



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

June 1, 2016 Meeting Notes  
 Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue  
 Room 4901  
 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm  
*Chair: Chris Toman*  
*Vice-Chair: Ben Grace*

<b>Committee Members &amp; CAC Staff</b>	<b>Present?</b>	<b>SPU Staff &amp; Guests</b>	<b>Role</b>
Quinn Apuzzo	Y	Tim Croll	SPU Division Director, Solid Waste Planning and Program Management
David Della	Y		
Anna Dyer	Y		
Ben Grace	Y		
Holly Griffith	Y		
Katie Kennedy	N		
Jamie Lee	Y		
Heather Levy	Y		
Rodney Proctor	N		
Emily Newcomer	Y		
Joseph Ringold	Y		
Emily Rothenberg	Y (P)		
Chris Toman	Y		
<b>CAC Staff</b>			
Linda Rogers, Interim CAC Program Support	Y		
Sego Jackson, Policy Liaison	N		
Sheryl Shapiro, Program Manager	Y		
Natasha Walker, CAC Program Support	Y		

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- ✓ Privacy of garbage can ruling: does this apply to recycling and yard waste? Think about it for discussion next month.
- ✓ Send Becca Fong any suggestions for updates on the various Solid Waste Outreach flyers

- ✓ Sheryl will send out email with RSJ toolkit info and with survey polling for interest in various RSJ/Equity opportunities for group and individual learning. These will include bibliography of articles, books, videos, workshops, etc. Please let Sheryl know if you have particular interests, needs and ideas.
- ✓ Add Emily Newcomer, Emily Rothenberg, and Natasha Walker to Google Group
- ✓ Emily Rothenberg would like to be involved in drafting the SWAC letter to City Council. SWAC Chair, Chris Toman will be in touch with her.
- ✓ Proposed SWAC Letter timeline:
  - In the weeks following the June 1 meeting, Committee Secretary, Holly Griffith will draft the letter, and will fill in the specific Annual Recycling Plan numbers as available.
  - Post July 4<sup>th</sup>, the Committee will review the draft letter for language. A Google doc will be shared in order to collect comments/edits.
  - The final Recycling Report numbers will be provided to the Committee as soon as available, likely by July 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - Chris/Holly will update the SWAC letter with incorporated changes and final report numbers and send to the Committee for final review.
  - The final letter is to be submitted to City Council by Chair, Chris Toman no later than July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016.
  - As the Committee is not meeting in July, all edits/communication will be handled electronically.

## **Regular Business**

Call to order at 5:34 PM

- New SWAC member and staff introduced: Emily Newcomer and Natasha Walker, CAC Program Coordinator.
- Reviewed meeting notes from May were approved.

### **1. 5/25/16 All-CAC Meeting on RSJI and Equity Work – Recap and Discussion**

Committee members provided highlights from the 5/26 All-CAC meeting, which centered on a Race and Social Justice presentation by staff from SPU's Environmental Justice and Service Equity Division (EJSE): Michael Davis, Director; Steve Hamai and Maythia Airhart. They explained how SPU is restructuring to institutionalize RSJ, and hopes for embedding this lens into the Advisory Committee work. .

Advisory Committee members:

- Appreciated the example given of gender inequity in theater bathrooms as a way to better understand racial inequity and its impacts on everyone.
- Were interested in how the Initiative will be integrated through the creation of Equity Teams in every Branch of SPU as well as a Department-wide Change Team.
- Liked that under the new structure, RSJ would be less vulnerable to budget cuts.
- Were particularly drawn to the demographic overlay map exercise, which highlighted the distribution of race and language within the City and correlated this with the location of claims and complaint calls.
- Reviewed the questions brainstormed during All-CAC meeting to bring an RSJ lens to CAC work; it was suggested that these could be posted during regular meetings as a reminder to routinely consider RSJ.

- Emphasized that understanding the history of an area or group is important. Example: Why is SPU working in that location? How many departments are reaching out to that community?
- Emphasized that we need to coordinate and track outreach activities across the City, so as not to overwhelm communities.
- Felt that SWAC had been underrepresented at the All-CAC meetings and encouraged better attendance in the future.

Sheryl indicated she would be sharing a survey to gauge interest in various extended learning opportunities related to RSJ, such as the RSJ Toolkit.

## 2. Solid Waste Branch Updates: Tim Croll, Director Solid Waste Planning and Program Management Division

- **Food Waste Composting Case**

Tim explained that the court ruling only deals with single family, and only spoke to compost but the logic still applies to recycle and garbage “plain-view” or “at-a-glance” requirements. As a result of this ruling, SPU will not be looking through garbage for recyclables or food waste. Even though fines are not being implemented, they must follow the court ruling.

