



SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

June 6, 2018 Meeting Notes
 Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue
 Room 4901
 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Chair: Holly Griffith
Vice-Chair: Quinn Apuzzo
Secretary: Adam Maurer

Committee Members	Present?	SPU Staff	Role
Quinn Apuzzo	Y	Sheryl Shapiro	CAC Program Manager
Holly Griffith	Y	Natasha Walker	CAC Program Coordinator
Emily Newcomer	Y	Sego Jackson	SW LOB Policy Liaison
Colin Groark	Y	Sally Hulsmann	Solid Waste Compliance and Inspections, Director
James Subocz	N	Socorro Medina	Community Recycling & Engagement Program Manager
Alan Garvey	Y		
Amelia Fujikawa	Y	Guests	Affiliation
Adam Maurer	Y	Lindsey Engh	Guest
Rachtha Dahn	Y	Christian Hoogerheyde	Guest
Alessandra Pistoia	Y		
Dirk Wassink	Y		

1. Regular Business

SWAC Chair, Holly Griffith called the meeting to order at 5:38 PM

- Members and guests introduced themselves.
- Meeting notes from May were reviewed and approved.
- Sheryl indicated emergency exits and exit procedures.

2. Solid Waste LOB Updates & Quarterly Report

Susan Fife-Ferris, Division Director, Solid Waste Planning and Program Management & SWAC Policy Liaison, Sego Jackson, provided a few Solid Waste Line of Business and legislative updates.

- **Washington State Recycling Association (WSRA) 2018 Recycler of the Year Award recipients:**
 WSRA Recycler of the Year – Public Agency: Seattle Public Utilities
 WSRA Recycler of the Year – Multicultural Engagement: Waste Management, for rethinking language and structure as they create outreach programs targeting Latino customers.
- **“Big Think” on Food Rescue:** SPU is engaging stakeholders to determine how best to increase “food rescue” (i.e. the donation of safe, fresh, commercially-produced food that would otherwise go to waste to hunger relief organizations, such as homeless shelters and food banks). Over the next four to five months, SPU plans to tap the groundswell of research and innovation across the US on this topic and begin to determine what could be adapted locally to gain traction and facilitate the rescue of food in Seattle. Staff will meet with members of the retail and the hospitality industries as well as potential non-profit, public sector, and philanthropic

partners to assess interest, discuss barriers, and develop conceptual solutions. SPU plans to coordinate a “Big Think” in early November to bring about 100 people together to strategize and develop both short- and long-term solutions to overcome some of the existing barriers to moving quality food from those who have it to those who need it, and identify the various players, roles and opportunities.

- **Farewell to Straws, June 20:** Greenpeace with Lonely Whale and others are bringing a ship to Seattle and conducting a “Farewell to straws.” **An email with RSVP details will be sent shortly.**
- **SPU onboarding interns:** Interns will be assisting with Solid Waste outreach events. Susan said if SWAC members are interested in events to reach out.
- **Bag Update Report to Council:** SWAC received a draft memo that will be delivered to Council in July. SWAC were encouraged to read it and share their comments via email or in the executive session. The report from the students at the Evans School about compliance with the bag ban was passed around. **The students gave a presentation to SPU staff, and would be willing to give a presentation to SWAC in the future.**
- **Plastic Film Recycling Research report** was passed around for SWAC members to preview. Segó said that SPU are interested in better understanding which retailers are providing takeback for plastic bags and other plastic film packaging, such as over wrap for toilet paper. Many are doing back of house and could be candidates for front of house collection.
- **Responsible Recycling Task Force:** As part of on-going efforts to address changes in the international marketplace for recyclables, SPU’s Solid Waste Line of Business is participating with other King County cities on the Responsible Recycling Task Force. The Task Force is addressing what materials are currently accepted in curbside programs and whether some of those materials are impacting the ability to successfully market other materials due to contamination. Segó shared some of the members of the task force and upcoming meeting topics. **Once notes are released from this task force, they will be shared with SWAC.**
- **Graduate students from Seattle University looked at fiber and paper recycling in the NW.** Segó shared some of the report details, including preliminary results which indicate that there doesn’t seem to be the ability to expand regional paper mill capacity. But with decreasing cost of paper, we may want to explore that, he added. A discussion ensued about rising PCB levels in paper. Segó explained that we may need to look upstream, at source of PCBs in inks. Also, what would it take for them to take more *local* paper and process it. Is local paper less contaminated? Heavily driven by market? **SWAC would like to receive the PowerPoint and notes from this research.**

