

SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)



February 11, 2026, Ad hoc Virtual Meeting Summary
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Chair: Melanie Coerver
Vice-Chair: Lisa Watkins
Secretary: Travis Close

Committee Members	Present	SPU Staff /Guests	Role
Joe Camero	Y	Casey Colley	SPU – SWAC Program Coordinator
Melanie Coerver	Y		
Tareq Fayyad	Y		
Mike VanReken	N	Katie Jerauld	Guest-Ecology
Caitlin Singer	Y		
Lisa Watkins	Y		
Alissa Campbell	Y		
Travis Close	Y		
Marcus Johnson	N		
Phil Churilla	Y		
Jacob Melaragno	Y		
Erin Gagnon	Y		
Paige Madden	N		
Chelsey Evans	Y		
Karia Wong	Y		

1. Purpose of SWAC

SWAC members work with SPU’s Solid Waste team to provide recommendations, feedback, and share community insights into programs, policies, and outreach objectives around recycling, compost, garbage, and waste prevention. SWAC members also assist in the review of programs and policies concerning solid waste handling and disposal. In addition, members review and comments upon proposed plans, rules, policies, or ordinances prior to their adoption. SWAC members bring expertise from their communities and organizations, with different professional and life experiences, to ensure SPU can

make Seattle the best place to live for everyone. SWAC members also actively partner to uphold our commitments to Our City

Values:

We commit to the Citywide values of equity, inclusion, learning, accountability, and stewardship so that we can each thrive in the workplace. Our values shape how we create and maintain a work environment that is based on care, consideration, and respect so we can best serve our communities and support one another as colleagues.

Social Justice:

The Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI) represents the City of Seattle's commitment to ending racial disparities and achieving racial equity. We challenge racism and other forms of oppression to make Seattle a city of thriving, powerful communities that fosters healing and belonging.

2. Member Responsibilities

Represent community and organizational interests in making solid waste recommendations

Write letters and statements to support SPU's goals, such as moving toward Zero Waste

Comment on the Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan and Annual Waste Prevention & Recycling Report

Review solid waste programs and policies for customer impact

Work collaboratively with other members of differing viewpoints

Attend meetings every other month and participate in group conversations on solid waste topics

3. SPU Annual Work Plan

Casey to present

Recommendation that SPU take a look at where SWAC can provide input

SWAC INFORMATION SHARING/ ADVISORY INTERESTS

Director rules

Community impact - rates, guidelines, accessibility

Relevant to meeting SPU goals for Waste Management - zero waste; circularity; env. Justice

Specific topics:

Food Waste Reduction Recycling improvements

Specific material management - Mattress, battery, tires

WA Legislative Efforts/ Policy developments EPR implementation

Rates for Solid Waste

Follow up: Casey to check with SPU on which topics on the work plan are coming up that we should review; use the form to prepare

Check the rules on SWAC relationship to policy development (Casey to check with Maggie) SPU Theme: Continued Improvement

4. Suggestions for Improvement

Creating calendar appointments to increase visibility for participation and opportunities for comment

Improving information sharing

Providing input that can achieve meaningful results

Share document from tours and field trips (google doc?)

Presented by Phil +1 Travis

How does it connect back to our objectives?

Travis to start a doc.

Email ideas to Melanie melanie.coerver@gmail.com or text: 206-399-3880

5. Calendar Invites

Sending calendar invites with meetings, field trips, and due dates for responses Eg- Code of Conduct comments due

Discuss any concerns with that. Important dates:

When does the Waste Prevention Plan launch?

List other key programs and policies

6. Information Sharing

A: How do you like to get information? Pre-read or share in meetings?

“Appreciate a pre-read followed by an in-meeting discussion:

Lisa: I like a pre-read but only if it's paired with the "ask" or angle that they're looking for our help with. Sometimes it's not clear what they're looking for, and I read it with a different eye than what they end up asking for feedback on. I like a pre-read but only if it's paired with the "ask" or angle that they're looking for our help with. Sometimes it's

not clear what they're looking for, and I read it with a different eye than what they end up asking for feedback on.

Improvements:

Have a summary with an ask at the start of what is being solicited

Link to full document

Big pieces could have optional ad hoc meetings (under an hour; SPU staff not expected to join; maintain respect for people's time)

Three Ad Hoc:

Feb. - work plan

August - new recruits

Dec - holiday party :)

B: How do you want to respond?

Generally agreed that SPU has found the verbal comments provided in the meetings to be sufficient.

C: What follow up would help us get results?

Have a discussion on metrics and a plan for looping back on relevant metrics.

Check in on how we compared to last year

Reflect on: How are we bringing in broader perspectives? Consider tracking how we are fulfilling our promise/ obligations as a SWAC team

7. SWAC Comments

Next WM virtual tour, Feb. 27: <https://www.wmnorthwest.com/recyclingcenters/virtualltourregistration/>

Virtual Tour Registration - WMNorthwest

Virtual tour registration form Western Washington Friday, February 27 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Your Contact Information

8. Guest Comments

WA Department of Ecology Updates:

2026 Organics Regional Summits

Ecology's Organics team will be hosting another round of summits this spring! This is an all-day, in-person opportunity for city and county solid waste management staff,

service providers, facilities, and other organizations to connect with Ecology and come together to collaborate on organics collection and implementing the organics management laws. Each region will address their unique challenges, share opportunities, and discuss how to support each other when diverting and handling organics.

Northwest Region Summit - Tuesday, April 28: Register for Northwest.

Washington State Use Food Well Peer Network

The Washington Department of Ecology's Food Center invites anyone interested to join their Use Food Well Peer Network, a collaborative space where partners across Washington come together to share success stories, best practices, and lessons learned. By building relationships and strengthening partnerships, the network finds ways to reduce food waste and to feed people in

need. Meetings are held approximately every two months. You can register for the Use Food Well Peer Network [here](#).

9. Meeting adjourned at 6:46 PM