



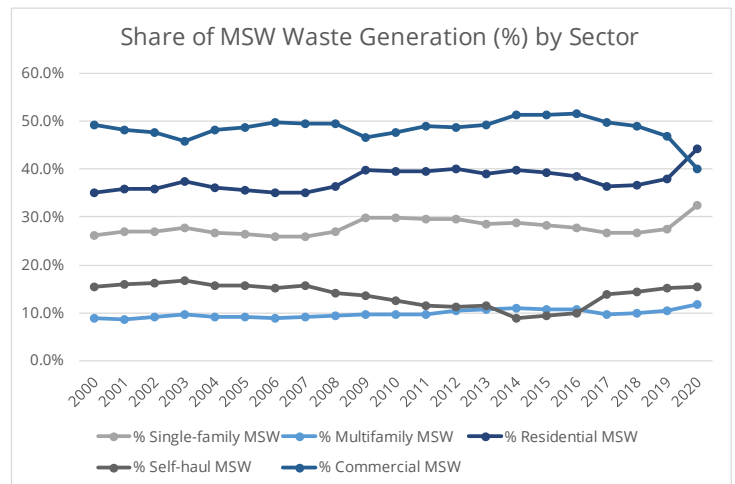
COVID-19 and solid waste

Last February, the Seattle region became the initial epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. Among the many consequences of the pandemic, workers and small businesses have been facing the largest economic crisis since the Great Depression. Throughout the past year, we have all had to adapt to a new normal as we worked together to flatten the curve and reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. Municipal solid waste (MSW) tonnages and trends detailed in Seattle's *2020 Waste Prevention & Recycling Report* offer a striking reflection of how the stay-at-home orders and the restrictions on activities and businesses to slow the spread of the COVID-19 impacted our lives. Despite this frightening moment in history, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) showed there is reason for optimism, successfully advocating for passage of a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags.

Key results

Key results from an unusual year include declining waste generation despite continued growth and successfully advocating for a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags. The following highlights key solid waste results from 2020:

- **Residential waste generation exceeded commercial generation for the first time in 21 years.** Residents (single-family + multifamily customers) generated more waste than commercial customers. Residential generation rose to over 44% of MSW from 38% pre-COVID-19, driven by a surge in single-family waste generation.
- **Growth in residential generation increased per capita rates across the board.** Increases in residential waste generation outpaced population growth, pushing up daily per capita waste generation, recycling and composting, and disposal rates. Seattle still met its generation and disposal targets.
- **Declines in commercial waste generation pushed down overall MSW generation for the third straight year.** Because gains in residential generation did not offset declines in commercial generation, waste generation overall decreased 6% from 2019 levels, with most of the reductions occurring in commercial recycling and composting



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- **Seattleites continued to recycle and compost at a high rate.** Despite losses in commercial recycling and composting tons, the overall recycling rate held steady (54%).
- **Construction and demolition (C&D) debris generation reached its highest point yet.** Construction activity shut down for about six weeks in 2020, yet the C&D sector generated nearly 560,000 tons, the most tons of C&D debris ever reported in Seattle. For the 10th straight year, the C&D sector generated more tons overall than any other individual MSW sector.
- **SPU played a key role in passage of statewide legislation to ban single-use plastic bags.** Seattle championed Washington's Plastic Bag Ban, which will reduce waste and pollution by prohibiting single-use plastic carryout bags and charging a fee for acceptable bags beginning October 1, 2021.

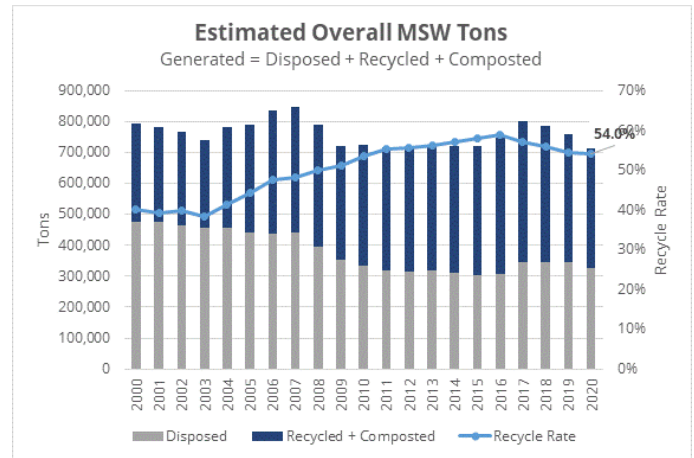
Advancing waste prevention

Although SPU continues to work to divert more waste to recycling and composting, the utility is shifting its focus “upstream” on preventing waste. To encourage preventing waste in the first place, SPU is emphasizing solid waste metrics related to waste generation rather than the recycling rate. Focusing on the recycling rate does not help us reach the goal of eliminating waste at the source.

In the forthcoming solid waste comprehensive plan, SPU will discuss moving upstream to examine the whole lifecycle of materials; how we can prevent or reduce waste from the start; and options to measure waste prevention. After the *2021 Solid Waste Plan Update*, SPU will start work on a waste prevention strategic plan, a multi-year planning initiative that will set a path forward for our waste prevention efforts.

Waste Prevention & Recycling Report background

SPU reports annually to City Council on the previous year’s progress toward the City’s solid waste goals. The annual *Waste Prevention & Recycling Report* highlights key waste generation, disposal, and recycling trends, and accomplishments in the areas of waste prevention, extended producer responsibility (EPR), product stewardship, and recycling. The Solid Waste Advisory Committee comments on the annual report, which is due to City Council on October 1, 2021.



