



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

March 3, 2021 Meeting Notes  
Webex  
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

*Co-Chair: Dirk Wassink  
Co-Chair: Nico Onoda-McGuire*

Committee Members	Present?	SPU Staff	Role
Kelsie Blanthorn	Yes	Sego Jackson	Solid Waste LOB Policy Liaison
Rachtha Dahn	Yes	Jemini Davis	Solid Waste Administrative Support
Joel Dashnaw	Yes	Susan Fife-Ferris	Solid Waste Planning & Program Management Division Director
Brie Kuhn	Yes	Katie Lynd	Community Affairs Liaison
Adam Maurer	Yes	Pat Kaufman	Recycle/Compost Commercial Program Manager
Nico Onoda-McGuire	Yes	Wendy Weiker	Republic Services
Alessandra Pistoia	Yes	Diana Wadley	Department of Ecology
Lizzie Szorad	Yes	Heather Trim	Guest
Dirk Wassink	Yes	Adrian Tan	King County

**1. Regular Business**

- SWAC Co-Chair, Nico Onoda-McGuire called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.
- Members and guests introduced themselves. Prompted by the SWAC chair, they each shared their name and their favorite kitchen appliance.
- February meeting minutes were approved by SWAC members in attendance.

**2. Waste Prevention Strategic Planning**

Veronica Fincher led a presentation on the Waste Prevention Strategic Planning Initiative.

- Objectives include:
  - Move solid waste efforts further upstream in alignment with SPU’s Solid Waste Plan and zero waste priorities.
  - Build & strengthen the waste prevention ethic and infrastructure in Seattle.
  - Establish meaningful waste prevention goals and measurable metrics.
  - Set a strategic path forward that will guide how SPU directs waste prevention resources to have the greatest impact.
  - Position Seattle as a leader in waste prevention
- Deliverables:
  - Waste prevention strategic plan.
  - Waste prevention implementation plan.
  - Criteria and process for ongoing prioritization of waste prevention resources.

- Models and tools for measuring progress towards achieving waste prevention goals and metrics.
- Planning Approach:
  - Equity will be embedded throughout the planning process, starting with completing the Racial Equity Toolkit in April.
  - **Research (2021):** See what’s already out there in terms of waste prevention plans, goals, and metrics that we might be able to draw from. Identify opportunities for possible waste prevention programs, services, policies, infrastructure, and technology for us to consider. Conduct an inventory of waste prevention-related work in Seattle and regionally to help identify stakeholders to engage in the planning process, regional gaps, and opportunities for SPU to support or partner with existing efforts. Identify opportunities to leverage funding and partnerships, both externally and internally within SPU and the City. Identify prioritization and measurement models that we can use or modify for SPU. Identify what’s measurable and identify gaps we might want to address through studies.
  - **Stakeholder Engagement (2022):** Identify synergies within SPU and other City departments. Engage other agencies, businesses, nonprofits, associations, and other key stakeholders to understand priorities, values, current strategies, challenges, needs, and partnership opportunities. Conduce market research with residential and commercial customers to understand current awareness, knowledge, attitudes, behaviors, and potential motivators around waste prevention.
  - **Analysis (2022):** Discussions to analyze everything we learned through research and stakeholder engagement to come up with our goals and metrics, clarify SPU’s domain within waste prevention, establish key approaches, establish a process and tools for ongoing prioritization of waste prevention efforts, identify priority waste prevention activities for short-term and long-term action, and establish measurement methodologies and tools.
  - **Plan Development & Review (2022-2023):** Pull everything into a high-level plan that guides our waste prevention strategic direction moving forward. Also create an implementation plan that identifies current priorities for waste prevention and associated resource needs. Share the planning documents for feedback and final management approval.
- Proposed SWAC Engagement:
  - Q4 2021: briefing on research and feedback on stakeholder engagement plan.
  - Q1/2 2022: stakeholder engagement.
  - Q3/4 2022: feedback on proposed direction (goals, metrics, approaches).
  - 2023: feedback on plan documents.
  - Listserv with quarterly updates.

SWAC members were asked for their thoughts on the planning approach and research. They were also asked how they would like to stay informed and engaged on this topic.

A SWAC member asked, “How do you define best practices?”

**SPU Response:** Successful waste prevention programs, services, policies, infrastructure, and technology that have been implemented internally within SPU or other City departments, or externally in other jurisdictions, organizations, or businesses.

A **SWAC member asked**, “How many people are working on this project?”

**SPU Response:** The current Waste Prevention Core Planning Team is comprised of SPU Solid Waste staff including Pat Kaufman, Veronica Fincher, Sego Jackson, Liz Fikejs, Kate Kurtz, Luis Hillon and Katie Kennedy. We also have two EJSE staff engaged in the Core Team to provide equity consultation.

A **SWAC member asked**, “Who are the consultants?”

**SPU Response:** We do not know yet. We will be selecting consultants within the next few months.

A **SWAC member asked**, “How did this Waste Prevention Plan come about?”

