



**DRAFT**

**Date:** January 8, 2026

**To:** Jeff Fowler, Deputy Director of Solid Waste  
Susan Fife-Ferris, Division Director, Solid Waste Planning & Program Management

**From:** McKenna Morigan, Strategic Advisor, Waste Prevention and Solid Waste Policy  
Katie Swanson, Solid and Hazardous Waste Lead Planner

**Re:** New “Beyond the Bin” Designated Recyclables List for nonresidential curbside recycling – for adoption as amendment to 2022 Solid Waste Plan Update

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For your awareness, SPU is adopting the attached “Beyond the Bin” Designated Recyclables List as an amendment to our 2022 Solid Waste Plan Update. This list has been developed in accordance with state solid waste planning requirements using a newly published template and guidance document from Ecology and in consultation with Seattle’s Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

**Background and rationale**

Under state law, designation of “recyclable” materials is a required element within a Solid Waste Plan ([RCW 70A.205.045](#)). In June 2025, Ecology published new guidance that clarified that this includes two distinct lists of “designated recyclables,” one for the specific materials for recycling at residential curbside and another for materials you designate as recyclable across the planning area collected in a method other than residential curbside. Ecology describes this second list as a “Beyond the Bin” Designated Recyclables List (BtB DRL). Seattle’s 2022 Solid Waste Plan Update includes only a list of designated recyclables for collection programs provided directly by SPU (via curbside collection and at the transfer stations) but does not include a BtB DRL.

In order to comply with state law in accordance with Ecology’s new guidance, we have developed a BtB DRL for adoption. The list is based on the template and designation guidance provided by Ecology, with some modifications to align with Seattle Municipal Code and consistent with current services and recycling markets available in Seattle. The attached list includes explanatory notes about materials for which Seattle has selected a designation that deviates from Ecology’s recommendations.

As noted in the attached list, we will pursue an update of this list as well as of the Residential Curbside Designated Recyclables List following Ecology’s publication of a preliminary statewide collection list by October 1, 2026, as required under the Recycling Reform Act.

**Drafting and review**

As required under state solid waste planning requirements, we shared this proposed Designated Recyclables List with Seattle’s Solid Waste Advisory Committee via email in October 2025 and reviewed it together at the SWAC meeting on November 5, 2025. SWAC members were supportive of adoption of the list as presented.

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**Adoption**

The list will become effective the date we submit to Ecology. We plan to post the list online as an amendment to our 2022 Solid Waste Plan Update.

Please contact McKenna Morigan for any questions.

Thank you.