Customers load reused grain bags with compost at SPU's fall 2020 Compost Giveaway.

Preventing waste includes actions such as buying and using less, making, and buying products that last longer, designing products and systems for reuse and repair, sharing, donating, or re-selling items so others can use them, or advocating for legislation that prohibits use of certain materials.

Prepared by:

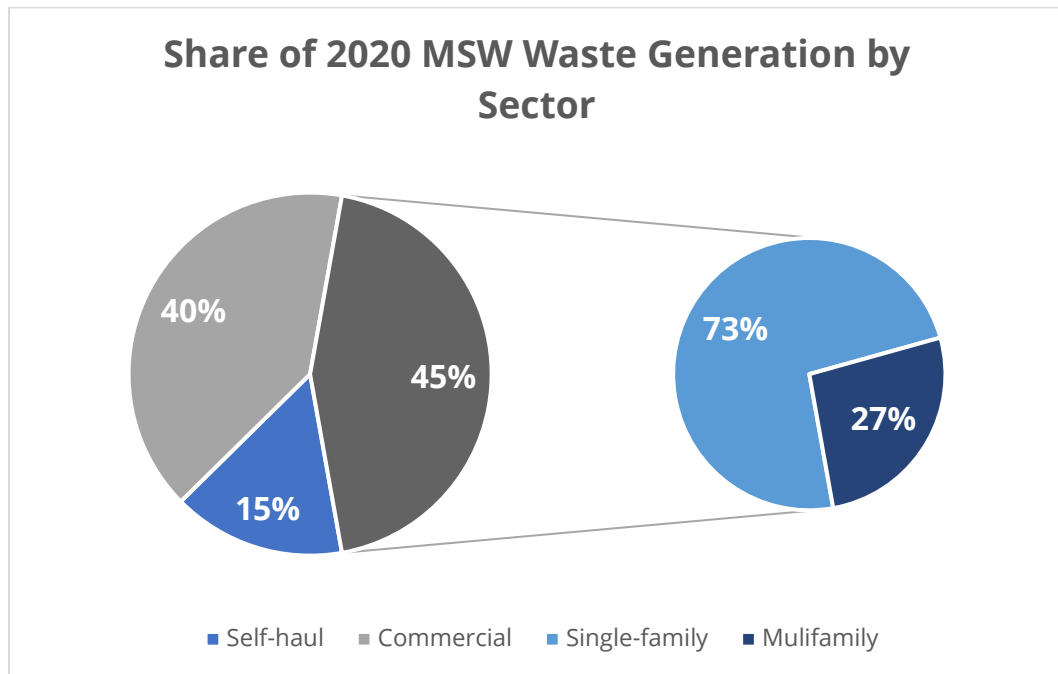
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Overall MSW results

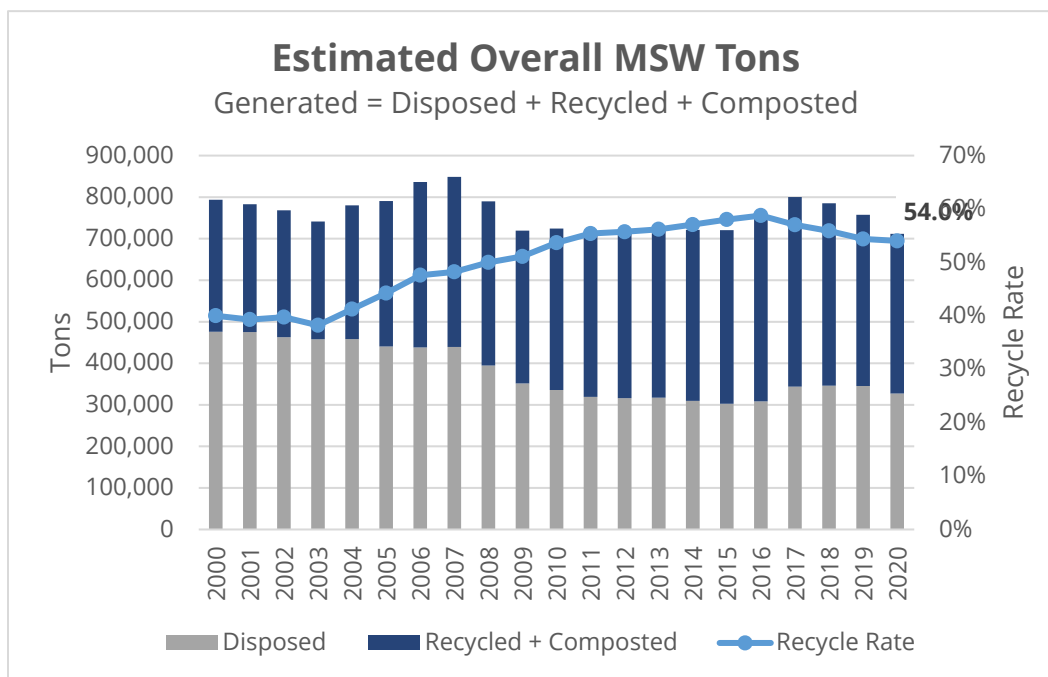
Estimated overall MSW results, 2000-2020

- 2020 marked the first time in 21 years that the share of residential waste generation exceeded the share of commercial generation. With many people spending more time at home than normal, single-family and multifamily residential customers produced over 44% of the MSW in Seattle.
- With Washington State on lockdown for most of the year, waste generation decreased 6% from 2019 levels overall, with most of the reduction occurring in commercial recycling and composting tons.
- Despite losses in commercial recycling and composting tons, the overall recycling rate held steady at 54%.