- **Construction Demolition processing**

Tim reviewed the regulations on construction demolition material recycling, which require that materials such as asphalt / bricks and clean wood be either separated on site or hauled to a provider who separates. Due to recent developments related to the de-certification of CDL Recycling, they are looking at other facilities to provide these services.

- **Illegal dumping**

The latest weekly report shows that performance is much lower than expected, with only 5 bags turned in this week. Tim discussed the challenges and additional outreach needed for higher success of the program.

- **Committee Member Question:** Are we monitoring/measuring specific outcomes? What is the pilot’s measures of success?
- **Answer:** No official criteria; the pilot would be considered not to be succeeding because the bags are not being returned. The ultimate outcome would be that the area looks better. Outcomes are more important than widgets/activities, but harder to measure.
- **Committee Member Question:** Is this population more transient or stable?
- **Answer:** Both; depends on location.

- **Recology Cleanscapes/Waste Management RFP for new services in 2019**

Tim talked SWAC members through the three RFPs that will be let in 2019, which will begin to be developed in 2017. He explained that the current service providers had been notified of these intentions and while these three contracts technically finish in different years, all have a potential stopping point in 2019.

- ✓ **Recology Collection:** Current contract goes till 2017, can be extended to 2019 and again to 2021 if needed

- ✓ **Waste Management Collection:** Current contract goes till 2019, with option to extend to 2021 if needed
- ✓ **Waste Management Disposal (for landfill in Oregon):** Current contracts ends in 2028, but City has “off-ramp” options including an opt-out in 2019.
  - **Committee Member Question:** Are you going to look at service area boundaries?
  - **Answer:** Not unless you advise us to. Plan is to have 2-4 contracts, and the 4 existing service areas.
  - **Committee Member Question:** If market doesn’t look good, or procurement prospects don’t meet expectations, what happens?
  - **Answer:** The City does not have to select a new service provider from the RFP response. They will likely re-evaluate and get feedback from service providers on outcome of the RFP. They do not have to select a provider in 2019, but they will need to select a provider in 2021 when some contracts formally end.
  - **Committee Member Question:** Suggestion – now or later we should have a meeting to discuss how commodity is tied to revenue sharing.
  - **Answer:** It does not involve revenue sharing.

### 3. **Electronics Recycling Update: Tim Croll, Director, Solid Waste Planning & Program Management Division**

Tim addressed SWAC Liaison, Sejo Jackson’s email regarding the Basel Action Network’s recent investigative sting involving GPS trackers on electronics. As a result of their findings that LCD televisions received by Total Reclaim, a SPU service provider, had been found in Hong Kong, Total Reclaim has lost its certification as an E-steward. E-steward certification is required by Seattle to handle the city’s electronics. Total Reclaim will be allowed to re-apply for E-stewards certification in two years. As a result of this, SPU has been accruing the following materials:

- City equipment including refrigerators, computers and televisions
- Illegally dumped electronics
- Parking meters
- 400 old Tasers from Seattle Police Department
- Mercury Lamps (previously processed by Ecolights, owned by Total Reclaim. May be able to use again in the future.)
- Alkaline batteries

Tim discussed the next steps for the City, including efforts to set up new contracts with:

- Electronic Recycling International, located in Sumner, WA for electronic waste. e-Steward certified.
- Clean Harbors for mercury lights. Based on 2015 numbers, they expect about \$25k in recycling costs.
- ARCA for City Light’s refrigerators
- **Committee Member Question:** Any risk of lawsuit in ending contracts early?
- **Answer:** No; all contracts have a clause to mutually cancel the contract. There is also a cancellation of cause option.

- **Committee Member Question:** Will the private sector continue using these service providers?
- **Answer:** Likely, unless they claim to be an e-Stewards enterprise.
- **Committee Member Question:** Are these providers part of the State program?
- **A Committee Member Answered:** I think they've stopped with Total Reclaim, but are still on contract with Ecolights (based on a conversation a Committee member had with John Allen of the Department of Enterprise Services). Note: upon review after the meeting, this information is incorrect. Washington Materials Management and Finance Authority, which runs the product stewardship program for the manufacturers (Cycle WA), continues to send material to Total Reclaim but in reduced quantities, according to Sego Jackson.
- **Committee Member Question:** Did Basel Action Network let you know who passed the test?
- **Answer:** No but they recommended some providers.
- **Committee Member Question:** What will be the impact of this, budget-wise, to the City?
- **Answer:** It shouldn't be a big deal.

