

King County Solid Waste News

September 2015



Solid Waste Division makes the cover of Waste Advantage magazine

Last month, the Solid Waste Division was honored to be featured on the cover of *Waste Advantage*, a solid waste industry publication with an estimated 36,000 subscribers.

The article highlights the division's focus on waste disposal, waste prevention, and resource recovery. It also discusses the need to conserve existing landfill space and the importance of reaching a 70 percent recycling rate and a zero waste of resources.

The article received additional exposure during the Solid Waste Association of North America's (SWANA) event WASTECON. Now in its 53rd year, WASTECON is an annual gathering where solid waste industry professionals exchange information about best practices, trends, and emerging strategies in collection, processing, and management of recyclables and solid waste. An estimated 3,000 people attended this year's event, including Division Director Pat D. McLaughlin.

At the event, *Waste Advantage* had copies of the August edition available to anyone interested, and McLaughlin said he was proud to hear how impressed other entities are with the division and its employees.

Read the full article here: wasteadvantagemag.com/2015-issues

Green Tools Sustainable Cities Roundtable

Each month, the King County Solid Waste Division hosts its Green Tools Sustainable Cities Roundtable, an open forum where the county's cities can connect about their challenges and opportunities surrounding the built environment and climate change initiatives.

Started in 2009, the roundtables first set out with the mission of addressing the built environment. As times changed, so did the roundtables, and the group began to add recycling and climate change to its focus. Since that first roundtable, the forums have covered topics like carbon tax, social equity, and solar grants, among others.

In October, the roundtable theme will be "The Power of Water." The event will be held October 8 at the Tukwila Community Center. Future roundtables in 2015 will cover topics like Social Equity, deconstruction, waste management, and climate change. More information on the roundtables can be found here: your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/greenbuilding/roundtable.asp

Micah Bonkowski from Issaquah's Office of Sustainability leads discussion during the August roundtable titled "Trash to Cash."



Most recently, framing for the new Factoria Recycling and Transfer was installed. More updates on construction can be found on the project's website.

Factoria Update

Work to replace the 50-year-old Factoria Transfer Station with a larger, more efficient facility remains on schedule. A fourth "Neighbor Newsletter," which keeps customers and surrounding residents and businesses updated on the project, will be issued in November and will detail work completed and future work on the project. The newsletters are mailed to approximately 5,100 area residents and businesses, and it is translated into multiple languages to reflect the languages spoken by residents in the Factoria area.

Upcoming work on the project includes the installation of communication cables on SE 32nd Street, which should cause only minimal impacts to traffic.

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

Green Schools helps county students recycle more

With assistance and tools from the King County Green Schools Program, schools throughout the County are reducing waste, recycling, conserving energy and water, and teaching students about conserving resources.

In 2014-15 alone, the program assisted 182 schools in 32 cities and unincorporated King County, providing 112,535 students the opportunity to learn about and engage in waste reduction, recycling, and other conservation practices. During this same period, the program recognized 61 schools for completing program levels.

The program supports the Solid Waste Division's goal of increasing the county's recycling rate from 53 percent to 70 percent. In 2014-15, the program tracked recycling data from 148 schools, and of those schools 95 percent reached recycling rates of at least 40 percent, 39 percent reached recycling rates of 50 to 59 percent, and 23 percent reached recycling rates of 60 percent or more.

Schools that want to improve their conservation practices, support learning goals, reduce costs, and receive recognition for their efforts should take advantage of the program, which provides hands-on assistance, tools such as recycling containers and signs, and recognition. If you're interested in bringing this program to a school or district in your city, please contact Dale Alekel, program manager, at 206-477-5267 or dale.alekel@kingcounty.gov.

For more information and to read success stories about schools in your area, visit your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/greenschools/how-it-works.asp.



Students at Panther Lake Elementary School in Kent know what it takes to reduce waste and conserve resources thanks in part to the Green Schools program.

Compost more and waste less with discounted BioBag bins and bags

Nearly 35 percent of what ends up in the landfill is food scraps and food-spoiled paper that could have been composted. In an effort to help residents compost more and waste less, the division is partnering with BioBag and Bartell Drugs to offer special discounts on compost bins and compostable bags. Using both the bins and the bags makes composting quick, easy, and practically odorless. Visit bartelldrugs.com/store-locator to find a store and start composting. This offer ends October 1, so hurry to a Bartells near you.

Follow along on Twitter with EcoConsumer

You know about the division's Instagram page (@kingcountyswd), but did you know our social media presence extends to multiple channels? One of the division's most popular social media pages is the @EcoConsumer Twitter feed.

Every day, the division's very own EcoConsumer, Tom Watson, tweets out helpful information related to recycling, climate change, and being green. With more than 6,700 followers, the EcoConsumer feed facilitates an active and vibrant eco-friendly community in 140 characters or less, and it's a great way to keep up-to-date on the solid waste and recycling industries. Find @EcoConsumer on Twitter, or visit the division's website to start following its other social media accounts: your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/programs/social-media.asp.

Cedar Hills Landfill Tours

Tours of the landfill can be arranged by contacting the landfill administrative office at 206-263-1041, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Requests can also be submitted online. Tours are generally held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in a division vehicle that can accommodate up to nine people. your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/facilities/cedarhills.asp

Upcoming Meetings

For information about 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

Cedar Hills Regional Landfill Community Meeting: Twice a year, the division holds a landfill community meeting to give residents and neighbors updates on the landfill and its operations. The next meeting will be on October 14, 2015, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the King County Library Service Center in Issaquah.

More information about these meetings can be found here: your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/facilitiescedar-hills-meetings.aspx