Estimated Overall MSW Tons, 2000-2020

Year	Generated	Disposed	Recycled + Composted	Recycle Rate
2000	793,842	476,132	317,710	40.0%
2001	782,974	475,270	307,704	39.3%
2002	768,462	462,996	305,466	39.8%
2003	741,337	458,011	283,326	38.2%
2004	780,346	458,405	321,941	41.3%
2005	790,456	440,694	349,763	44.2%
2006	836,499	438,381	398,118	47.6%
2007	848,759	439,407	409,353	48.2%
2008	789,688	394,828	394,860	50.0%
2009	719,424	351,689	367,735	51.1%
2010	724,469	335,570	388,898	53.7%
2011	715,996	319,341	396,655	55.4%
2012	713,821	315,983	397,838	55.7%
2013	724,385	317,259	407,126	56.2%
2014	721,269	309,515	411,754	57.1%
2015	720,705	302,467	418,238	58.0%
2016	748,051	308,379	439,672	58.8%
2017	800,380	343,922	456,458	57.0%
2018	785,223	346,322	438,902	55.9%
2019	757,466	345,559	411,907	54.4%
2020	711,619	327,114	384,505	54.0%



Notes:

- Results for the open market commercial recycling portion of overall recycling are estimates based on the self-reporting of recycling collectors and processors
- *In 2018 and 2019, the open market commercial recycling portion of overall recycled + composted tons is an estimate based on an econometric regression analysis

Sector-specific MSW results

Residential MSW (single-family + multifamily), 2000-2020 (~44% of MSW)

- With many people spending more time at home to avoid spreading the novel coronavirus, residential single-family and multifamily customers produced more than 44% of the MSW in Seattle, up from 38% of MSW pre-COVID-19.
- Residential waste generation (single-family and multifamily tons together) increased nearly 10% from 2019 levels, driven by a surge in single-family waste generation.
- Despite generating about 10% more tons of waste in 2020 than in 2019, residents recycled at the same rate they had in the year prior (62%).
- Increases in residential waste generation outpaced population growth, pushing up daily per capita waste generation, recycling and composting, and disposal rates. Even with these increases, Seattle hit targets for waste generation (<2.5 pounds/person/day) and waste disposal (<1 pound/person/day).

Residential MSW Tons, Population, and Per Capita Rates, 2000-2020

Year	Tons			Recycle Rate	Population*	Per capita Pounds per person per day		
	Generated	Disposed	Recycled + Composted			Generated	Disposed	Recycled + Composted
2000	279,412	145,832	133,580	47.8%	563,286	2.72	1.42	1.30
2001	280,593	144,559	136,034	48.5%	567,491	2.71	1.40	1.31
2002	276,618	142,910	133,708	48.3%	572,854	2.65	1.37	1.28
2003	277,897	143,532	134,365	48.4%	574,530	2.65	1.37	1.28
2004	281,772	142,527	139,245	49.4%	576,906	2.68	1.35	1.32
2005	281,000	134,557	146,442	52.1%	579,779	2.66	1.27	1.38
2006	292,491	133,721	158,770	54.3%	587,755	2.73	1.25	1.48
2007	297,235	133,341	163,895	55.1%	594,339	2.74	1.23	1.51
2008	288,112	127,160	160,952	55.9%	599,055	2.64	1.16	1.47
2009	285,539	118,725	166,814	58.4%	603,155	2.59	1.08	1.52
2010	287,159	114,097	173,062	60.3%	608,660	2.59	1.03	1.56
2011	283,006	112,772	170,234	60.2%	612,100	2.53	1.01	1.52
2012	285,579	111,420	174,159	61.0%	616,500	2.54	0.99	1.55
2013	283,563	110,839	172,724	60.9%	626,600	2.48	0.97	1.51
2014	287,181	112,211	174,970	60.9%	640,500	2.46	0.96	1.50
2015	282,675	101,972	180,703	63.9%	662,400	2.34	0.84	1.49
2016	288,282	103,735	184,547	64.0%	686,800	2.30	0.83	1.47
2017	290,859	105,315	185,544	63.8%	713,700	2.23	0.81	1.42
2018	288,534	107,485	181,049	62.7%	730,400	2.16	0.81	1.36
2019	287,779	109,367	178,412	62.0%	747,300	2.11	0.80	1.31
2020	315,739	119,903	195,836	62.0%	761,100	2.27	0.86	1.41

Notes:

