



## SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

March 5, 2025, Meeting Summary  
5:30 am – 7:30 am

*Chair: Aleema Gray*  
*Co-Chair: Joe Camero*  
*Secretary: Melanie Coerver*

Committee Members	Present	SPU Staff /Guests	Role
Joe Camero	Y	Casey Colley	SPU – SWAC Program Coordinator
Melanie Coerver	Y	Pam Johnson	SPU—Hazardous Waste Liaison & Policy Advisor
Tareq Fayyad	Y	Maggie Yuse	SPU—Senior Policy Advisor & Legislative Liaison
Aleema Gray	Y	Veronica Fincher	SPU—Senior Waste Prevention Program Manager
Caitlin Singer	N	Katie Jerauld	Guest-Ecology
Wendy Weiker	N		
Lisa Watkins	Y		
Alissa Campbell	N		
Erin Gagnon	Y		
Paige Madden	Y		
Chelsey Evans	Y		
Yongkang (YK) Zhou	Y		
Karia Wong	Y		

### 1. Introductions and Icebreaker

All who attended went around the room and introduced themselves and answer the question of “If they could be any battery, what battery would they choose?”

### 2. Battery Collections Pilot Pam Johnson, SPU Hazardous Waste Liaison & Policy Advisor

- Gaps in multi-family services. Special items pick up (SIP) not available. Utility Discount Program for SIP (2 free pickups) is only for single family. Not going to bother property manager about services since need to keep them on your good side.
- What keeps you from using drop off or SIP? Batteries are really easy to store around house. Don't have as many because have switched to rechargeables. Didn't know about SIP. Not going to drive batteries all the way to hazardous waste stations. Don't see it as a safety issue in house. Use Ridwell (high saturation in Seattle)

- Any messages that would make you really want to recycle your batteries? Mostly just convenience, not message. If there was a goal we were all trying to collectively reach. Again, not concerned about Li-ion fires in homes. No specific message, just that it has to be ongoing for people to pay attention and do what you want them to do.

### **3. Legislative Update** Maggie Yuse, SPU Senior Policy Advisor & Legislative Liaison

Maggie joined via Teams from Olympia and updated us on the 2025 legislative session.

- 2025 session timeline
  - Jan. 13: first day of session
  - Feb. 21: Policy Committee Cutoff
  - Feb. 28: Fiscal Committee Cutoff
  - Mar. 12: House of Origin Cutoff
  - Apr. 2: Opposite House Policy Cutoff
  - Apr. 8: Opposite House Fiscal Cutoff
  - Apr. 16: Opposite House Cutoff
  - Apr. 27: Last Day of Session
- Progress reports on SPU's legislative priorities
  - Right to Repair
  - Recycling Reform Act
  - Organic Waste 1497
  - Beverage returns system 1607
- Budget updates
  - \$3 million FIFA World Cup Budget Proviso
  - Replace garbage/recycling/compost bins and add return bins at Seattle Center
  - Purchase durable service ware
  - Funding for business partners to increase their washing capacity
- Questions?

### **4. Waste Prevention** Veronica Fincher, SPU Senior Waste Prevention Program Manager

- Feedback on Draft Waste Prevention Goals & Strategies
  - Discuss poll results. Which goals and strategies are most important and why?

- Is anything missing from the goals and strategies?
- Brainstorm ideas for specific programs and policies to align with priority goals and strategies.
- Feedback on Draft Prioritization Criteria
  - Will the criteria help us make good decisions on which Waste Prevention programs and policies to prioritize?
  - Is anything missing from the criteria?
  - Would SWAC like to be engaged in ranking programs and policies using the criteria?

## **5. Review and Approve January Meeting Minutes** Aleema Gray, SWAC Chair

All present members approved minutes.

## **6. Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) Solid Waste Amendments**

Casey Colley, SPU SWAC Coordinator

- Proposed Ordinance to update 23.54.040 for solid waste storage and access was published for comment in the Land Use Bulletin on Tuesday Feb. 18th with a two-week comment period.
- Angela would have reviewed and considered any comments received (no comments were received), then make any necessary edits to the ordinance, and request that Mayors Office transmits to Council estimated by March 14th.
- As soon as it is transmitted to Council, Angela will reach out to Aleema and I at which point Aleema will send the SWAC letter of support to CM Hollingsworth—Stay tuned.
- Solid Waste/Angela then briefs CM Hollingsworth, and the proposed ordinance then goes to the Parks, Public Utilities & Technology Committee. They consider it then open a public comment. Then if it gets through that, it then goes into a legislative process which can take another 2 months.
- Angela will update us throughout the process.

## **7. SWAC Annual Work Plan** Casey Colley, SPU SWAC Coordinator

- Share living document
- Compare SPU priorities & see where SWAC's align

SPU Priorities:

- Delivering Equitable essential services (providing safe tap water, reducing waste and litter, managing wastewater and stormwater, and responding to customers)

- Stewarding environment and health (protecting water sources, increasing integrated and equitable investments in water management and systems, and reducing Seattle's waste and carbon pollution by helping transform our economy)
- Empowering our customers, community, and employees (improving access to utility services, partnering with community organizations to increase livability and local opportunity, and cultivating and promoting a more diverse and dynamic workforce)
- Strengthening our utilities business practices (enhancing rate payer affordability while being adaptive and innovative in delivering services and managing assets and risk)

#### 2025 SWPPM Priorities:

- Expanding reuse with focus on 2026 world cup
- Getting food waste out of garbage & prevented, rescued, or diverted
- Meet our mayors office, council and Strategic Business Plan commitments
- Passing EPR & procuring salvage lumber warehouse contract
- Complete all hiring & fill all vacancies
- Ensure 2025 budget is accurately allocated and responsibility spent

### 8. SWAC Comments

- Announcements & events sharing
- Community insights & comments regarding solid waste

### 9. Public Comments

Katie Jerauld (Regional Planner & Grant Manager WA State Dept. Of Ecology)

- **Comprehensive Climate Action Plan Virtual Meetings**

The Washington Climate Partnership (WCP) is hosting a series of virtual meetings to request public input on a new Washington state Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP). Seven meetings, from February through April, will cover each "sector" of the state economy.

- **Food Waste Prevention Week**

Food Waste Prevention Week is April 7-13, 2025. Become a partner to inspire action and drive real results in reducing food waste. Whether you're resharing or creating a social media post, hosting or attending an event or webinar, sponsoring or spreading awareness, your involvement can make a big impact.

Place an "X" if you approve or do not approve the meeting minutes next to your name		
Committee Members	I Approve	I do not Approve
Aleema Gray	X	
Joe Camero	X	
Melanie Coerver	X	

Tareq Fayyad	X	
Caitlin Singer	X	
Lisa Watkins	X	
Alissa Campbell	X	
Erin Gagnon	Absent	
Paige Madden	Absent	
Chelsey Evans	X	
Yongkang (YK) Zhou	X	
Karia Wong	Absent	