



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

December 5, 2018 Meeting Notes  
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue  
Room 4901  
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm  
*Chair: Holly Griffith*  
*Secretary: Adam Maurer*

Committee Members	Present?	SPU Staff	Role
Quinn Apuzzo	On leave	Natasha Walker	CAC Program Coordinator
Holly Griffith	Y	Susan Fife-Ferris	Division Director, SPU Solid Waste Planning and Program Management
Emily Newcomer	N	Sego Jackson	Solid Waste LOB Policy Liaison
James Subocz	Y	Dave Hare	Planning Strategic Advisor, Solid Waste Planning and Program Management
Alan Garvey	N	<b>Guests</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Amelia Fujikawa	P	Joel Dashnaw	Guest
Adam Maurer	N	Christian Hoogerheyde	Guest
Rachtha Dahn	Y	Nico Onoda-McGuire	Guest
Alessandra Pistoia	Y	Kelsie Blanthorn	Guest
Dirk Wassink	Y	Kit Gardner	Guest
		Robert Smith	Guest
		Lindsey Engh	Guest
		Aubrey Taber	Guest
		Jessica Branom-Zwick	Cascadia Consulting Group
		Andrea Lai	Cascadia Consulting Group

**1. Regular Business**

SWAC Chair, Holly Griffith called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM

- Members and guests introduced themselves.
- Meeting notes from October and November will distributed electronically.
- Sheryl indicated emergency exits and exit procedures.

**2. Solid Waste LOB Updates**

Susan Fife-Ferris, Division Director, Solid Waste Planning and Program Management & SWAC/Solid Waste LOB Liaison, Sego Jackson, provided a few Solid Waste Line of Business and legislative updates.

- **Food Rescue Innovation Lab:** The event took place in November and involved >50 individuals from the supply chain to the demand end of the food industry that could contribute their expertise to addressing food insecurity. **SPU will be sharing more about the event once we have the meeting notes in 2019.**
- **Responsible Recycling Task Force.** The RRTF group has been meeting regularly to target impacts from the China Blue Sky Initiative. Recommendations are currently being developed; we

anticipate a final report with recommendations being available in January, at which time staff will share it with SWAC.

- **Accountability & Affordability Workgroup:** Susan Fife-Ferris will bring back more on this SPU work effort in 2019, possibly with a presentation. The workgroup is looking to address concerns from the community about affordability. They will be delivering that report to City Council by the middle of 2019.
- **Organics Processing Services Contracts RFP:** Posted and expecting proposals back in early 2019.
- **Solid Waste LOB Work Plans:** If SWAC members have ideas regarding items they believe should be on the SWLOB's Work Plan for 2019, please talk to Susan Fife-Ferris.
- **SPU has received several awards recently, including:**
  - SPU received the 2018 Washington State Recycling Association (WSRA) Recycler of the Year – Public Agency Award
  - SPU's David McDonald received the Washington Organics Recycling Council (WORC) Lifetime Achievement Award
  - SPU's Socorro Medina received the 2018 SPU World Class Leadership Award
  - SPU's Segó Jackson received the 2018 SPU World Class Environmental Stewardship Award
  - SPU won the 2018 Waste Dive Innovator of the Year Award for new collection contracts that go into place in April 1, 2019. These contracts require 100% renewable fuel vehicles, which is a first in the Nation. SPU is being recognized as leaders in collection contracts.
- **Legislation Updates:** Segó Jackson provided a legislative review, providing a quick overview of relevant Solid Waste bills being discussed at the state Capitol. This includes legislative hearings, votes, and debates. Segó shared that SWAC members could watch any hearing via <https://www.tvw.org>, though he noted that the microphone had cut out recently during a recent Zero Waste Washington presentation on several bills of interest.
- Segó also shared about the Washington State Recycling Association policy forum that took place today (Wed., Dec 5, 2018), which covered policies and legislation including the impacts of the China National Sword policy on Washington State's recycling infrastructure. The event included industry experts and legislators discussing bills that will be introduced in 2019, and the impact they may have on the recycling and solid waste industry.
  - **A guest** asked if the plastic bag ban bill has lots of broad support. Staff responded that it does, with Rep. Strom Peterson in the House. Next will be finding a co-chair sponsor.