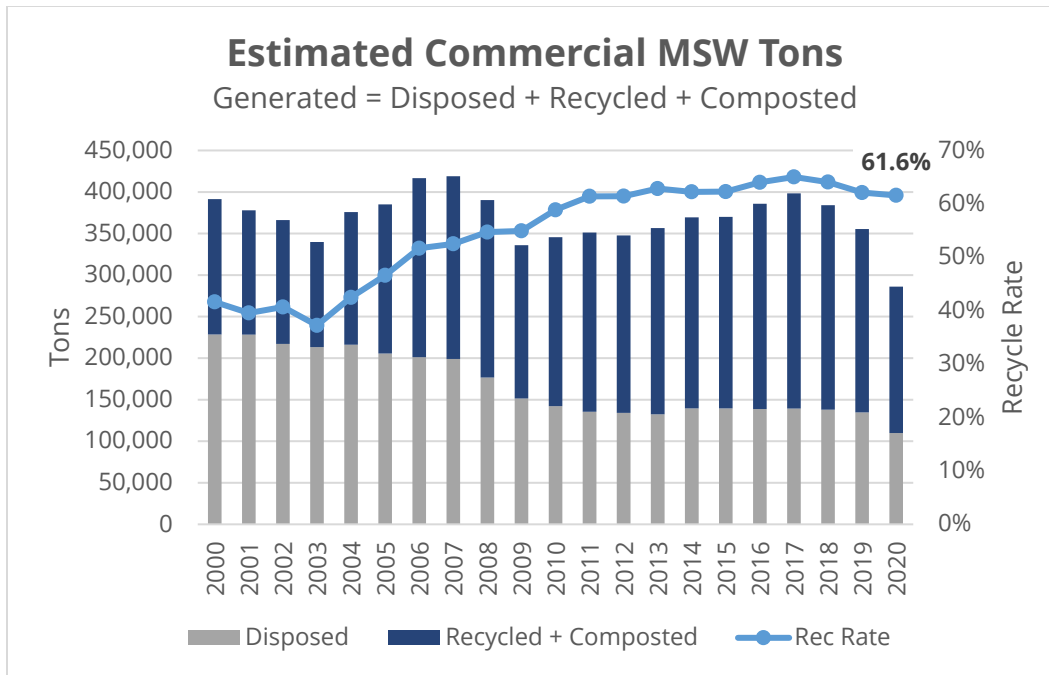
- *Official April 1 population estimates are produced by the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) and posted on the City of Seattle's website: <https://seattlecitygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/846486cdbad44b5f8349dfc8ffa1dac5>
- The figures in this table do not include residential tons self-hauled to the city's transfer stations, which are captured as "self-haul" tons

Estimated commercial MSW, 2000-2020 (~40% of MSW)

- COVID-19 had a chilling effect on parts of the commercial sector, with waste generation in this sector declining by a steep 20%, driven largely by losses in recycling and composting tons. Commercial sector disposal reached an all-time low.
- With similar percentage declines in both disposal and recycling and composting, commercial sector recycling remained consistent with last year's rate (~62%).
- Decreases in commercial waste generation exceeded increases in residential waste generation by a factor of 2.5 to 1.

Estimated Commercial MSW Tons, 2000-2020

Year	Generated	Disposed	Recycled + Composted	Rec Rate
2000	391,406	228,417	162,989	41.6%
2001	377,927	228,405	149,522	39.6%
2002	366,224	217,195	149,029	40.7%
2003	339,844	213,247	126,597	37.3%
2004	375,739	216,112	159,627	42.5%
2005	385,093	205,637	179,456	46.6%
2006	416,564	201,231	215,333	51.7%
2007	418,979	198,968	220,011	52.5%
2008	390,267	176,774	213,493	54.7%
2009	335,992	151,398	184,593	54.9%
2010	345,692	142,180	203,511	58.9%
2011	351,214	135,536	215,678	61.4%
2012	347,673	134,089	213,584	61.4%
2013	356,480	132,401	224,079	62.9%
2014	369,407	139,457	229,950	62.2%
2015	370,037	139,557	230,480	62.3%
2016	385,846	138,804	247,042	64.0%
2017	398,422	139,317	259,105	65.0%
2018	384,139	138,009	246,130*	64.1%
2019	355,453	134,686	220,767*	62.1%
2020	286,036	109,891	176,145	61.6%



Notes:

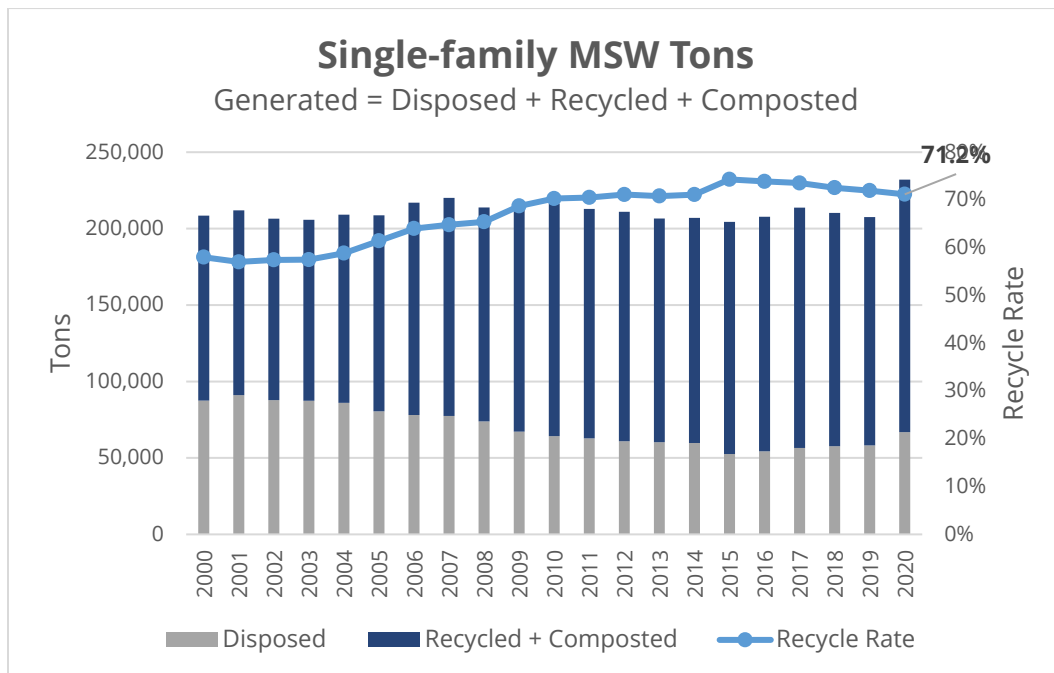
- **In 2018 and 2019, the open market portion of commercial recycled + composted tons is an estimate based on an econometric regression analysis*
- *Results for the open market portion of commercial recycling include estimates based on the self-reporting of recycling collectors and processors*

Single-family MSW, 2000-2020 (~33% of MSW)

- With Washington State on lockdown for most of the year, waste generation for single-family households increased 12% from 2019 levels to its highest point in 21 years.
- Single-family households recycled and composted more tons than ever before in 2020. And for the 11th year in a row, they recycled or composted more than 70% of MSW materials.
- 2020 single-family subscription data confirm higher generation in this sector, showing that the percentage of households subscribed to 60+ gallon garbage containers increased slightly to about 5%.
- Waste generation among single-family households accounted for one-third (32.6%) of all MSW last year.

