

SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)



September 3, 2025, Meeting Summary  
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

*Chair: Joe Camero (interim)  
Co-Chair: Paige Madden (interim)  
Secretary: Melanie Coerver*

Committee Members	Present	SPU Staff /Guests	Role
Joe Camero	Y	Casey Colley	SPU – SWAC Program Coordinator
Melanie Coerver	Y	Katie Swanson	SPU
Tareq Fayyad	N	Stephanie Schwenger	SPU
Caitlin Singer	Y	Maggie Yuse	SPU
Lisa Watkins	Y	McKenna Morrigan	SPU
Alissa Campbell	Y	Michaela Doleman	DTG
Erin Gagnon	N		
Paige Madden	Y		
Chelsey Evans	Y		
Karia Wong	Y		
Marcus Johnson	Y		
Phil Churilla	Y		
Mike VanReken	Y		
Travis Close	Y		
Jacob Melaragno	Y		

**1. Introductions and Icebreaker**

**2. Review and Approve August Meeting Minutes** Joe Camero, SWAC Chair

- Approved 13-0

**3. Moving Toward Zero Waste: 2024 Annual Solid Waste Report** Katie Swanson SPU Solid Waste Lead Planner

- Review report timeline -
  - Draft comment letter due 9/17
  - Finalized comment letter due 9/24
  - Sent final report to city council 10/1 (after SPU submits final letter)
- Discuss collecting comments for the Letter
  - Logistics: Google Doc created by Melanie to leave comments
  - Meeting next week to live edit - Melanie to send invite

- Suggestion to break up review
- Suggestion to read the previous letters
- Audience = city council. Keep comments high level, stay out of the weeds.

#### 4. **Legislative Agenda** Maggie Yuse SPU Government Relations & Legislative Affairs Advisor

- Right-to-Repair - make repair of electronic devices more affordable and accessible.
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) - requires producers to pay for curbside recycling. Incentives producers to consider recyclability when designing packaging. In addition to paying fees, there are performance targets set by the state as part of the program that producers are legally obligated to meet (for each material category). A statewide list of recyclable materials will be available.
  - Short-term impacts:
    - Potential participation in Advisory Council + other technical assistance
    - Register with Ecology as a service provider
    - 2029 legislative session guard against rollbacks
  - Long-term impacts:
    - Submit for reimbursement to PRO
      - 50% by 2030
      - 75% by 2031
      - 90% by 2032
    - Pass along applicable recycling cost savings to customers on their utility bills
- What is the opposition? Hesitation due to the newness of the program
- Tough budget year, legislatively
- 2026 Legislative Agenda
  - MTCA Remedial Action Grant Program
    - Helps SPU clean up polluted waterways and other sites
  - Tire Management
    - Exact request in development - multiyear effort
    - Problematic material - toxic 6PPD-Q leaches into environment
    - Frequently dumped illegally
    - Difficult to recycle responsibly
    - Work in coalition with other groups to address problems
  - Plastic Bag Ban Reform
    - Seattle banned single use plastic bags in 2012

- The Washington legislature banned plastic bags in 2020
- Resurgence in plastic bags in Seattle stores
- We no longer have valid law b/c state law replaced Seattle law
- Goal: ban thick "reusable" plastic bags in WA
- Sponsor Rep. Beth Doglio
- Salmon Recovery
- Extended Producer Responsibility
  - 3 bills for textiles, mattresses, and household hazardous waste (HHW)
  - Requires manufacturers to pay for end-of-life recycling and disposal of their products
- Other topics we'd like to see SPU work on in the Legislature?
  - Food Waste
- Other comments
  - Suggestion to be mindful that a loss of plastic bags is a potential additional cost for low-income residents. E.g. if they use a plastic bag they got for free as trash bags, now they will need to buy trash bags.

## 5. Updating the Designated Recyclables List (DRL) McKenna Morrigan SPU Strategic Advisor, Waste Prevention and Solid Waste Policy

- Update Process 101
- Two-part presentation - first part today, second part in November
- DRL = state required element of a Solid Waste Management Plan
- Two components
  - Residential curbside collection - specific materials that Seattle collects for recycling at curbside (including organics)
    - The level of separation for each material (commingled or collected separately)
  - "Beyond the Bin" - specific materials not in contracted collection program, e.g. commercial collection services, drop boxes, private recyclers
- Purpose of DRL - tell our contractors what we want them to do, define generally what we see as recyclable outside of City collection, establish a list informed by state and industry standards for what can be responsibly recycled.
  - Secondarily: eliminate and prevent sham recycling, ensure residential program information easily accessible and standardize. Harmonize recycling.

- There are items on the current DRL that need defining, are not recyclable, and completely excluded C&D materials
- Ecology recently published new guidance and a template for DRL that suggest changes to Seattle's DRL are needed.
- These recommendations for material selection are based on a comprehensive assessment of:
  - Responsible end markets
  - Recycling processes and technical feasibility
  - Contamination
  - Economic considerations
  - Environmental and health considerations
- Why does DRL need to be updated?
  - Support proper facility permitting and regulation
  - Improve compliance with Seattle's recycling requirements and flow control provisions
- Next steps
  - SPU draft updated "Beyond the Bin" DRL (Aug-Oct 2025)
  - SWAC review and public comment (Nov 2025)

## **6. Seattle Department of Construction & Inspection Solid Waste Amendments Update**

Casey Colley SPU

- It passed!

## **7. Vice Char Interim Election**

Paige won!

## **8. SWAC Comments**

- Beyond the Bin event on Joe's birthday
- Mending Event at KAVU in West Seattle (Sep XX)

## **9. Public Comments**

None