3. Multifamily Recycling & Composting Education Program Update

Socorro Medina, Community Recycling & Engagement Program Manager, provided an update on the Multifamily recycling and composting education program, sharing progress towards the goal of building a program that is both equitable and effective. Socorro gave a brief overview of multi-family sector, discussing growth in Urban King County, results from 2016/2017 SPU surveys and interviews looking at barriers for food waste diversion.

- ✓ The 2017 mailing was in 4 languages to all multifamily residences (~180k households)
 - ✓ There are ~300 multifamily buildings in Seattle with >100 units.
 - ✓ Next Steps: To conduct an evaluation on the technical assistance that has been provided from Jan 2016-June 2018.
- A CAC Member asked what currently exists in building permit/codes regarding solid waste disposal and collection, and if new buildings are ensuring enough space for co-location of bins.

Staff responded that there is language present in both land use codes and Seattle Municipal Code requiring sufficient space for solid waste collection and that recycling and compost containers are available to residents. SPU has staff evaluating new buildings for code compliance and educating building managers and developers. However, there are not requirements about co-location.

- A guest inquired about the information being captured in the tabular data by the outreach teams in the field. Staff explained that they capture notes for recommendations. For example, if a unit could benefit from compostable bag dispensers, or additional education. They also track the building manager, which can differ from the account holder. No data is captured at the individual unit number.
- A guest asked if outreach and education is focused on increasing diversion by volume or quality. Staff said SPU is focusing outreach efforts on diverting food waste from the garbage. Susan Fife-Ferris added that quality is likely the higher emphasis and priority. They are looking for items to be recycled, but not at the expense of contaminating the rest.

4. SWAC Membership Updates

- There is no SWAC meeting in July. CAC Program Manager, Sheryl Shapiro, asked SWAC members to be on the lookout for emails regarding the Program during the month of July.
- With interest confirmed from SWAC members, SWAC Chairs will begin to look into a tour of materials recovery at Republic.

5. Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan Update;

Dave Hare was unable to join. Susan Fife-Ferris opened, announcing that Cascadia Consulting had been selected as the consultant for this Amendment. Cascadia consultant and SWAC alum, Heather Levy, is the lead on the project. Heather provided a preview and sense of the process/scope/scale/timing of the project. SWAC can expect Heather back in the mid-Fall to look at the Amendment Framework.

6. Annual Recycling Rate Report Review

Dave Hare could not attend. Susan Fife-Ferris provided a brief update on the status of the Recycling Rate Report and specifically on the status of rate data, which is not yet finalized. Takeaways included:

- ✓ The lowest to date “pounds per day, per person” in the solid waste residential sector;
- ✓ The overall impact of material light-weighting;
- ✓ The impact of opening of the new North Transfer Station on Solid Waste garbage tonnage;
- ✓ The overall takeaway that weight-based recycling rate should not be the be-all and the end-all.

7. SWAC Letter Review and Discussion

SWAC Member comments in the Google Doc were reviewed. CAC members discussed the length of the document, questioning if a shorter version would be more appetizing to read. Though members liked the new lay out of the letter, which followed the report, a discussion ensued about which categories could be removed to both shorten the letter and further emphasize what areas SWAC members valued most. An updated version of the letter will be circulated to SWAC by June 9; comments are due by June 12 to meet the deadline for SPU staff review.

8. Around the Table & Community Insights

There was not sufficient time.

Adjourned 7:32PM