Single-family MSW Tons, 2000-2020

Year	Generated	Disposed	Recycled + Composted	Recycle Rate
2000	208,468	87,499	120,969	58.0%
2001	211,982	91,072	120,910	57.0%
2002	206,474	87,834	118,640	57.5%
2003	205,748	87,426	118,322	57.5%
2004	209,132	86,029	123,103	58.9%
2005	208,675	80,478	128,197	61.4%
2006	216,946	78,078	138,868	64.0%
2007	220,128	77,494	142,634	64.8%
2008	213,889	73,961	139,928	65.4%
2009	215,015	67,229	147,786	68.7%
2010	216,484	64,309	152,175	70.3%
2011	212,861	62,779	150,082	70.5%
2012	211,030	60,906	150,124	71.1%
2013	206,603	60,302	146,301	70.8%
2014	206,992	59,772	147,220	71.1%
2015	204,397	52,529	151,868	74.3%
2016	207,804	54,298	153,506	73.9%
2017	213,709	56,541	157,168	73.5%
2018	210,289	57,725	152,564	72.5%
2019	207,538	58,191	149,347	72.0%
2020	232,038	66,877	165,161	71.2%

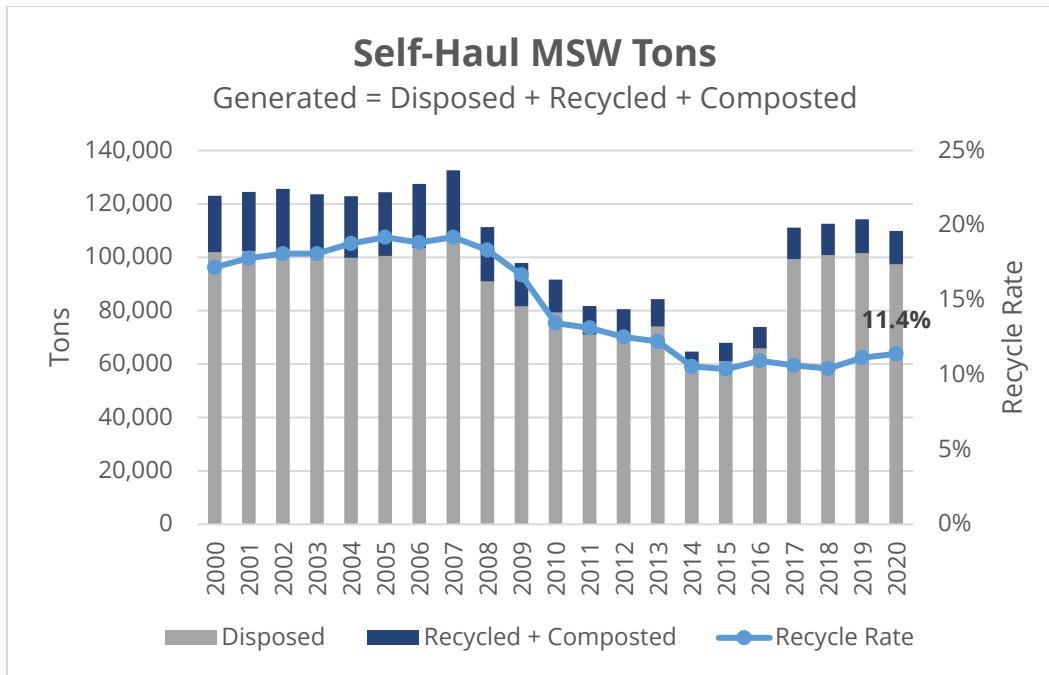


Self-haul MSW, 2000-2020 (~15% of MSW)

- The amount of waste “self-hauled” directly to the City’s two transfer stations by residents, businesses, non-profits, and governmental agencies declined 4%, driven almost exclusively by reductions in disposal.
- It is unclear whether reduced hours at the transfer stations between April and June 2020 and messaging to encourage customers to abstain from bringing “non-essential” loads impacted self-haul tons.

Self-haul MSW Tons, 2000-2020

Year	Generated	Disposed	Recycled + Composted	Recycle Rate
2000	123,024	101,883	21,141	17.2%
2001	124,453	102,305	22,148	17.8%
2002	125,620	102,891	22,729	18.1%
2003	123,597	101,232	22,365	18.1%
2004	122,835	99,766	23,069	18.8%
2005	124,364	100,499	23,865	19.2%
2006	127,444	103,429	24,015	18.8%
2007	132,545	107,098	25,447	19.2%
2008	111,309	90,894	20,415	18.3%
2009	97,893	81,565	16,328	16.7%
2010	91,618	79,293	12,325	13.5%
2011	81,776	71,033	10,743	13.1%
2012	80,568	70,474	10,094	12.5%
2013	84,341	74,019	10,322	12.2%
2014	64,681	57,847	6,834	10.6%
2015	67,993	60,938	7,055	10.4%
2016	73,923	65,840	8,083	10.9%
2017	111,099	99,290	11,808	10.6%
2018	112,550	100,827	11,723	10.4%
2019	114,234	101,506	12,728	11.1%
2020	109,844	97,320	12,524	11.4%

