

King County Solid Waste News

June 2015

Roadmap to 70 percent Recycling Rate – Five Elements to Consider

On May 15, Solid Waste Division Director Pat D. McLaughlin, as well as representatives from commercial haulers, attended the Sound Cities Association's Public Issues Committee to share King County's goal of reaching a 70 percent recycling rate by 2020.

Currently, the countywide recycling rate is 53 percent. While it may appear that we are in striking distance of reaching our goal, the countywide recycling rate has remained mostly flat for the past eight years. Beyond the many environmental benefits a 70 percent rate would have for the region, that rate would allow King County to efficiently use space in the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill until it reaches capacity. Landfilling county waste remains the most cost-effective disposal option, yet current estimates indicate Cedar Hills will reach capacity by 2030. Failure to reach the 70 percent recycling rate will cause Cedar Hills to reach capacity sooner than anticipated, and we will be left with very hard decisions to make.

As we continue to strive for a 70 percent recycling rate, these are the five core principles needed for maximizing recycling rates:

1. System partners and local governments adopt a common set of practices and policies for managing waste and resources
2. Require single, multi-family, and commercial customers to separate and have their waste, recyclables, and organics collected at the curb
3. Choose private partners that have adequate capacity and resources to ensure recyclables and organics are put to the most beneficial uses possible
4. Use enforcement to keep contaminants out of the waste stream
5. Ensure the Solid Waste Division has adequate resource and processing capability to harvest resources at its facilities

The Solid Waste Division is currently working with cities, stakeholders, and its two advisory committees SWAC and MSWMAC to update the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan. At the upcoming SWAC/MSWMAC joint meeting in July, the division will discuss how conversations about reaching a 70 percent recycling rate are being used to inform updates to the plan. More information and questions about reaching a 70 percent recycling rate can be directed to Jeff Gaisford at Jeff.Gaisford@kingcounty.gov.



Capital Projects Update

Factoria Replacement Project Updates

Work to replace the 50-year-old Factoria Transfer Station with a larger, more efficient facility remains on schedule. A third "Neighbor Newsletter," which keeps customers and surrounding residents and businesses updated on the project, was issued in May. Approximately 5,100 area residents and businesses receive the newsletter. It is translated into multiple languages to reflect the languages spoken by residents in the Factoria area.



Work remains on schedule for the construction of the new Factoria Recycling and Transfer Station.

Work accomplished from January through April includes:

- More than 50 percent of the foundation of the new transfer building
- A temporary shoring wall between the existing transfer station and the new site
- The construction of a 1.1 million-gallon underground stormwater vault to capture and slowly release runoff

From May through October, we would like cities, residents, businesses, and customers to be aware:

- SE 32nd Street will be reduced to one lane so electrical, gas, and sewer lines can be relocated and installed
- SE 30th Street will also be reduced to one lane and on-street parking will be reduced so dewatering well and sewer lines can be installed and the road can be paved

Construction is scheduled to last until December 2017, and more information can be found on the project website: your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/facilities/factoria-replacement-project.asp

Used Clothes, Linens, and Shoes Wanted for Recycling

Threadcycle, a new campaign that educates residents about reuse and recycling opportunities for their unwanted clothes, shoes, and linens launched March 1. A collaboration between the Solid Waste Division and Seattle Public Utilities, Threadcycle brings together numerous partners throughout the region to encourage residents to donate their used and unwanted clothes, shoes, and linens. Items that have holes, tears, missing buttons, broken zippers, and singles that are normally paired, like shoes and socks, are all accepted as long as it is not wet, mildewed or soiled with hazardous materials.

You can learn more about Threadcycle here: your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/ecoconsumer/threadcycle.asp



Used clothes, shoes, and linens have more than one life, and King County's Threadcycle program seeks to encourage recycling used and old clothes instead of throwing them away.

Transfer and Waste Management Plan

In 2013, the King County Council adopted an ordinance directing the division to review the adopted 2006 Solid Waste Transfer and Waste Management Plan and determine if changes could be made to the transfer system plan. The review is considering demand management strategies to address operational, policy, and capital improvements in Northeast King County. Traffic studies, customer surveys, and other data are being assessed to help the division plan appropriately for the future. The division is currently in Phase 2 of the review process.

On March 31, the division transmitted the *Draft Transfer and Waste Management Plan Review Part 2* to the King County Council. The division received 20 letters during the public comment period, which ended May 6, and will consider those comments as it prepares the final draft. The final draft is due to council June 30.

For more information, visit the project website: your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/about/plan-review.asp

EcoCool Remodel Tool

As construction season gets underway in the region, now is the perfect time to review and use the newly-updated "Eco-Cool Remodel Tool." The interactive tool allows users to take a tour through a virtual house to find ways to "green up" their new or existing homes. From the backyard to crawlspaces, the tool helps residents learn about the greenest options available, and also offers a "contractor checklist" so people know what questions to ask when hiring a contractor. The tool is supported on both desk tops and smart phones, making buying, building, and remodeling green easier than ever before.

You can experience the tool here: your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/greenbuilding/eco-remodel.asp

Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan Update

The Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan is the guiding policy document for the regional solid waste system. The plan presents proposed strategies for managing King County's solid waste over the next six years, with consideration for the next 20 years.

The Solid Waste Division is currently working with cities, stakeholders, and its two advisory committees SWAC and MSWMAC to update the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan. At the upcoming SWAC/MSWMAC joint meeting in July, the division will discuss how conversations about reaching a 70 percent recycling rate are being used to inform updates to the plan. More information and questions about reaching a 70 percent recycling rate can be directed to Jeff Gaisford at Jeff.Gaisford@kingcounty.gov.

The 2013 draft plan is available on the division's website: your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/about/Planning/documents/2013-swd-comp-plan.pdf

The previously adopted 2001 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management can be found here: your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/about/planning/documents/Comp_Plan_table-of-contents.pdf

Upcoming Meetings

For upcoming meetings follow these links:

- Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee (MSWMAC): your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/about/mswmac.asp
- Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC): your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/about/swac.asp

