



SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

November 1, 2023, Meeting Summary
Webex
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

*Chair: Brie Kuhn
Co-Chair: Wendy Weiker
Secretary: Michael Johnson*

Committee Members	Present	SPU Staff /Guests	Role
Danny Barksdale	N	Quinn Apuzzo	SPU – SWAC Program Coordinator
Joe Camero	Y	McKenna Morrigan	SPU – Strategic Advisor, Waste Prevention & Product Stewardship
Brie Kuhn	N	Jeff Fowler	SPU – Deputy Director, Solid Waste Line of Business
Michael Johnson	Y	Socorro Medina	SPU – Multifamily Community Engagement Program Manager
Chelsey Evans	Y	Sally Hulsman	SPU – Solid Waste Contracts Manager
John Martin	N	Ashely Whitley	SPU – Multifamily Outreach
Erin Gagnon	N	Fatima Krubally	SPU – Administrative Analyst
Aleema Gray	Y	Diana Wadley	Guest – Department of Ecology
Caitlin Singer	N	Matt Waymire	Guest - Ridwell
Wendy Weiker	Y		
Steven Walls	Y		
Yongkang (YK) Zhou	Y		

1. Welcome & Introductions

- SWAC Secretary Michael called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm
- SWAC Member and guests introduced themselves and shared their favorite Halloween candy.
- SWAC members in attendance approved the September meeting notes.

2. Comments on the Solid Waste Line of Business Updates for SWAC

- Updates were provided to the committee in writing in advance of the meeting. Jeff Fowler was present to answer questions.
- **A SWAC Member commented:** Zero Waste Washington recently launched the [Furniture Repair Bank](#) and suggested a potential partnership opportunity.

3. Multifamily Solid Waste, Recycle & Compost Overview

Socorro Medina provided an overview of Seattle’s multifamily sector solid waste data and trends, services, and engagement strategy.

- **A SWAC Member commented:** I’m impressed with how SPU is using data to support multifamily properties and residents – great work! Does SPU work in partnership with the city’s development department to ensure new construction projects have a separate shoot for organic waste and sufficient space to store containers? Ensuring that planning happens in advance is critical for achieving waste diversion goals.
- **A SPU Staff Member shared:** Yes. SPU has 3 full-time staff members who work with developers to review plans and make sure that new construction projects align with code requirements. In addition, SPU has been working to modify and update the land use code to require that buildings of a certain size must have a way to collect garbage, recycle, and compost on each floor.
- **A SWAC Member asked:** Where do most of your referrals for outreach or technical assistance at multifamily properties come from? Do property managers or residents reach out to you? Or do you seek out properties to work with proactively using other data or strategies?
- **A SPU Staff Member responded:** More than half of our current outreach and technical assistance work is generated through self-referrals. The direct mailings SPU sends to multifamily properties and residents generates awareness for the program. Our team has grown recently and we are looking forward to shifting towards more proactive strategies.
- **A SWAC Member asked:** Have you noticed any trends in the development of different multifamily building size classifications? For example, are smaller buildings (20 units or less) being built at a faster rate than larger high rises? Or vice versa?
- **A SPU Staff Member responded:** The trend is moving towards building bigger buildings but there is also interest in the Mayor’s Office and Building Development community to build more micro-housing.

4. Overview of SPU’s Major Solid Waste Contracts

Sally Hulsman provided an overview of SPU’s major contracts related to solid waste, recycling, and organics. The contracts involve multiple private sector companies, each responsible for various aspects of waste collection, processing, and disposal.

5. Electronics & Battery Disposal Ban

McKenna Morrigan returned to SWAC with an update on the proposed Electronics and Battery Disposal ban. SWAC has been asked to provide a formal statement of support for the proposed policy. SWAC will revisit the topic at the December meeting.

6. Around the Table

- **A Guest shared:** The Washington State Recycling Association (WSRA) is hosting a webinar on [November 6th: Financing Zero Waste of Resources](#). The [WSRA is also seeking session proposals](#) for their annual conference scheduled for May 2024.
- **A Guest shared:** SPU will be releasing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a vendor to host furniture collection events at transfer stations, thanks to the Local Solid Waste Funding Assistance (LWSFA) program grant from the WA Department of Ecology.
- **A SPU Staff Member shared:** Please help SPU gather input to help inform Seattle’s Waste Prevention Strategic Plan. Share your waste prevention ideas and input by participating and sharing the following opportunities with your community and youth networks:

- [Enter SPU's Race to Zero Waste contest!](#) Offered in partnership with Seattle Public Schools, this is a fun opportunity for youth, students, and the community to share ideas, help shape a waste-free future, and win! Applications accepted through **11/14/23**.
- Calling all Community Members! Take the [Waste Prevention Survey](#) and help Seattle stop waste before it happens! The 15-20 min survey is available in English, Amharic, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Korean, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Survey deadline **11/30/2023**.