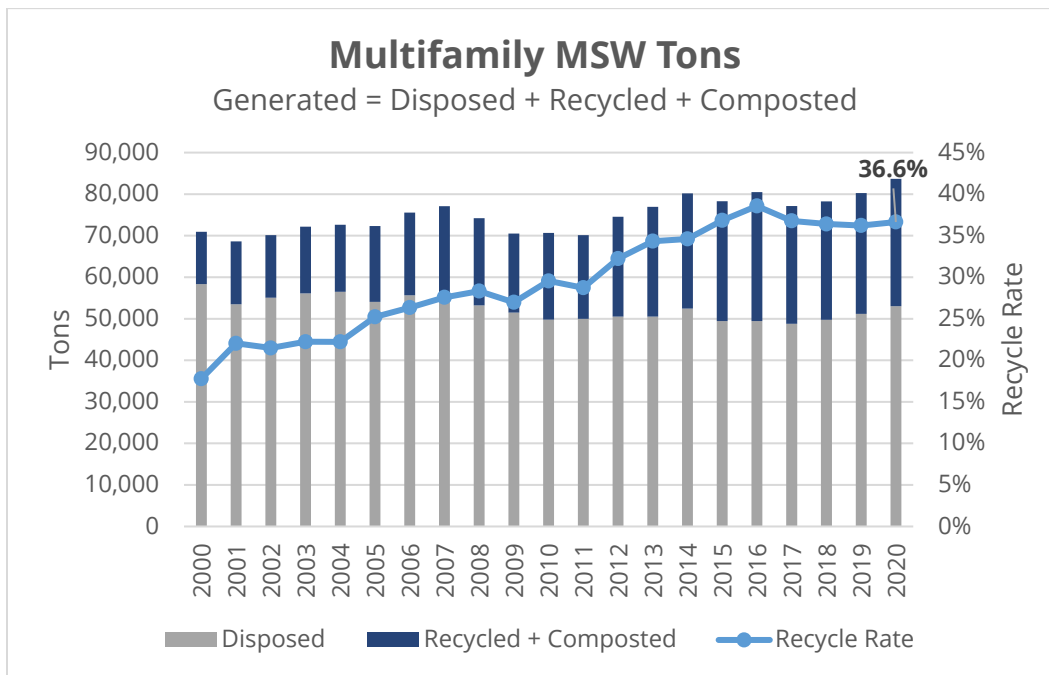


Multifamily MSW, 2000-2020 (~12% of MSW)

- Relative to other customer sectors, multifamily residents generated the least waste of any sector in 2020 (12%). However, they created more waste in 2020 than in the past 21 years, as expected when people spent more time at home and the population grew.

Multifamily MSW Tons, 2000-2020

Year	Generated	Disposed	Recycled + Composted	Recycle Rate
2000	70,944	58,333	12,611	17.8%
2001	68,611	53,487	15,124	22.0%
2002	70,144	55,076	15,068	21.5%
2003	72,149	56,106	16,043	22.2%
2004	72,640	56,498	16,142	22.2%
2005	72,325	54,080	18,245	25.2%
2006	75,545	55,643	19,903	26.3%
2007	77,108	55,847	21,261	27.6%
2008	74,223	53,199	21,024	28.3%
2009	70,524	51,497	19,028	27.0%
2010	70,675	49,788	20,887	29.6%
2011	70,145	49,993	20,152	28.7%
2012	74,549	50,514	24,035	32.2%
2013	76,960	50,537	26,423	34.3%
2014	80,189	52,439	27,750	34.6%
2015	78,278	49,443	28,835	36.8%
2016	80,478	49,437	31,041	38.6%
2017	77,150	48,773	28,376	36.8% ¹
2018	78,245	49,760	28,485	36.4%
2019	80,241	51,176	29,065	36.2%
2020	83,701	53,026	30,675	36.6%



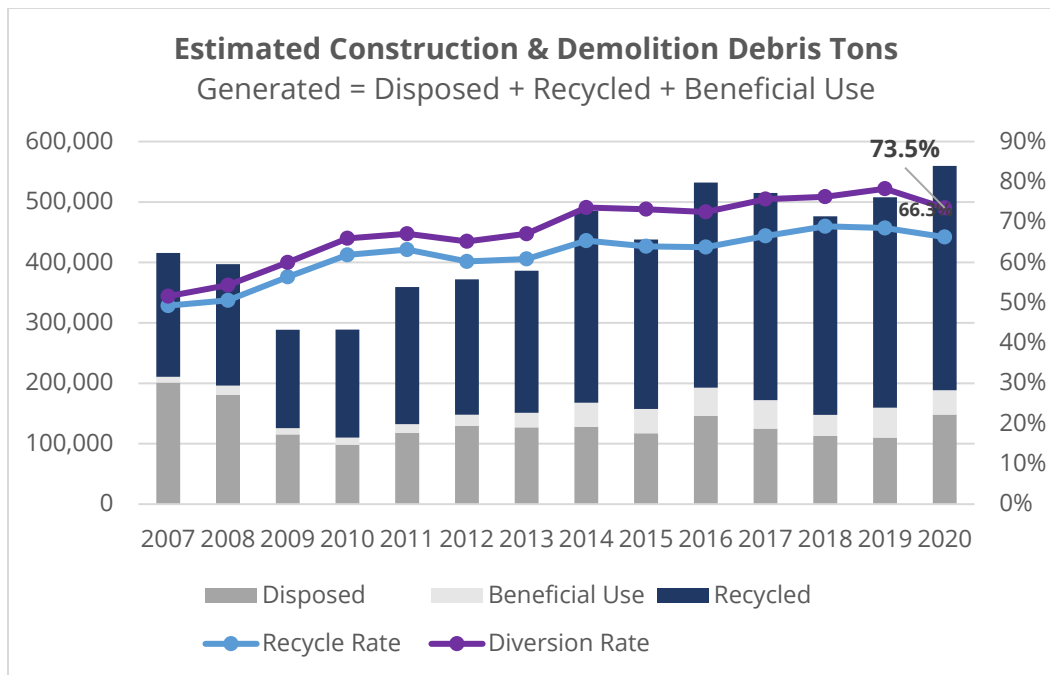
¹ Before 2017, the combined residential (single-family and multifamily) composted tonnage was measured and then attributed to either the single-family or multifamily sector based on estimates. Starting in 2017, composted tonnage data by individual residential sector became available. The adjustment in calculation methodology likely explains the shift in the recycling rate in 2017.

