART OF SWMP)</b>
<b>Encourage or pilot “paperless” City operations for select City processes.</b>
<b>Explore opportunities to extend green purchasing standards and specifications to purchases made by City contractors.</b>