



SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

November 1, 2017 Meeting Notes
 Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue
 Room 4901
 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
 Chair: Holly Griffith
 Vice-Chair: Quinn Apuzzo
 Secretary: Emily Newcomer

Committee Members	Present?	SPU Staff	Role
Quinn Apuzzo	Y	Susan Fife-Ferris	Division Director, SPU Solid Waste Planning and Program Management
Anna Dyer	Y	Natasha Walker	CAC Program Coordinator
Holly Griffith	Y	Sheryl Shapiro	CAC Program Manager
Jamie Lee	Y	David Hare	Planning and Strategic Advisor, Solid Waste Planning and Program Management
Heather Levy	N	Gabriella Uhlar-Heffner	Senior Planning & Development Specialist, Solid Waste Planning & Program Management
Emily Newcomer	Y	Sally Hulsman	Program Manager, Solid Waste Inspection & Compliance Division
Chris Toman	Y		
Colin Groark	Y		
James Subocz	N	Guests	Affiliation
Alan Garvey	N	Heather Trim	Zero Waste Washington
Amelia Fujikawa	Y	Rachtha Danh	SCIDPA, and CID Property Manager
Adam Maurer	Y	Fiona Sheehan	Guest
		Michelle Fero	Guest

ACTION ITEMS:

- Gabriella to provide SWAC with additional information on Portland’s C&D Program.
- SWAC Liaison staff to follow-up on discussed topics of interest for SWAC 2018 Workplan.

1. Regular Business

SWAC Chair, Holly Griffith called the meeting to order at 5:38 PM

- Members and guests introduced themselves.
- SWAC Members approved the October meeting notes.
- Sheryl thanked members who attended the 10/25 All-CAC Meeting on Personal & Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness. She indicated emergency exits and bathrooms, and provided a brief safety overview. She reminded attendees to sign-in.

2. Solid Waste LOB Updates

SPU Solid Waste Planning and Program Management Division Director, Susan Fife-Ferris provided a few Solid Waste Line of Business and legislative updates.

- Sego sends his apologies for not being here; He is in Vancouver, Canada, at a metrics conference.
- **Upcoming “Goals, Metrics, and More: Defining Success in Materials Management” Symposium:** November 2, 8:30-4:30PM. Susan said she is hoping to see most of SWAC there tomorrow. They are expecting ~120 people.
 - **CAC Member:** Was an RSVP reminder sent out?
 - **Staff response:** A “see you tomorrow email’ was sent out minutes ago.
- **China Ban.** Ban on recyclables going into effect on January 1, 2018. SPU’s position is to have homeowners continue to recycle all existing recyclable materials, and continue to be conscious about correct sorting and preventing contamination. Susan said SPU is in a unique situation, in that they pay processors based on processor activity, not based on markets so SPU takes the risk on markets. Susan said that SPU has made money this year, but even if the market prices drop for the materials impacted by the ban, SPU is still doing ok as long as the markets don’t completely evaporate. She said to expect to see a dialogue between Chinese government and China materials processors who still want those materials. Susan encouraged members to read the Seattle Times article interviewing Solid Waste LOB Contractors Manager, Hans VanDusen: <https://www.seattletimes.com/business/chinese-crackdown-may-send-more-recycling-to-seattle-areas-landfills/>
- Regarding the specific banned materials:
 - Mixed paper is about 26% of the materials SPU process.
 - Mixed plastic comprises about 50 bales per week (a very small amount, relatively).
- **Collection RFP.** Conducted interviews with four vendors. Evaluation process continues. Questions should be directed to Lisa Hill.
- **North Transfer Station Recycling and Reuse Center:** Currently awaiting a signed contract. Should be in place by the end of the year.
- **Strawless in Seattle.** Great example of collaborating with a non-governmental organization. They were very media savvy and we continue to reap benefits from this effort and the positive press.
- **South Transfer Station Phase 2 (STS2).** Was opened with the assumption that the re-use facility (and other kinds of innovative processing) would be handled in adjacent land. The Solid Waste (SW) LOB has opened it up to the Drainage and Wastewater (DWW) LOB for a dewatering facility. SW is waiting for DWW to make decision on what they want. Once that decision is made, they can move forward on design/construction.

3. SWAC Officer Positions & Nominations

CAC Program Manager Sheryl Shapiro introduced the current SWAC officers, and encouraged SWAC members who are interested in serving as an officer in 2018 to reach out to Sego. She asked interested parties to prepare a short description for the December SWAC Meeting if they would like to be nominated. This can also be done offline, if a member cannot attend the December meeting. She encouraged newer members to self-nominate as well, noting that it is a great opportunity to expand skills, and SPU learns a lot from the officers as well. The process for nominating another member should involve asking them first, then Sego will connect with the nominee before putting their name forward.

