



SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

May 5, 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	No	Jemini Davis	Solid Waste Administrative Support
Joel Dashnaw	Yes	Susan Fife-Ferris	Solid Waste Planning & Program Management Division Director
Brie Kuhn	No	Katie Lynd	Community Affairs Liaison
Adam Maurer	Yes	Pat Kaufman	Recycle/Compost Commercial Program Manager
Nico Onoda-McGuire	Yes	Socorro Medina	Recycle/Compost Multifamily Program Manager
Alessandra Pistoia	Yes	Carolyn Bowie	Guest - Department of Ecology
Dirk Wassink	Yes	Erin Gagnon	Guest – Recology Government Affairs
		Diana Wadley	Guest - Department of Ecology
		Heather Trim	Guest – Zero Waste Washington
		Hannah Scholes	Guest – Waste Management Outreach Team

1. Regular Business

- SWAC Co-Chair, Dirk Wassink 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 what they are looking forward to most this summer.
- April meeting minutes were approved by SWAC members in attendance.

2. Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plan (CROP)

Socorro Medina led a presentation on how to improve the quality of the traditional recyclables

- Current Strategies for Contamination Reduction
 - Coordinated operations, compliance & education efforts
 - Education & outreach
 - Regulations & partnerships
- Future Strategies for Contamination Reduction
 - Coordinated operations, compliance & education efforts
 - Education & outreach
 - Regulations & partnerships
 - Submit adopted final plan update to Ecology
- Next Steps
 - May-Jun 2021: SWAC provides feedback
 - June 2021: Finalize draft and share with Ecology
 - July 1 2021: Submit final document to Ecology

A SWAC member asked: “How does your group reach out to customers?”

SPU Response: We take an equitable approach that suits our customer needs. This includes phone calls, emails, and mailing as we see fit.

A SWAC member asked: “Is there a requirement for public comment?”

SPU Response: “No, it will be looped in with the Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan.”

3. Solid Waste LOB Updates

- CROP
 - Just want to congrats Socorro on her hard work to pull the CROP together and how well it has come together. She has worked with the entire SWLOB to ensure it stays on track so a draft can be shared with Ecology soon.
 - Ultimately, it will be incorporated into the SW Plan Update
- 2022 Budget Development
 - Busy over the last month developing our 2022 Budget Proposal, which will be reviewed and finalized by E-team, before sending to the MO for review and approval.
 - Final budget adoption occurs by Council around Thanksgiving time in November.
- Surveys
 - Commercial Customer Satisfaction Survey is in the finalization stage and will be fielded in June.
- Special Item Collection
 - Staff is working on improving MF and UDP customer access to special item collection currently and will be reviewing other potential SPU enhancements later in year

4. Legislative Updates

Sego reviewed a number of bills that passed the legislature and have been signed by the Governor, or that are ready for his signature in the next several weeks. All the bills discussed, and more, are summarized at Zero Waste Washington’s legislative page. Legislative Work - Zero Waste Washington

- **SB 5022:** SPU was particularly engaged in development and advocacy for SB 5022 The bill:
 - Bans Expanded Polystyrene Foam foodservice products, including foam cups and takeout containers, expanding Seattle’s 2009 ban on these products to statewide.
 - Requires food service businesses to only provide straws, utensils, and other single use food service items on customer request only. This complements Seattle’s existing ordinance and rules that ban plastic straws and utensils.
 - Removes the confusing requirement that the “chasing arrow” be included in plastic resin codes used on plastic packaging. The code is still required, but without the recycling symbol.
 - Establishes post-consumer recycled content for a range of plastic products and packaging sold in Washington, including plastic waste/trash bags, beverage containers, and other products.

- **Organics Budget Proviso:** SPU Solid Waste proposed text for a successful budget proviso to address carbon sequestration in soil from compost and other organic amendments. Results of work by WSU could set the stage for vastly increasing markets for compost through inclusion in carbon markets and trading.
- **HB 1145:** SPU has concerns about this bill that passed and has been signed by the Governor. It allows wheat straw waste to be used to meet a portion or all of the 40% post-consumer recycled content requirement for paper carryout bag in Seattle’s existing bag ordinance (now preempted) and in the state’s new bag law. This erodes the intent which is to create market pull for paper we collect for recycling. This could be a “slippery slope” as we anticipate other special interests will also want their materials to be included in the future: bamboo, hemp, corn waste, sugar cane waste, etc.

5. SWAC Recruitment Outreach

- Looking to balance SWAC members between Interest Based, Business Improvement Areas, CBO’s Community Based Organizations and Public Development Associations.
- Target Outreach
 - 2-3 Community Based Organizations (CBO) or individuals representing historically marginalized communities
 - 1-2 Business Improvement Areas or Public Development Associations (BIAs/PDAs) serving community by affiliation, or geography
 - 1 waste-related businesses & solid waste contracted haulers
 - 2-3 interest-based groups or individuals representing housing, education, local food systems, environment, etc.
- SWAC Application
 - Now available online with updated questions
- Katie will send a link to the SWAC recruitment video featuring Nico, Joel and Dirk
- Recruitment sub-groups that SWAC members volunteered for:
 - Social Media/LinkedIn – Nico, Alessandra, Adam
 - Drop-in Session – Nico and Kelsie
 - Personal Connections (Calls & emails) – Adam, Diana, Dirk
 - Org/Business Connections – Alessandra, Kelsie, Nico, Dirk, Diana, Adam, Joel

6. SWAC Chat

- 3-way tie for SWAC Chat topic. SWAC chat was postponed for this 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.