

# Solid Waste 101

## Presentation to SPU's SWAC

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# Purpose of Presentation

*Provide an overview of solid waste management in Washington State and City of Seattle*





# Brief History of Solid Waste Management

## Washington State

- Pre-1961, haulers operated as common carriers, licensed like trucking companies.
- 1961 State Divided into Garbage Territories & Regulated by WUTC; G-Certificates Granted.
- 1969 Comprehensive State SW Management Legislation Enacted
- 1970 Earth Day
- 1984 Solid Waste Management Act
- 1987 NY Garbage Barge to Nowhere
- 1989 Waste Not WA Act



# Brief History of Solid Waste Management

## Seattle

- Collection Contracts can be traced back to 1911.
- 1938 Engineering takes responsibility for SW collection from Health.
- 1943-1962 Single collection contractor (United Waste/Rabanco).
- 1961 Solid Waste Utility created w/in Dept of Engineering.
- 1962 State law gives cities authority to control all garbage collection, & residential recycling.
- 1963 Seattle divided into 2 collection areas to stimulate competition.
- 1966-68 2 Landfills & 2 Transfer Stations developed. "Long-haul" to Kent.





# Brief History of Solid Waste Management

## Seattle

- 1973 1<sup>st</sup> Solid Waste Goal:  
*The city should minimize adverse environmental impact & resource depletion.*
- 1980 Composting policy & goal adopted.
- 1981 Recycling goal of 22% by 1986 adopted; Variable residential can rate structure begins.
- 1983 Midway Landfill closes.
- 1985 Seattle SWAC created.
- 1986 Recycling goal 40% & YW composting goal of 75% by 2010.
- 1986 Kent-Highland Landfill closes.

# Brief History of Solid Waste Management

## Seattle

- 1986 Seattle hauls garbage to Cedar Hills Landfill, substantially increasing rates.
- 1987 Recycling goal increased to 50% by 2010.
- 1988 City-wide curbside recycling collection begins; Rabanco & WM site MRFs in south Seattle; 1<sup>st</sup> RPA completed; Green Purchasing Policy adopted.
- 1988 Seattle starts process to pull out of King County system & go it alone by 1993; Recycling goal accelerated to 60% by 1998.
- 1989 Residential YW banned from Garbage; curbside collection begins.
- 1989 "On the Road to Recovery" adopted.



# Brief History of Solid Waste Management

Seattle

- 1990 Long-haul of garbage to WM's Arlington, OR Landfill begins.
- 1992 MF Recycling offered.
- 1992-94 Commercial FW collection pilot.
- 1994-95 SF FW collection pilot.
- 1997 SPU created.
- 1999 "On the Path to Sustainability" approved by Ecology; NWPSC created.
- 1999 MF Recycling kicks in.
- 2000 City takes full risk of recycling market price changes; FW collection pilot.



# Brief History of Solid Waste Management

Seattle

- 2001 City takes over commercial garbage collection.
- 2001 City adopts GHG emissions reductions goals; recognizes WR/R contributions.
- 2005 Disposal Bans for residential recyclables & commercial paper/cardboard.
- 2005 FW & compostable paper added to organics collection.
- 2006 E-Cycle WA (1<sup>st</sup> Producer Responsibility) adopted for State.
- 2007 Recycling goal 60% by 2012.
- 2007-08 MF food waste pilot; Zero Waste Resolution.



# Brief History of Solid Waste Management

Seattle

- 2008 Food service container ban adopted, requiring transition from disposable plastic food service ware to compostables or recyclables.
- 2008 50% Recycling Rate achieved!; MF FW collection pilot.
- 2009 SF FW collection required; E-Cycle WA system goes into effect.
- 2010 Service ware requirements go into effect.
- 2011 MF FW collection required.
- 2013 Recycling goal 70% by 2022.
- 2015 FW & food soiled paper banned from garbage; Light Recycle goes into effect.





# Seattle Solid Waste System at a Glance

- 2016 Population - ~687,000
- 2015 Employment - ~550,000
- Accounts Served:
  - ~155,000 Residential Cart/Can
  - ~4,000 Residential Dumpster
  - ~6,000 Commercial Dumpster
- Type of Service:
  - Garbage, Recyclables, & Organics Collected at Curb
  - Recyclables & Organics are banned from Garbage
  - “Pay-as-you-throw” Billing Rates
  - Enterprise Fund
- Garbage long-hauled by rail to Arlington, OR (320 miles)
- 2016 MSW Recycling Rate – 58.8%
  - Goal: 70% by 2022
  - Disposal Limit: 415,000 tons (2006 disposal level)





# Questions?