### 3. SWAC Officer Elections

Paper ballots were distributed to SWAC members present. Absentee ballots, which had been submitted electronically, were also collected. Segó provided some background on the nomination process. There was no secretary nominated, so we will be discussing how to best proceed if the role is needed at next week's SWAC officers meeting.

The votes were unanimous: Dirk Wassink will serve as Chair and Alessandra Pistoia as Vice-Chair in 2019.

### 4. Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan Update

David Hare, Planning and Strategic Advisor, Solid Waste Planning and Program Management Division, opened the meeting, re-emphasizing the application of an equity lens to the work that the SW LOB does.

Hare revisited the work that is being conducted in partnership with SPU's Environmental Justice and Service Equity (EJSE) team to apply an equity lens to the Plan. Hare shared that together with EJSE, they have linked SPU recycling goals with Solid Waste line of business service equity goals. The two are intertwined and dependent upon one another, he explained: to meet a 70% City-wide recycling goal, we need 100% of the community participating.

From there, Jessica Branom-Zwick and Andrea Lai from Cascadia Consulting Group, led the discussion around the results of the November SWAC meeting survey, in which SWAC members chose to focus today's discussion on two topics: Goals & Metrics, and Waste Prevention.

### Goals & Metrics

- **A SWAC member** asked if increased density in multifamily, which has historically performed poorly in meeting recycling goals, will impact the overall recycling goal of 70%. Staff responded that historically, multifamily recycling has been more challenging for a variety of reasons. They emphasized the need to embed accessibility into the design to make recycling easier, as low rates in the multifamily sector will have a negative impact on overall recycling rate. They said that SPU has a team working on outreach, inspections, and examining policy/code. Staff also discussed the interplay between enforcement and education.
- **A SWAC member** asked when SPU / Solid Waste line of business goals will reflect the idea of thinking beyond measuring tonnage. The consultant team responded that hopefully that will be conveyed in the update of the Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan. Staff added that in the 2017 Recycling Rate report, SPU began to look beyond the ton, telling a more comprehensive story of SPU success and looking at the global impacts of our work.
- **SWAC members provided feedback on the "Overarching goals from staff discussions" slide [slide 9/21]:**
  - **Feedback from multiple SWAC members:** the visual feels linear, and prioritizes "do better" over "do no harm" (i.e. does not prioritize environmental benefits)
  - **SWAC Member:** If two options are being considered and are economically similar, would one be weighed more favorably because it "promotes broader social and economic co-benefits"? Staff responded that yes, it might. They added that the two options may not even have to be equal economically; that the decision could be weighed heavily by co-benefits.
- **A SWAC member** asked how to measure the network the City is building between businesses or between individuals who are sharing resources to reduce waste (as a measurement of building resiliency). Staff said they are looking for instances of this and shared the example of Franz Bakery where bread waste is shared with pig farmers. They said SPU is working with businesses to identify where they might already be recycling or diverting waste in non-conventional ways.
- **A SWAC member shared** that they'd like to see an emissions metric integrated into waste. The example they used was linking waste stream activities with carbon (e.g., greenhouse gas emissions), which many cities are tracking. They felt these goals would be more relatable to individuals and may bring more traction to making an impact quicker.

- **A SWAC member** felt that any metric used will be unlikely to show the breadth of everything being done (for waste prevention). They shared that one of the trials of metric-based studies and diversion is accepting some things are out of (our) control.
- **A SWAC member** added that SPU may not have direct control of waste generation, but it does reflect the performance of the City. “If we want to achieve the goals, we have to impact the behavior of citizens to generate less or recycle more.”
- **A SWAC member** shared that they felt the big issue in waste generation is packaging. They encouraged SPU to continue working with legislators on packaging. “As a Utility, it’s hard to impact that but the City Council can. One angle is to focus on de-packaging.”
- **The consultant team asked members to consider the following question, “What if these metrics are costly to repeat/obtain each year to put in the Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan report? “**
  - **A SWAC member** responded that if SPU is going to bother measuring it, they should be prepared to measure it repeatedly. They suggested that perhaps SPU not have multiple metrics for everything. However, for where there are big gaps (example: racial equity) maybe consider adding one metric.