#### 4. **Annual Recycling Report Update: Tim Croll, Director Solid Waste Planning and Program Division**

Tim overviewed the status of the upcoming Annual Recycling Report, expected to be released to the Committee in about 10-14 days' time. At the time of the meeting, commercial numbers still needed confirmation but the report showed that single family recycling numbers had increased.

The Committee addressed the close timing of their Advisory Committee letter due date to the release of the final numbers, relative to the final report submittal date. A draft outline of expected timeline to meet the July 31<sup>st</sup> deadline was discussed; the timeline can be found in the Committee next steps at the top of the notes.

#### **Proposed letter narrative: (only expected to change if there is an unexpected change in the results of the report)**

- ✓ "We're going to be a little short on the goal;"
- ✓ "We want to encourage multi-family, endorse packaging, praise SPU for their equity considerations (transcreation in signage, POC/non-dominant English outreach);"
- ✓ "Expecting 58k new multi-family residents in the next year;"
- ✓ "Praise for new resident mailers."

#### **Committee discussion on narrative:**

- A committee member felt that nuances in packaging could be undistinguishable to the average consumer, and wondered if labeling education could counter this or if bans would be necessary.
- A committee member expressed the need to keep in mind possible impacts to businesses as a result of packaging ordinances.

- A committee member suggested that usability testing take place before new labels be implemented.
- A committee member requested that waste reduction, in addition to waste diversion, be mentioned in the SWAC letter. "Waste diversion is great, but waste reduction is better and should be invested in."
- **Committee Member Question:** Are you able to restrict purchasing practices of grocery stores?
- **Answer:** No, it only applies to things prepared in Seattle. If a couple other jurisdictions pick up on this, it becomes a more wide-spread practice.
- **Committee Member Question:** What other food/waste reduction programs are in place?
- **Answer: Several programs include:**
  - "Food: Too Good To Waste" (King County) = Love Food, Stop Waste (Seattle)
  - Mulch mowing – have been more/less aggressive in promoting
  - Neighborhood waste reduction challenges
  - There are additional programs that Sego can report on in the future.
- **Committee Member Question:** What kind of waste prevention / reduction programs are in place for commercial?
- **Answer:** We have been meeting with charity thrifts to better quantify reuse activities through the recycling reports.

## 5. Washington State Recycling Association (WSRA) Conference Update: Tim Croll, Anna Dyer, Quinn Apuzzo, Emily Newcomer

Tim and committee members in attendance provided highlights from the recent WSRA conference:

- Snohomish / Cedar Grove gave a presentation that quizzed experts on compostable material. He noted that what was interesting was that even the experts were not 100% accurate in their assessments, specifically when it came to cutlery.
- UW Recycling Program won an award.
- Sego gave a presentation with the Sustainable Packaging Coalition – on the How to Recycle and How to Compost label systems. SPC is moving forward to a test of the How to Compost labels with intent to help minimize confusion of what is (and is not) compostable.
- A car seat recycling discussion took place, which included the Total Reclaim owner. Tim explained that car seats will still be going to Total Reclaim because they are non-hazardous.
- The Keynote speaker was from BridgeWorks. One of the primary focuses was on the importance of generation-specific communication tactics.
- A presentation by an economist noted that markets for materials collected through co-mingled recycling will be mixed.

## 6. Field Trip Update: Anna Dyer, Joseph Ringold, Heather Levy, SWAC members

Members of the advisory Committee shared experiences from a recent field trip to a Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) Building and a private-sector multi-family (“market-rate”) housing unit by the stadiums. Highlights included:

- The ways in which waste sorting was affected by different factors: demographics, building design, where the recycling room is located
  - Challenges of trash chutes
  - SHA building topped out at 4 stories versus Verve (private-sector) which had ten times the number of units
  - Verve: No chute/apparatus for compost on each level
  - Differences between SHA and Verve in amount of compost (more in SHA)
  - SHA had “a ton of signage” but still had contamination vs Verve, which had no signage but no contamination issues
  - Realization of how many variables are at play in measuring performance
- **Committee Member Question:** Have any service providers given free compost bags out, to provide a feel for the difference?
  - **Answer:** Yes, but tenants are still slow to catch on. In one instance, in one building there were 10 outreach events in one year and they are still seeing contamination issues.

## 7. CAC Charter Next Steps: Sheryl Shapiro, CAC Program Manager

- Sheryl discussed the recent status of the Community Advisory Committees Charter.
- The Chairs of each Committee met together and reviewed the Charter.
- Sheryl will be sending the latest version to SWAC members, along with the draft Member Agreement, for final comments. Members will have one week to provide comments.

## 8. Around the Table

SWAC will not be meeting in July. The next meeting will be August 8, and will hopefully include Katie Kennedy who is completing her term, to say goodbye.

**Adjourned 7:30**