Estimated construction & demolition debris results, 2007-2020

- Construction activity shut down for about six weeks in 2020, yet the C&D sector generated nearly 560,000 tons, up 10% or ~52,000 tons, from 2019 levels. This represents the most tons of C&D debris ever reported in Seattle.
- C&D companies reported more recycled tons of C&D debris than ever before as well—371,000 tons, or the equivalent of all MSW generated by the commercial and multifamily sectors combined.
- The C&D sector again generated more tons overall than any other individual MSW sector for the 10th straight year.
- Improved compliance with and enforcement of annual recycling self-reporting helped contribute to higher tonnage figures in 2020. Seattle requires recycling collectors and processors [to report their recycling activities to obtain a Recycler License](#) that allows them to operate in the city.

Estimated Construction & Demolition Debris Tons, 2007-2020

Year	Generated	Disposed*	Recycled**	Beneficial Use	Recycle Rate	Diversion Rate
2007	415,801	201,156	204,907	9,738	49.3%	51.6%
2008	397,052	181,241	200,851	14,961	50.6%	54.4%
2009	288,551	115,446	162,742	10,362	56.4%	60.0%
2010	288,957	98,309	178,794	11,854	61.9%	66.0%
2011	359,390	118,216	227,049	14,125	63.2%	67.1%
2012	371,962	129,383	224,060	18,519	60.2%	65.2%
2013	386,200	127,040	234,982	24,178	60.8%	67.1%
2014	485,242	128,024	317,331	39,887	65.4%	73.6%
2015	437,883	117,343	280,205	40,336	64.0%	73.2%
2016	532,126	146,139	339,478	46,509	63.8%	72.5%
2017	514,858	125,074	342,755	47,029	66.6%	75.7%
2018	476,433	112,900	328,568	34,965	69.0%	76.3%
2019	507,793	110,275	348,032	49,486	68.5%	78.3%
2020	559,575	148,209	370,942	40,424	66.3%	73.5%



Notes:

- C&D disposal and beneficial use tons were estimated based on an analysis comparing self-reporting of C&D companies in the Qualified Facilities Monthly Reports and in the annual recycling reports
- C&D recycled tons are estimates based on self-reporting of recycling collectors and processors
- In 2020, SPU updated disposal estimates for 2018 and 2019 following additional data quality control and assurance activities and review of other disposal data

Top accomplishments to advance waste prevention and recycling in 2020

The Solid Waste Planning and Program Management Division provides comprehensive strategic planning, and data and analytics support for the Solid Waste Line of Business, and houses most of the customer-facing outreach, education, and technical assistance programs. In 2020, the division accomplished the following to encourage waste prevention and diversion from landfill:

- Adapted our approaches to pivot to new ways of engaging customers, including a new community-based contamination engagement pilot and additional direct contact with customers; increasing use of social media, such as Instagram TV, YouTube, Next Door, and Twitter; and, providing “Beyond the Cart” special collection and compost give away events.
- Achieved the highest compliance rate for annual open market commercial and C&D reporting of recycling ever—92%—working with the Finance and Administration Department. In addition, 11 recycling companies reported for the first time in 2020. SPU relies on self-reporting of commercial and C&D recyclers to estimate the open market portion of commercial recycling provided by third-party haulers.
- Advocated for passage of Washington’s Plastic Bag Ban and advanced legislation in preparation for the 2021 session during a legislative session beset with budget concerns due to COVID-19.

In addition, City Council approved SPU’s 2021-2026 Strategic Business Plan, offering a new mission and vision for zero waste in Seattle to guide the Solid Waste Line of Business’s work to minimize waste as far “upstream” as possible. To advance this vision, SPU is updating its comprehensive solid waste management plan, which will help prioritize waste prevention activities and measure their success, while deemphasizing the recycling rate as the key measure of solid waste outcomes in Seattle.

Solid Waste Advisory Committee comment letter

September 26, 2021

Councilmember Alex Pedersen
Chair, Transportation and Utilities
PO Box 34025
Seattle, WA 98124-4025

Dear Councilmember Pedersen and Committee Members,

In August 2021, the Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) had the opportunity to review SPU's Draft of the *2020 Annual Waste Prevention and Recycling Rate Report*. As the COVID Pandemic affected every aspect of life in 2020, we were not surprised to learn all waste generation categories were also affected. Some of the results were predictable; for example the increase of 10% in residential generation, as everyone spent more time at home, or the decrease of 20% in commercial generation, as entire industries slowed and some businesses shuttered. The 10% increase in construction and demolition (C&D) tons generated initially surprised us, given the 6 week shutdown of the construction industry and other potential slowing factors of the Pandemic on that industry, but we were glad to learn of the increase in compliance and self-reporting by C&D companies of their tonnages, which helps explain this increase.