## Waste Prevention

2040: What makes Seattle a waste prevention City, what does it look like?

- **A SWAC member** responded that systems would be in place to make it convenient to recirculate materials properly. Additionally, citizens would be thinking about waste prevention.
- **A SWAC member** discussed the power of culture and social norms, in which public pressure/expectations can influence behavior. They said they imagined a scenario where people feel guilty if caught with a disposable coffee cup and strong societal expectations around waste prevention.
- **A SWAC member** shared that they had discussed this question with a family member in Germany who stated that their government fined citizens who did not participate in waste prevention.

Waste prevention in *Sustainable Consumption*, which is an addition to the Plan. What is sustainable consumption to SWAC?

- **A SWAC member** responded that sustainable consumption considers the environmental impact of consumption.
- **A SWAC member** responded that sustainable consumption is low-impact in terms of cost and emissions (such as taking alternative transportation).
- **A SWAC member** responded that sustainable consumption uses community points of reference, such as City Light’s power usage comparison to neighbors.
- **A SWAC member** responded that sustainable consumption looks at ways to push societal changes through removing conveniences that perpetuate unsustainable behavior. The example

they used was LEED planning, which reduces parking spaces to take away the convenience of cars and thus, reduce trips in cars.

#### Waste prevention in *Sustainable building*

- **A SWAC member** suggested the following edit: Increase salvage and reuse

#### Waste prevention in *Food and Organics*

- **A SWAC member** asked what it means to expand compost markets. Staff responded that we cannot have a composting program if we do not have localized markets to have those sold into. They said there is an opportunity to influence markets through partnerships with other government agencies who can be consumers of compost, such as SDOT and Parks & Recreation.
- **A SWAC member** asked how SPU might deal with food recalls (related to waste prevention). Staff responded that how we manage disposal of risk-food could be added to the resiliency plan.

#### Waste prevention in *Product Stewardship*

- **A SWAC member** shared that they were very excited about the product stewardship legislation. Another SWAC member added that they were particularly excited about the idea of incorporating equity into product stewardship legislation.
- **A SWAC member** responded to slide 19/21, which notes evaluating switching all food service ware to durable or compostable. They asked SPU to ensure affordability to the businesses providing those wares.

SWAC members were encouraged to email remaining questions they may have about the Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan or the above discussed topics.

### 5. SWAC Orientation Part II

In early 2018, SWAC members received a Solid Waste Orientation Part I, which looked at the history of Solid Waste in the State of Washington and Seattle. We will be providing a Part II in early 2019, and soliciting from SWAC the areas they'd like to focus on. Currently, the plan is for Susan Fife-Ferris to provide an overview of how SPU's Solid Waste line of business is structured, including our various programs. She will also cover how decisions are made regarding annual work plans. SWAC members unanimously agreed that this was the content they'd like to see.

- **A SWAC member** added that they would like to better understand how solid waste policy is influenced and SPU's role in that. They were looking for examples on when it has worked and when it has not. Staff responded that due to timing, this might have to be a separate presentation, possibly brought back after the legislative session.

### 6. Around the Table & Community Insights

- **A reminder that our next SWAC meeting is rescheduled to Thursday, January 10.**
- **A SWAC member** shared that King County held a deconstruction event last Friday. Two SWAC members were present, and about 80 people overall were present including stakeholders from a broad spectrum. They shared that it seemed like there was energy to continue the construction and demolition discussion with a regular stakeholder group to develop policy to create local infrastructure to reuse.

- **A SWAC member** shared about a workshop being held at the Eco Collective on December 18 on the art of Japanese wrapping (zero waste). The entry is \$25 but attendees get to wrap up to 5 presents. Its in Ballard. Please contact SWAC member, Amelia Fujikawa for more information.
- Staff member encouraged SWAC members to think before buying items this holiday.

**Adjourned 7:33PM**