4. SPU Construction & Demolition Program Successes and Challenges

Solid Waste Planning & Program Management Senior Planning & Development Specialist, Gabriella Uhlar-Heffner provided an overview of SPU Programs and policies regarding construction and demolition debris (C&D). Gabriella has been with City of Seattle for 27 years, and previously worked on organics. For the past 10 years, she has been working on construction/demolition programs. She coordinates very closely with other City/County departments, such as the building department and King County Solid Waste. Her work has more of a regional focus now.

Gabriella provided a historical timeline on policy development for C&D material management in Seattle. She then reviewed the C&D disposal bans (concrete, asphalt paving, bricks, cardboard, metal, clean wood and new construction drywall scrap), details on the facility certification program and shared where markets and processing capacity exist. King County has adopted the same list of construction materials that must be recycled. She discussed a few material challenges that have taken place in recent years, with materials originally targeted for landfill disposal bans but delayed, either due to a lack of end markets or a lack of processing capacity. Examples included:

- Asphalt shingles into hot mix paving, where the demand exists but local recycling processing facilities do not.
- Carpet, where a processing facility recently was closed due to poor end markets for nylon and other carpet components.

Gabriella said that mixed C&D can be a dirty waste stream (especially demolition debris), and typically produces 20-30% residual that goes into landfill. The City and County have a sampling program for the landfilled material from these mixed C&D recyclers and no more than 10% of their residual can contain targeted recyclables such as clean wood, metal, cardboard, clean drywall, concrete, asphalt paving and whole bricks. C&D processing facility diversion rates are posted to the SPU website, and contractors seek this information particularly if they are pursuing Green Building or LEED certification. She said that facility diversion rates are all over the board, depending on facility's material acceptance policies.

Gabriella reviewed some of the field enforcement challenges of the C&D disposal bans, especially at demolition projects and private solid waste transfer stations that receive waste for disposal. She said that King County will begin monitoring at private transfer stations in 2018 for compliance with the County's C&D existing disposal bans (same as Seattle's). While these facilities are not expected to turn away haulers, they will be required to send a letter to the hauling company informing them to separate out recyclable C&D in the future and take it to a recycling operations. King County will receive a copy of these notifications.

In closing, Gabriella shared some of her suggestions on areas to focus on in the future, especially regarding demolition projects. She suggested that Seattle monitor Portland's mandatory deconstruction program for single-family homes to have more materials such as clean structural wood diverted to salvage and reuse.

- **CAC Member:** Do you have an idea of how much of the residential self-haul to the City transfer stations is C&D?
 - **Staff Response:** It used to be around 50,000 tons but dropped due to the closure and rebuilding of the North Transfer Stations 50k tons per use. Private residents and small contractors instead brought materials to King County or private transfer stations.

However, much of that material is now coming back with the reopening of the new North Transfer Station. The amount of C&D being brought to South Transfer Station is also now increasing.

- **CAC Member:** Is it in these figures?
 - **Staff Response:** It's not in these figures I presented of the amount of C&D generated, recycled and disposed. These are coming from Republic, Waste Management and the private recyclers (mixed C&D, concrete, metal recyclers).
- **CAC Member:** And why is it not included?
 - **Staff Response:** It was tracked separately for planning purposes.
 - **Staff Response:** I could recommend combining them in the future
- **Staff question:** What happened to the work being done to address lack of end markets?
 - **Staff Response:** We lost the staff working on this. There was a lot of emphasis on market development, particularly with carpet, but much of that work was dropped in recent years. My recommendation would be to reinvigorate that.
- **CAC Member:** Does Portland have figures on job creation associated with their Mandatory Deconstruction program?
 - **Staff Response:** The September 2017 conference of national Building Materials Reuse Association (BMRA) was held in Portland. I can try to get information from the conference on Portland's program and share with you.
- **CAC Member:** It seems like a key issue to crack is finding a market for some of the materials. Of the end markets you mentioned that have dropped off recently, is the low cost of oil a factor?
 - **Staff Response:** It may be influencing decisions by carpet manufacturers, for example, not to procure more nylon with tear-off asphalt shingles there still is a cost savings to the asphalt paving companies to incorporate shingles into their hot mix.
- **CAC Member:** You had the slide with the three City comparisons and different deconstruction policies. Vancouver's deposit policy is interesting. Has Seattle considered anything like that?
 - **Staff Response:** We looked at deposit programs in the past. Washington State law has a prohibition against collecting fees from permit applicants if it's not related to administering the cost of the permit. Something would have to change in the law. Deposit programs are also common in California where they provide a motivator for the contractor to use recycling facilities with high diversion rates but they do require a lot of staff because they are handling money (the permit applicant gets their full deposit back if they achieve certain recycling goals for their type of project).
- **CAC Member:** You mentioned King County has a sheriff whose full-time job is follow haulers to make sure they deliver construction materials to King County designated facilities. That's interesting, given general reluctance in Seattle to enforce. Can you provide background on that, and has it been effective?
 - **Staff Response:** Yes, it's been very effective. It must be someone with law enforcement stature. They're following these loads across the mountains where they might be going to a distant landfill which is not approved by the County. They're doing this work at odd hours. King County funds their job site and facility monitoring activities through a fee paid by the private transfer stations and mixed C&D recyclers on a certain percentage of

