

Focus on:

Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plan



Submit comments

Online at

<http://swm.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=5AM7V>

Or by mail to:

Peter Guttchen
Solid Waste Management
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Want more information?

[Join our listserv](#) and receive email updates.

Contact

Peter Guttchen
564-999-3287 - cell
Peter.Guttchen@ecy.wa.gov

Special accommodations

To request ADA accommodations, including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-6381 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>.

People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711.

People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plan

In 2019, the Washington Legislature directed the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) to develop a [plan to reduce contamination in recycling](#). Contamination occurs when people try to recycle non-recyclable materials, recyclables **not** accepted by their recycling service, and items containing food or liquid.

This is a problem because contamination:

- Significantly increases the cost to process recyclables; and
- Ruins recyclable materials so those materials must be sent to a landfill.

More contamination means we send more recyclable materials to landfills.

Ecology is working with stakeholders to develop a Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plan or CROP. The CROP will include strategies to increase efforts across Washington State to reduce recycling contamination.

Ecology will develop the Statewide CROP by July 1, 2020, and will then partner with local governments to develop their own CROPs or tailor the Statewide CROP to their jurisdiction.

Counties with a population more than 25,000 must include a CROP in their solid waste management plans by July 1, 2021. And they may use [Local Solid Waste and Financial Assistance](#), [Waste Reduction and Recycling Education Grants](#), or federal funding to develop and implement their CROP.

Timeline

Complete draft, outreach to stakeholders. May – June 2020

Draft finalized. July 1, 2020

Public comment.....early to mid-July 2020

State CROP published. July 31, 2020

Technical assistance to grow local CROPs. Aug. 2020 – July 2021

Check out what else we're doing:

Recycling Development Center (RDC)

A new [Recycling Development Center](#) was created in 2019 at the Washington Department of Ecology to facilitate research and development, marketing, and policy analysis to bolster recycling markets and processing in Washington.

Plastic Packaging Study

A new law—*Plastic Packaging – Evaluation and Assessment*—requires Ecology to evaluate and assess the amount and types of plastic packaging sold into the state as well as the management and disposal of plastic packaging. A report will be available in October 2020.

Food Waste Prevention

Wasted food is a major environmental problem. To meet this challenge, we're developing a plan to reduce food waste and wasted food in Washington by 50% by 2030. This is based on the new *Reducing the Wasting of Food in Order to Fight Hunger and Reduce Environmental Impacts*. Find more information on our [food waste prevention webpage](#).

Recycle Right

Download the free [Recycle Right partner toolkit](#) and join communities across the state to improve the quality of Washington's recycled material. The toolkit includes website headers and banners, print materials and multimedia, including the radio and television ads featured in the Recycle Right campaign. This material is available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Paint Product Stewardship

The paint stewardship law requires paint producers to plan and operate a program to collect leftover architectural paint from individuals and businesses for reuse, recycling, energy recovery, or safe disposal.

1-800-RECYCLE

1-800-RECYCLE is both a hotline and an [online tool](#) that connects you or your business to recycling services across Washington. Visit 1800recycle.wa.gov or call 1-800-RECYCLE (1-800-732-9253).

Litter

Littering, illegal dumping, and driving with uncovered loads are all-punishable under Washington state law. Each year, 12 million pounds of litter is dropped on Washington's roads and highways. About 40% of that trash comes from unsecured loads, leading to 400 traffic accidents per year. To learn more, visit the [litter law webpage](#).