**SPU Response:** It is something we wanted to do as a result of the shift in waste prioritization.

### **3. SWAC Recruitment Process & Charter Update**

Katie Lynd led a brief update on the SWAC charter and recruitment.

- Updates from December Presentation:
  - Created SWAC Specific Charter
  - Developed SWAC Recruitment Proposal
  - Developed Recruitment Timeline
  - Present new Proposal & Charter to SPU Leadership (April)
  - Hold new SWAC Recruitment Process May – July 2021
  
- Two changes: Board makeup and terms
  - Board make up created based on RCW code as well as equity considerations.
  - This will help us do more targeted outreach.
  - Terms will be up to 4 consecutive years without reapplying. After 4 years, members will need to reapply, if this pertains to you, do not worry, we will work with you or grandfather folks in.
  
- SWAC member survey in April will include:
  - Desire to stay on, adjusting term of appointment.
  - Voluntary demographic information.
  - Self-selection of “bucket” area for board recruitment.
  
- SWAC Recruitment & Outreach Proposal:
  - Document now includes equity considerations for meetings, etc. including looking into stipends and childcare.
  - Will include a separate orientation session/meeting for new members with new CRP members covering SPU 101 and SW 101.
  - Ideas to expand the role of SWAC members in recruitment:

- Video (record yourself for 15 seconds on why you are a SWAC member and encouraging other to apply.
- Drop-in sessions?
- Commit to recruiting at least 1 or 2 new members.

#### 4. Solid Waste LOB Updates

##### General Updates

- Midway Landfill & Sound Transit OMF EIS:
  - Sound Transit is scheduled to release its draft EIS for its Operations & Maintenance Facility mid-March for public comment.
  - The Midway Landfill is one of the 3 sites being considered and SPU has been supportive of this option.
- STS 2:
  - We have a draft site plan to meet the minimal requirements of the Consent Decree and Community/Council commitments that we will be vetting through the SPU leadership team.
  - We need to have a final design by June of this year. Susan will be happy to share the site design later in the summer once it is finalized.
- Haz Waste Program:
  - SPU is finalizing our partnership agreement with the Haz Waste Program, which is the program that finances both the NHHW and SHHW facility.
  - SPU is going to develop a Facilities MOU for the first time, which we are just about to begin negotiating.
  - The Haz Waste Program also just updated their fiscal policies.
- Kirkland City Council and Community Members NTS Tour Request
  - We are offering to conduct a virtual tour on Saturday morning 3/13, with Jeff Neuner leading.
  - He conducted a virtual tour for SLC leaders, and it went well.
  - We are not conducting in-person tours until after everyone is vaccinated.
- Black Bag Pilot
  - Working to decrease the number of unclaimed bags dropped in the alleyways of Pioneer Square and the International District.
  - These bags cost SPU a significant amount of money each year, and the hope is to decrease that cost.
  - Sally Hulsman can be available to present to SWAC once it is completed.

#### 5. Legislative Updates

Sego Jackson led a presentation to provide the following updates on ongoing legislation.

- SB 5022 in version passed by Senate includes:
  - Ban on wide range of EPS foam products.

- Utensils, straws, condiment packets, and cup lids require that the customer request them, rather than be provided automatically. Some exceptions, such as cup lids for to-go at drive through.
- Post-consumer recycled content requirements for beverage bottles.
- Post-consumer recycled content requirements for “trash” bags.
- Post-consumer recycled content requirements for household cleaning and personal care products.
- Stakeholder group to be appointed to address recycled content requirements and issues for additional plastics.
- Also passed from one house to the other:
  - HB 1145. Allows content made from wheat straw be allowed to meet recycled content requirements for paper bags.
  - SB 5345. Statewide industrial waste coordination program
  - HB 1050. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from fluorinated gases
  - HB 1393. Delaying implementation dates for PV module stewardship and take back program (EPR)
- Still alive:
  - SB 5174. EPR for wind generator blades
  - HB 1161. Modifying drug take back law (EPR)
  - HB 1053. Adjusting implementation dates on restrictions on carryout bags (this includes fixing the preemption section so aligns with whenever state law is actually implemented).
- No longer alive this session:
  - HB 1118. EPR for all PPP
  - HB 1212 Right to Repair
  - SB 5286. Establishing statewide organic waste goal
  - SB 5219/HB 1488. The WRRRA alternative on recycled content
  - HB 1518. Allowing non-wood paper to replace recycled paper content requirements in copy paper purchased by state agencies.

## 6. SWAC Chat

- Virtual breakout groups were formed to discuss local circular economy innovations and forward movement.
- Overall positive feedback from the breakout discussions. Some SWAC members would like more time for this portion of the meeting.

## 7. Around the Table & Community Insights

- SWAC members are encouraged to send items/events they are interested in sharing with the rest of the group to Katie to share out by the end of the meeting.

**Adjourned 7:00 p.m.**