tons they send to landfill disposal (based the material origin of the inbound materials to that facility from King County). The goal of King County's new C&D policies is keep C&D out of Cedar landfill, to expand its life.

- **Staff Response:** We do collect a transfer tax, from Seattle-based private transfer station facilities. Regardless of origin, it is \$13 per ton. That money goes into the general fund, and a lot is used to fund programs such as illegal dumping and graffiti removal. We are hoping in the future maybe some of it could fund much needed field monitoring and enforcement efforts in Seattle.
- **CAC Member:** Are there different code rules for smaller contractors or residential homeowners who are bringing to City transfer versus private transfer?
 - **Staff Response:** The same rules should apply at both regarding the C&D disposal bans. Historically more C&D has gone to the private transfer stations since their tip fees are a lot lower and the City transfer stations don't handle the large C&D self-tipping truck loads.

5. SWAC Workplan 2017 Review & 2018 Planning

Holly walked CAC members through the work planning process for 2018. She explained that the workplan serves as SWAC's roadmap for the next year. It details what topics SWAC wants to discuss, what SPU is ready to talk about. She noted that the SWAC Officers use it as a guide when planning meeting agendas.

At the December meeting, Holly will group topics into areas, and SWAC will discuss priorities for topics. Holly then opened the floor for any questions about 2017 workplan topics, including any that were particularly confusing, glaringly missing, or any topics that would be good for a joint meeting.

- **CAC Member:** Are we doing a small group ranking?
 - **Officer Response:** Not happening today; this is just a warm-up
- **CAC Member:** Haven't done anything on multifamily in a while. Should we focus on that?
 - **CAC Member Response:** There's a new contract going into place. Maybe Socorro would want to talk about that? We could get an update from her in the next couple months?
 - **Staff Response:** SPU is hoping to add a temporary person to help Socorro. Socorro is also the key person working with a multilingual community-based organization that is covering 15-19 languages. **There is opportunity for future updates.**
- **CAC Member:** The Solid Waste measurement goals discussions/updates [should be continued in 2018]; it's fascinating. And given that report, it would be interesting to see if SPU is starting to operationalize some of those metrics.
 - **Staff Response:** Those will be evolving as part of the Solid Waste Comprehensive Planning process. Dave will keep looping SWAC in.
- **CAC Member:** We should continue the conversation on Love Food Stop Waste in 2018.
 - **Staff Response:** Veronica Fincher has incorporated SWAC feedback and has started rolling stuff out. Some of her work is seasonal. **I can follow up on that to find out timeline on that work.**

- **CAC Member:** Seeing a Waste Prevention umbrella in workplan categories.
- **CAC Member:** I'd like to see organics contamination expanded to "contamination" in general (organics or recycling)
 - o **Staff Response:** The China Ban feeds directly in that.
 - o **CAC Member:** Is International end markets a topic we want to add?
 - o **Staff Response:** We have only a certain amount of control, some influence, but not a lot of control over where processing facilities are built.
- **CAC Member:** Will want updates on the service ware policy.
 - o **Staff Response:** Because of sunseting of exemptions in July 2018, Segro will be bringing that back to SWAC and stakeholder engagement.
- **CAC Member:** Will want updates on Illegal Dumping.
 - o **Staff Response:** Once new Mayor is determined, and we know what her approach will be, it will influence SPU involvement. **It would be good to bring in Lou and Adriecce to give a presentation.**
- **CAC Member:** Will there be updates/check-in on Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan Update?
 - o **Staff Response:** Yes. Right now, we are in process of getting an RFP on the street and that got delayed. Dave Hare has been busy with measurement symposium. **Dave will be coming back to SWAC to get feedback for the plan in early 2018.**
- **Staff Member:** Historically, the Solid Waste Recycling Report has been required ordinance, but we are hoping to use it as more of a marketing piece this year. Would want SWACs input on that.
- **CAC Member:** From a planning report, it might be good to go through Recycling Report letter from 2017. Would be interesting to pull out main themes. Make sure we're covering in 2018/
 - o **SWAC Officer Response:** Some themes included multifamily, commercial and rethinking solid waste measurement goals. But it's a good idea to do a review
- **CAC Member:** I think it would be cool to talk about Customer Service. Customer interACTION/interface.
 - o **CAC Member:** And maybe have the new rollout of the new customer billing system. Would be interesting to see how that looks.
 - o **Staff Response:** I think that was prior to me starting. We could have them talk about how that is going.
- **Staff Member:** How many people read curb waste times and conserve? It could be interesting to look at.
 - o **CAC Member:** Piggybacking onto that, overall communication and innovative ways SPU is trying to reach diverse audiences would be interesting. Maybe that's an All-CAC meeting? Interesting to talk about, because it's ever-evolving.
 - o **CAC Member:** I agree. Overall, communication strategies being adopted by Solid Waste is not very innovative.
 - o **Staff Member:** I'll throw that back at you. **We have large companies in SWAC and media-savvy folks, and I think it would be a good discussion about what do people know, how do we reach millennials vs older generations? What about our current**

