



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

September 4, 2019 Meeting Notes  
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue  
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

*Chair: Dirk Wassink  
Vice-Chair: Alessandra Pistoia*

Committee Members	Present?	SPU Staff	Role
Quinn Apuzzo	N	Natasha Bailey	CAC Program Coordinator
Emily Newcomer	N	Sheryl Shapiro	CAC Program Manager
Alan Garvey	P	Sego Jackson	Solid Waste LOB Policy Liaison
Amelia Fujikawa	Y	Susan Fife-Ferris	Solid Waste Planning and Program Management Division Director
Adam Maurer	Y	Jeff Fowler	Solid Waste Deputy Director, Interim
Rachtha Dahn	Y	Katie Lynd	Community Affairs Strategic Advisor for Solid Waste LOB
Alessandra Pistoia	Y	Angela Wallis	Senior Program Manager, Solid Waste Planning
Dirk Wassink	Y	<b>Guests</b>	
Nico Onoda-McGuire	N	Kit Gardner	Guest
Kelsie Blanthorn	Y	Jessica Branom-Zwick	CSWMPA Planning Lead, Cascadia Consulting Group
		Heather Trim	Guest

**1. Regular Business**

- SWAC Chair, Dirk Wassink called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM
- Members and guests introduced themselves. Prompted by the SWAC chair, they each shared an item that they “get the most satisfaction from reducing or reusing.”
- Members helped indicate emergency exits and exit procedures.
- Meeting notes from August were approved
- SWAC Line of Business Updates
  - **SPU has organized a response to the national Extended Producer Responsibility legislation.** U.S. Senator Tom Udall announced plans to introduce legislation on extended producer responsibility at the national level. For more information visit: <https://www.tomudall.senate.gov/news/press-releases/udall-lowenthal-release-outline-of-legislation-to-tackle-plastic-waste-pollution-crisis>
  - **The Midway Landfill site** has been identified as a potential location in Sound Transit’s operations and maintenance facility siting. Siting for this operations and maintenance facility is currently under SEPA review, and the successful site should be identified summer 2020. In addition, the east side of the Midway Landfill will be the location for Sound Transit’s South Link Extension and will need to be excavated as part of WSDOT’s I-5 widening project. The City is looking for opportunities to find efficiencies between all these projects, which may result in cost savings.

- As of Jan 1, 2020, **SPU will be removing plastic bags out of curbside recycling.** SPU is currently working on a communications plan and speaking points regarding disposing of plastic bags in the garbage or if able, using plastic bag drop-off points throughout the City. **Information regarding the Bag Out! Communications campaign will be brought to SWAC at its October meeting.**
- SPU and King County are working with an industry-led effort to increase the responsible recycling of plastic bags, film and wrap through retail take back locations. Industry collaborators currently include the American Chemistry Council and its WRAP program, The Recycling Partnership, Sustainable Packaging Coalition, and Association of Plastic Recyclers. The goal is to improve existing Wrap Recycling Action Program (WRAP), and then expand retail take back at additional stores, to ensure sufficient drop-off sites throughout the City. WRAP is a national public awareness and outreach initiative designed to make plastic film – including wraps, bags, and flexible packaging – a commonly recycled material with a strong and ever-growing recycling rate. Expanding to additional locations is contingent on market capacity to accept the collected material and responsibly recycle it. This effort is being coordinated in conjunction with the removal of plastic bags from the curbside recycling mix.
- **The South Recycling Center (previously STS2)** is at 90% design, expecting to be at 100% design at the end of Q4 and tentatively out for Request For Bid in Q1 2020. This will include both a recycling and reuse facility and crew quarters.
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- **Upcoming Solid Waste events:**
  - 9/5/19, 3-7 pm: Love Food Stop Waste at Queen Anne Farmers Market.
  - 9/6/19, 3:45-8:45 pm. Master Composter Sustainability Steward volunteers at Woodland Park Zoo.
  - 9/7/19, 9 am – 2 pm. U-District Farmers Market.
- **Susan Fife-Ferris introduced Jeff Fowler, SPU's new Solid Waste Deputy Director.** Fowler has been with SPU for over 22 years, coming from SPU's Construction/Engineering branch. Susan invited SWAC members to reach out to him directly if they had questions.
- **September 11: Republic Material Recovery Facility Tour, 9-10:30 am.** Individuals employed by competitors will not be able to attend. Street parking is available.

