



SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

August 10, 2022 Meeting Notes
 Webex
 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

*Chair: Brie Kuhn
 Secretary: Celine Fujikawa*

Committee Members	Present?	SPU Staff /Guest	Role
Danny Barksdale	Yes	Quinn Apuzzo	SPU – SWAC Program Coordinator
Chelsey Evans	Yes	Jeff Fowler	SPU – Solid Waste LOB Deputy Director
Rina Fa’amoe-Cross	Yes	Katie Lynd	SPU – Community Affairs
Celine Fujikawa	Yes	Stephanie Schwenger	SPU - Solid & Hazardous Waste Lead Planner
Erin Gagnon	Yes	LJ Devraun	Guest
Michael Johnson	Yes	Jinny Jeong	Guest
Brie Kuhn	Yes	Diana Wadley	Guest – Department of Ecology
Alessandra Pistoia	No	Ina ?	Guest
John Martin	No		
Hannah Scholes	Yes		
Adrian Tan	Yes		
Ming-Ming Tung Edelman	Yes		
Steven Walls	Yes		
Wendy Weiker	Yes		
Yongkang (YK) Zhou	Yes		

1. Welcome & Introductions

SWAC Chair, Brie, called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

- Members and guests introduced themselves. Prompted by the SWAC Chair, they each shared their name, affiliation, and summer highlights.

2. Comments on SWLOB Updates for SWAC

SWAC members were asked to review the Solid Waste Line of Business updates in advance of the meeting. The Solid Waste Deputy Director welcomed new members and was available to answer questions.

- **A SWAC member asked,** Do drivers carry multiple keys for locked dumpsters?
- **A SPU representative responded,** This is something we are working on. Our goal is to put in place more consistent dumpster locking policies and procedures.
- **A SWAC member asked,** Has SPU signed a contract for the paint care program?
- **A SPU representative responded,** Yes.
- **A SWAC member asked,** Is SPU involved in Starbucks reusable cup pilot program?
- **A SPU representative responded,** SPU has been working with rCup’s reusable cup program.
- **A SWAC member asked,** Has SPU completed the Waste Characterization study?
- **A SPU representative responded,** The Waste Characterization study is not yet complete.

3. 2022 SWAC Recruitment Recap

Quinn Apuzzo provided highlights from SWAC's 2022 recruitment process and an overview of SWAC member roles.

4. Ice Breaker Activity

SWAC members participated in an icebreaker activity.

5. Waste Prevention & Recycling Report

Stephanie Schwenger provided a presentation on the draft 2021 Waste Prevention & Recycling Report.

- **A SWAC member asked,** It appears like the recycling rate has been going down since 2016. Do we know why that is?
- **A SPU representative responded,** Overtime, disposal is actually trending down and diversion is trending up. Recent tonnage data reflects covid-related recessionary impacts as well as the changing composition of the waste stream.
- **A SWAC member asked,** Has there been an increase in new Seattle residents?
- **A SPU representative responded,** Yes, Seattle has experienced significant population growth over the past 20 years. Taking population growth into account, Seattle's diversion rate is actually trending in a positive direction. This can be attributed to the effectiveness of our policies and programs.
- **A SWAC member asked,** Is recycling contamination accounted for in the recycling rate?
- **A SPU representative responded,** Yes. It is included as MSW.
- **A SWAC member asked,** Was the increase in self haul tonnage between 2020 and 2021 due to more people cleaning out their homes due to covid?
- **A SWAC member asked,** Does SPU differentiate between food and yard waste?
- **A SPU representative responded,** SPU conducts waste characterization studies and this year SPU is studying the organics stream. The last time this study was completed was 2016 and found that in the MSW (municipal solid waste) stream roughly 30% of the material is actually compostable. [Past Seattle Solid Waste Composition Studies can be found here: <https://www.seattle.gov/utilities/about/reports/solid-waste-reports/composition-studies>]

6. Around the Table

- SWAC members did not do an around the table due to time constraints.
- Please send any comments or upcoming events you would like to share to Quinn.

Adjourned 7:30 p.m.