



SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

November 5, 2025, Meeting Summary
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Chair (interim): Joe Camero
Co-Chair (interim): Paige Madden
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-Solid Waste Lead Planner
Tareq Fayyad	N	Mckenna Morrigan	SPU- Strategic Advisor, Waste Prevention and Solid Waste Policy
Mike VanReken	Y	Katie Jerauld	Guest-Ecology
Caitlin Singer	Y	Veronica Fincher	SPU- Sr. Waste Prevention Program Manager
Lisa Watkins	N	Fatima Krubally	SPU- Administrative Staff Analyst
Alissa Campbell	N		
Travis Close	Y		
Shelly Crocker	N		
Marcus Johnson	Y		
Phil Churilla	Y		
Jacob Melaragno	Y		
Erin Gagnon	Y		
Paige Madden	N		
Chelsey Evans	Y		
Karia Wong	Y		

1. Introductions and Icebreaker

2. Review and Approve January Meeting Minutes

- No edits or comments were proposed.
- A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

3. Attendance and Agenda Adjustments

- A scheduled update from Jeff could not be delivered due to absence.
- The committee agreed to note the absence and follow up separately.

4. Beyond the Bin List Presented by McKenna Morrigan- SPU

The Beyond the Bin recyclables list is required by state law and Department of Ecology guidance.

New guidance has clarified the need for two distinct lists:

- Residential curbside collection

- Beyond-the-Bin (for non-residential or special collection systems)

- Seattle lacks a clearly defined Beyond-the-Bin list, creating a gap in the Solid Waste Management Plan. The residential curbside list will be addressed later due to: The upcoming renewal of the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) contract, expiring March 2027.
- The Recycling Reform Act, which mandates a statewide recycling list by October
- The committee emphasized preventing sham recycling practices with examples like:
 - Illegal dumping from improper tire recycling
 - Failed asphalt shingle recycling leading to environmental remediationKey points included clear designations, alignment with licensed recyclers, and accountability.
- The proposed list follows Ecology's recommendations. Notably, "metal paint cans" now includes all paint cans due to existing recycling infrastructure. Some discouraged materials were retained for consistency with current programs and will be revisited later.
- Updates were made to align definitions with Seattle Municipal Code, including:
 - Expanding food-soiled paper to encompass compostable products
 - Excluding non-food contaminants from food waste Feedback will be provided to clarify compostable packaging definitions.
- A new definition for packaged food waste supports de-packaging technologies and organic material recovery. This area needs further rulemaking, prompting the development of a Director's Rule for guidance.
- The committee discussed regional anaerobic digestion facilities. There were concerns about the clarity of language regarding packaged food used as animal feed, which requires review.
- Construction and Demolition (C&D) Materials definitions were aligned with the Seattle Municipal Code, focusing on the state definition of "derived fuel." Low-grade wood waste is normally accepted for use as hog fuel, noting potential changes to definitions.
- Waste prevention is the top priority, with the food recovery hierarchy reaffirmed as:

- 1. Prevent waste
- 2. Feed people
- 3. Feed animals
- 4. Compost or anaerobic digestion
- Next Steps
 - Finalizing the Beyond-the-Bin recyclables list
 - Formal adoption as part of the Solid Waste Management Plan
 - Sharing proposed template changes with the Department of Ecology
 - Developing a Director's Rule on packaged food waste management
 - Updating the residential curbside list in the following year
- Committee members were asked to submit comments and suggested changes by mid-November (approximately November 15).
- SPU Staff will:
 - Finalize the list
 - Remove comparison markup
 - Submit the amended list to Ecology
 - Publish the update as an amendment to the Solid Waste Management Plan.

5. Waste Prevention Strategic Plan Update Presented by Veronica Fincher-SPU

- The plan prioritizes preventing waste before it enters garbage, recycling, or compost streams.
 - Multi-year planning process (initiated 2022)
 - Emphasis on environmental, social, and economic impacts
 - Use of prioritization criteria and environmental modeling tools

Next steps include:

- Draft strategic plan review by the committee (anticipated January)
- Public comment period
- Completion target by April

6. SWAC Comments & Holiday Dessert Potluck

- Members were invited to ask questions during the meeting or to follow up via email with Veronica.

- Future Tours: Joe sent an email about upcoming facility tours. Members are encouraged to: Submit tour ideas and suggestions. Vote to prioritize tours, similar to last year (e.g., Ridwell tours).
 - Respond to Joe's email with tour suggestions.
- December Officer Elections: Elections for SWAC officer positions (Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary) will take place in December. Members may: Self-nominate or nominate someone else (with their consent).
 - Please submit nominations before Thanksgiving. Nominees will need to provide a brief statement outlining their interest, and voting will be conducted online between the December meetings.
 - Officer nominations due before Thanksgiving.
- SPU North Transfer Station Tours: Two tours are scheduled for December 12 and December 19, with a capacity of 10 participants each. Members should RSVP and, if possible, select the date with fewer attendees.

7. SWAC Comments

- A committee member plans to host an informal SWAC holiday gathering after the December tour, inviting members, partners, and families. Details will be shared via email.
- A member attended the CleanTech Innovation Convention, noting key discussions on energy, materials, and innovation, as well as an interest in broader committee participation. Members also shared materials related to compostable and carbon-negative products.

8. Public Comments

- None