## 2. Solid Waste Storage and Access Requirements

Angela Wallis, Senior Program Manager, Solid Waste Planning, presented on Seattle Public Utilities' implementation of Seattle Land Use Code, which is owned by the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI), for solid waste storage and access in Multifamily buildings. Wallis began with an overview of why building design matters for solid waste, especially in meeting diversion goals, and the SPU process for reviewing solid waste storage and access. Wallis then shared some examples of the code use in practice, when it is working well. She reviewed some of the best management practices, such as co-located bins and adequately sized doorways, which contribute to successful solid waste storage and access in Multifamily buildings. Wallis shared some of the stakeholders they have met with

and plan to continue to engage with regarding proposed changes. She then shared challenges, and solutions that SPU is considering for code improvements to propose now or in the future, noting that they will only apply to new development. The goals include:

- ✓ To address / meet diversion goals for multifamily, improve resident access with collection location improvements (proposing right now)
- ✓ To address alley conditions for Solid Waste pick-up and improve alley standards (not a proposal right now, but perhaps in the future)
  
- **A SWAC member** shared about their experience with a pilot project in multifamily public housing where contamination increased with the introduction of dumpsters over individual carts. Staff responded that they felt 5-12 unit townhouses (the item being discussed) are typically individuals invested in an HOA, paying their utility bill directly. They added that they hoped that would bring ownership. They added that there are alternatives to dumpsters, such as carts, but they have to weigh the trade-offs between the issues with cart crowding and the issues with dumpster contamination rates.
- **A SWAC member** asked if there is something in the building design that doesn't meet SPU requirements, how does it get enforced if SPU isn't an official review stop? Staff responded that SPU staff, including SPU's Compliance Manager, attend early review conferences with SDCl, providing direct feedback to the architects and developers. Most zoning reviewers understand that they need SPU approval, but SPU would like to formalize that. There is currently no follow-up years later, after the building permit is issued and building is built, to confirm the implementation of the code requirements and design feedback SPU provides.
- **A guest** asked how SPU addresses redevelopment. Staff responded that SPU is also looking at code review for redevelopment. Currently, if residential buildings add 2 or more units, they must undergo a review with SPU. But if commercial buildings expand, they are not required to have solid waste storage and access. SPU is looking at the possibility of addressing that.

### **3. Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment update**

Katie Lynd, SPU Solid Waste Strategic Communications Advisor, presented on the public comment period for the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment (CSWMPA) update. Lynd reviewed the public comment period process and limitations, including a changeover in the project manager for the update. She shared the input received from SPU's Environmental Justice and Service Equity (EJSE) Community Connections program, which seeks to create deep and sustainable partnerships that aim to improve the quality of life for people of color, immigrant, and low-income communities through transformative approaches and experiences. Lynd emphasized that the public comment period is not just to gather feedback on the plan, but on Solid Waste services in general, and to follow-up on those questions and concerns.

Jessica Branom-Zwick, CSWMPA Planning Lead with Cascadia Consulting Group, reviewed the public comment survey topics. She noted that they had referenced the 2011 CSWMPA survey, as well as King County's solid waste survey, when designing this one. Branom-Zwick then briefly overviewed the process

for the development of the Program Recommendations, walking members through the individual recommendations.

**The CSWMPA public comment period is 10/28-11/18.** Lynd suggested that SWAC members share the messaging that SPU generates around this plan. **Lynd offered to share the outreach messages that are developed with SWAC, so that they can distribute in their communities.**

SWAC members discussed devoting time at the October and November meeting to dig into recommendations and discuss whether it's worth SWAC submitting comments as a committee, or even just sharing their planned individual comments.

SWAC is required to submit a letter acknowledging their involvement in the development process that is incorporated in the CWSMPA submittal to the Department of Ecology in 2020. This required SWAC letter will be a separate letter than any letter submitted during public comment period.

#### **Community Advisory Committee comments**

- **A SWAC member** asked if “traditional media,” noted in the public involvement plan, includes the Rainier Valley radio station. Staff responded that they would confirm, and that if members had favorite blogs, newsletters or community news sources to please share them.
- **A guest** asked if there will be space in the SurveyMonkey for open-ended conversations.
- **A SWAC member** asked about the prioritization of education and outreach to school-aged children. Branom-Zwick discussed the long-term benefits of outreach to this age group but noted that there is not an immediate pay-off in the short-term.
- **A SWAC member** asked about the timeline after the public comment period ends on 11/18. Staff provided a broad overview of the process for reviewing public comment, including the creation of a document which shows the feedback received and what SPU took into account. Upon the Mayor’s approval, the document is adopted, alongside SWAC’s letter, and then submitted to Department of Ecology for approval. The hope is that it will be adopted by City Council by late Q1/early Q2 2020 and approved by the Department of Ecology by the middle of 2020. Additionally, SEPA review will be underway in the fall.
- **A SWAC member** asked why SPU chose to conduct an amendment instead of a revision. Staff explained that an update is required every five years, but a revision is only required when a big change is expected. The 2011 plan was not adopted until 2013. In 2015, SPU did a complete review of all the programs and submitted to Ecology. Another staff member added that this amendment process is primarily being used to vastly improve the language in the plan, without a major system shakeup.

#### **4. Around the Table & Community Insights**

- **September 5:** Recology will be hosting an Artist in Residence open house on September 5. <https://www.recology.com/artist-in-residence/>
- **September 14: International District night market,** 4 pm – 12 am. Vendors and food and live music. <https://cidbia.org/night-market/>

- **September 21: Second Use Fall Festival** will feature 35 local artists in their Handmade and Reclaimed market. <https://www.seconduse.com/tag/fallfest/>

**Adjourned 7:25 pm**

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