outreach is working and what is not? We can learn a lot from the SWAC perspective, and collective experience.

- **CAC Member:** It would be good to bring key people from SPU who could learn from that discussion, and who would value that discussion.
- **Staff Member:** And we could invite folks from SWAC member organizations who are knowledgeable.
- **Staff Member:** Think SWAC might be interested in extended producer responsibility, and the work that is happening up in British Columbia, Canada. The idea that producers of a product are responsible for the full life cycle management of a product is a changing paradigm. We're watching what others are doing; might be of interest to hear what's going on elsewhere.
- **CAC Member:** Electronic waste: add to the conversation.
 - **CAC Member:** There could be potential changes in 2018.
 - **Guest:** Zero Waste Washington worked a bill in 2017, which will probably come back in 2018. A product stewardship committee conducted interviews with stakeholders in summer 2017, and there were lots of issues related to e-waste. The problem is with peripherals. And, we need to build in language so that when materials change you don't need to re-legislate.

The SWAC Chair provided committee members with three pieces of homework:

1. Look at workplan and see if things jump out to them;
2. Brainstorm any field trips; and
3. Complete the Doodle poll regarding a field trip to NuCor steel. Holly said she would be sending the Doodle poll; if there is enough interest, we may reschedule January meeting.

6. Getting to know your fellow SWAC Members, Around the Table & Community Insights

SWAC Members took a moment to share what topics from 2017 they were most interested in. This was also an opportunity to share any current events/community insights.

- Interested in C&D because remodeling their home.
- Multi-family is a big one. Our recycling and composting rates are better than most, but still abysmal. Contamination is an issue. Interesting to hear reframing, not just access but about addressing barriers. Excited to hear where SPU is taking their multifamily work.
 - I will echo the interest in multifamily, and also C&D because we demolished a deck last year. I also interned at Basil Network in college so interested in Electronic recycling.
- A lot of topics discussed are things I'm really interested in. Tracking progress of measurement and how that conversation evolves is interesting.
- Interested in topics related to consumer behavior, especially influencing behavior with technology. I just switched roles for being an auditor for medical waste. Don't know if it's been a topic in SWAC, but WA/CA have the strictest rules for hazardous waste. Would be interesting to explore.
 - **Staff response:** We could bring Local Hazardous Waste Management Program to speak.
 - **CAC Member:** That backstory of markets, and the re-use aspect would be interesting.

- Interested in multicultural outreach and transcreation
- Illegal dumping and homeless encampments. This affects my work and the area I work in. I work in China District and we were dealing with the jungle, field, rats issues. Also, F.O.G. issues.
- Interested in C&D. Resonated a lot for me. It's a big piece of the pie, and fairly controllable unlike consumer behavior. Policies and permitting are easier to implement.
- Illegal dumping and encampment issue, which ties back to a community insight I wanted to share: I met with Property Manager at Seattle Housing Authorities' New Holly in South Seattle. They are seeing an incredible influx of garbage and dumping left around community, and specifically in past few months there were 2 instances where someone living in a trailer dumped plastic bags of toilet waste.
 - **Staff response:** Bio-waste is a huge issue. We have multiple phases of cleanup, and there is a health hazard. Not sure how to best elevate this to elected officials.
- Very interested in the metrics conversation. I am constantly trying to work with regulated waste / procurement folks to see how we can drive waste diversion at their sites. Want to give metrics like conversion (not just diverting but converting).
- Guest: Multifamily. Working with older, elderly residents.
- Guest: Love all topics.
- Guest: Product stewardship and producer responsibility.
- Guest: Public health issues (since she's a nurse).

Adjourned 7:38PM