SWAC looks forward to reviewing the SPU's specific goals and metrics for recycling, waste prevention, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in the upcoming Solid Waste Plan Update. Regarding the *2020 Annual Waste Prevention and Recycling Rate Report*, SWAC has the following comments and recommendations:

Estimated Commercial MSW

Given the 20% decline in commercial waste generation, it seems good that the recycling rate dipped only slightly. While ongoing effects of pandemic restrictions makes near-term planning challenging, we expect that businesses will benefit from SPU outreach supporting reuse and recycling as more workers return to offices, food and entertainment venues. This could be an opportunity to sustain a decreased waste generation level as the commercial sector returns to "normal."

Single-Family MSW

For the first time in 20 years, residential waste generation has exceeded commercial with more people working from home during the global pandemic. Even with roughly 44% of the MSW generated in Seattle coming from residential housing, the recycling mirrored that of 2019 at 62% recycle diversion. With more people working from home, the COVID mandates continue well into 2021, SWAC strongly encourages furthering education on "What Goes Where" and how to prevent waste in effort to increase the diversion rate.

Self-Haul MSW

We are pleased to see recycling rates at self-haul facilities come up slightly after bottoming out in 2018. However, the recycling rate for self-haul remains by far the lowest-performing among the waste sectors, at 11.4%. We believe there are great opportunities to further increase reuse and recycling at self-haul

facilities. The reuse center at the North Transfer Station is a great recent example of planning to prevent waste at self-haul stations; SWAC recommends strengthening reuse programs for self-haul, by increasing the number of materials accepted for reuse (adding building materials, for example) and expanding the program to the South Transfer Station.

Multifamily MSW

Even with more people working from home, it is an accomplishment to see that multifamily residents are still generating the smallest output of waste compared to all other sources of generation, representing only 12% of the overall waste generated in Seattle in 2020. With the consistent volume in generation, the recycling diversion remains consistent at roughly 36% recycling diverted from the landfill. With new development on the rise, SWAC recommends that new development be built to support a three waste stream disposal infrastructure on each floor for new mid-rise and high-rise buildings in an effort to increase the total waste diverted from the landfill. Education and outreach to residents virtually with requestable resources for preventing and diverting waste from the landfill should remain widely available while other methods of outreach are put on hold due to safety concerns.

Construction & Demolition Debris (C&D)

SWAC is pleased to see the significant increase in reported tonnage of C&D material recycled in 2020, though we understand that part of this uptick is due to improvements in reporting as opposed to actual performance improvements. While material-specific landfill bans and salvage assessment requirements are beginning to pay dividends, there is room for much more growth. The C&D recycling rate dropped relative to 2019 as C&D waste generation jumped to an all-time high. SWAC recommends continued policy steps supporting increased reuse and recycling: strengthening Salvage Assessment requirements to incentivize follow-through on salvage potential, as well as moving toward a deconstruction requirement on projects where high wood salvage potential is identified.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Upstream Efforts

SWAC supports SPU's focus on upstream solutions and efforts to ensure a more sustainable, efficient, and equitable residential recycling system in WA. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is proven to be an effective policy to increase recycling and reuse, not just for packaging and paper products, but for a wide range of products regularly found in our waste streams. EPR programs reduce costs to ratepayers, amplify access, education, and outreach efforts, which communities, particularly MF residents, would benefit from.

Legislation

The raft of recently proposed state legislation that addresses issues such as reuse, bans, right to repair, etc. have been good efforts and SWAC looks forward to continued effort and success on the legislative front, and views legislation as a powerful and effective means to drive and support progress on waste issues and trends. SWAC congratulates SPU on successfully advocating for a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Although SWAC felt that the 2020 report did not reflect a more robust outlook on SPU's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion priorities and practices, SWAC continues to recognize the deliberate efforts they

have dedicated to rethinking and implementing DEI considerations in their expansive programming and services. During an unprecedented year, SPU has been committed to equitable essential services by focusing on accessibility and affordability priorities. SWAC also applauds evolving strategies that leverage the Racial Equity Toolkit and Targeted Universalism framework through programs such as the Enhanced Customer Response Team and Waste Free Communities Grant. SWAC particularly emphasizes SPU's development of educational tools and tactics and technical assistance programs that underpin community-expressed needs and opportunities. Anticipating extended socio-environmental impacts of COVID, among historical waste stream challenges, SWAC encourages SPU to continue expanding their reach and relevance to Seattle's BIPOC, refugee, and immigrant communities via community-led programs, businesses, and policies that promote innovation via reuse and repair. SWAC strongly believes that efforts to build partnerships with existing and new community groups, will foster interagency collaboration and longer lasting community-based solutions.

Thank you for considering our comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,



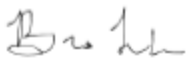
Dirk Wassink, Co-Chair, SWAC



Nico Onoda-McGuire, Co-Chair, SWAC



Joel Dashnaw, Interim Co-Secretary, SWAC



Brie Kuhn, Interim Co-Secretary, SWAC

SWAC is one of Seattle Public Utilities' Community Advisory Committees. Its members are appointed by the SPU CEO/General Manager. It is administered and staffed by SPU. This letter reflects the opinions of Committee Members, independent of SPU.

Cc: Lorena Gonzalez, President, Seattle City Council
Sego Jackson, Solid Waste Policy Liaison
Stephanie Schwenger, Solid & Hazardous Waste Lead Planner
Katie Lynd, SWAC Coordinator and Solid Waste Community Affairs Strategic Advisor