

SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)



January 8 2024, Meeting Summary
5:30 am – 7:30 am

*Chair: Aleema Gray
Co-Chair: Joe Camero
Secretary: Vacant*

Committee Members	Present	SPU Staff /Guests	Role
Joe Camero	Y	Casey Colley	SPU – SWAC Program Coordinator
Melanie Cover	Y	Jeff Fowler	SPU-Solid Waste Line of Business Deputy Director
Tareq Fayyad	Y	Angela Wallis	SPU-Development Review Supervisor
Aleema Gray	Y		
Caitlin Singer	N	Katie Jerauld	Guest-Ecology
Wendy Weiker	N		
Lisa Watkins	Y		
Alissa Campbell	Y		
Shelly Crocker	N		
Erin Gagnon	Y		
Paige Madden	Y		
Chelsey Evans	Y		
Yongkang (YK) Zhou	Y		
Karia Wong	Y		

1. Introductions & Icebreaker.

2. Seattle Public Utilities Update from Jeff Fowler (SPU Deputy Director Solid Waste Line of Business)

- Move to quarterly updates.
Solid contracts--did conduct a commercial customer satisfaction survey. Overall satisfied with the service there are issues here and there, but overall, customer satisfaction.
- The recycling processing contract is a big piece of work we're doing right now. The current ones coming to an end with Republic. Put out an RFI, received some responses. Now developing the RFP request for proposals. We've updated some things that didn't work in the last contract.
And worked through some of those issues so. We hope to complete it by end of

January and then get Andrew's review of the mayor's office. It's a contract that's signed by the Council, so it's a big one.

- Our facilities work ongoing. The compactor replacement at the North Transfer Station starts up in March. We've got to replace the tipping floor at the South Transfer station we're replacing that hopefully in August we'll shut down the South transfer station for a month at least for self haul. Commercial will still be able to use it without the use of all sidewalks.
- Really focusing on the Seattle Center and the 2026 World Cup when they come getting food waste out of the garbage, focusing on commercial food waste prevention.
- Trying to procure our salvage lumber warehouse through an EPA grant.
- We're going to be targeting contamination and contractors. Plan for that and how we keep the food out of it out of the waste.
- Then our big waste prevention strategic plan, I think you guys have been working with Veronica's on that.
- Legislative new session coming up runs January 13th—April 27th. Recycling Reform Act that's the paper and packaging EPR. Right To Repair. Producer Responsibility for mattresses. Organics management and the recycling fund. session.
- Other planning activities, solid weights rate study for 26 through 28, so more to come on that we'll be presenting that to you guys when we're going to nail that down. We do it every three years.

Angela Wallis (SPU Development Review Supervisor) requested, since she's available to answer questions for a brief amount of time that we kind of stitch our agenda and bump up our letter review. So, we have any questions we can ask her while she's available.

So did everyone get a chance to read the drafted letter and the code or ordinance updates? OK.

Does anybody have any questions about the letter, thoughts, edits you'd like to make?

Context update. The draft is final and sent to Jeff Fowler today to get final permission from Andrew Lee, our general manager. To start the legislative process to transmit the ordinance to council. There are still some steps involved. We will have an amendment to the original SEPA State Environmental Protection Act analysis that's required for this code update. So that'll go out and have a two-week public comment period. Other steps that our legislative staff handle so you know, it's still got weeks before it goes to Council most likely. Having SWAC's support,

if you so choose is wonderful.

SWAC members asked Angela to answer questions they had in regard to the SMC.

4. Review and approve December Meeting Minutes. Minutes from the December meeting, if you approve the Minutes, please raise your hand. All of SWAC Members approved.

5. SWAC Accomplishments & Look Ahead. Casey Colley (SPU SWAC Coordinator) gave presentation.

- First the accomplishment—almost half of our entire SWAC was seated this year. Congrats to all of you and all those of you returning that helped in this process. We exceeded the open seats at the number of applications received, so it was definitely a popular Committee. It does say in our code that we can have up to 15 Members and we need at least nine on our swag. We have 14 Members so we may or may not start recruiting again this spring depending on how many of you folks want to extend your term.
- Waste prevention overview. We met with Veronica Fincher for quite a few meetings. Helped work as a in an advisory capacity and help develop their prioritization criteria. That is a huge undertaking in that project.
So we really got in there at the very start of it. They've had some time with the consultants and other groups and she's going to be coming back hopefully in March with more formulated focus areas, stuff for us to advise on with that.
- Waste prevention recycling report worked with Katie Swanson on that.
We dropped it a very late letter to City Council. Normally that's submitted at the start of October, and we got it submitted December 4th. Part of that was with staffing.
- Food waste prevention. Liz Ficus here and the global impact consultants we got to act as a focus group, gain insights on our project and she would like to come back to us either in March or May depending on once they get more work accomplished with that program.
- Charter update, we got a lot of feedback from officers and members and last time it was updated was 2021. Our meeting frequency has shifted, and a lot of the language is out of date or has positions in there that no longer exist to SPU.
- We have field trip to sell transfer station this month. The 24th Friday from 3:00 to 4:00 PM.

- Aleema sent an e-mail December 4th about field trips. It looks like the most interested one was Ridwell. Everyone vote by the end of January, so we can start reaching out and getting them scheduled because it is a lot of fun to go learn off site and out of this room.

6. Electing New Secretary.

Caitlin's stepped down before the end of her term due to her maternity leave. The coordinator reaches out to say, do you accept the nomination and then after accepting it, then it goes for ballot and voting.

7. SWAC Comments

But then we got to move on to sharing.

Beyond the cart--we have a tentative date for March 8th from 8:30 to 12:00, it'll be at South Seattle College.

King County hosts, quite a few of the hard to recycle events and you would take.

So for you or for anyone else just to share anything in the community, again, I think it's great when we can share that from what you're hearing on the ground.

Level I'm curious personally about the glass recycling situation.

In the future for the Lunar New Year people would clean their house before the new year. It might be good to kind of think about hosting some sort of waste event during that time. It's a traditional practice. Maybe like special items collection dates may you know, yeah, also it it's possible to coordinate you know sort of before the women in here because a lot of Asian cultures actually celebrate women, and they have similar practice. I'm curious if there is messaging that's going out during Lunar New Year and if we can add to that by saying like by the way, you're probably doing this. Here are some resources.

8. Public Comments

Katie from Ecology shared: There's an interesting portal called the Fund Hub, Washington Portal, and that's funded by the Climate Commitment Act, and it shares details on available federal and state funds and incentive sources for individuals, businesses, nonprofits, public agencies and tribal governments. It's a really great resource that that is updated frequently, and it focuses on climate and clean energy related opportunities. So, if you want to explore that, I will share that link with Casey. But you can also just look up fund hub. Washington and it has some really cool opportunities and good filters to find what might be relevant to you.

And then like a grant, like, yeah, it has any like funding grant opportunity that I think federally within the state and some other like local option state and fund. And then another thing related to the organic management law, things that are coming out is that all ecology has prepared a model ordinance that local governments can use to help manage their organic materials. They were requested by legislature to prepare this, and local governments can adopt this model ordinance, which would disincentivize people from creating or disposing organic materials in a landfill.