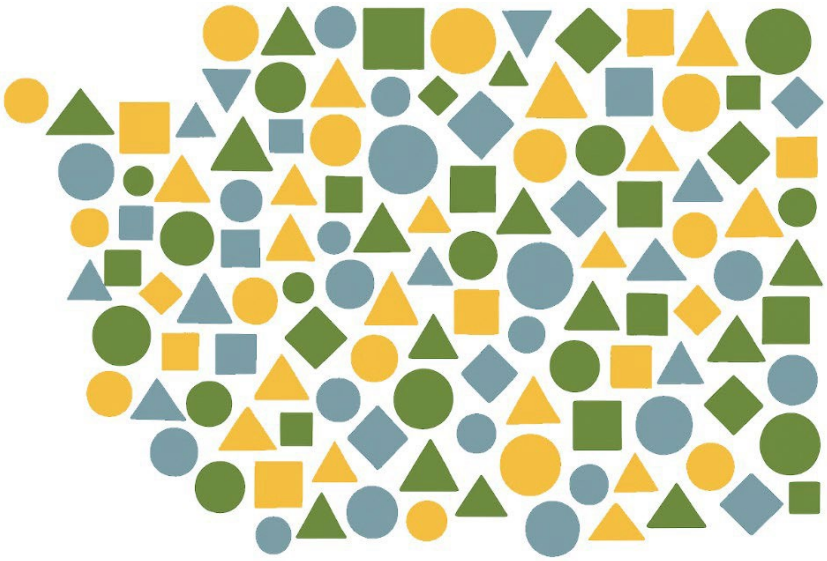


Guidelines for Local Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plans

Solid Waste Management Program
Washington State Department of Ecology

Olympia, Washington
Publication 26-07-028 - May 2026, Revised September 2026

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Publication Information

This document is available on the Department of Ecology's website at:
https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/summarypages/2607028.html

Related Information

The State Solid and Hazardous Waste Plan[1]
Washington State Recycling Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plan (CROP)[2]
Use Food Well Washington Plan[3]

Contact Information

Solid Waste Management Program

Statewide Resources Section
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
Phone: 360-407-6000
Website[4]: Washington State Department of Ecology

[1] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2104050.html
[2] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2007021.html
[3] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2107027.html
[4] www.ecology.wa.gov/contact

ADA Accessibility

The Department of Ecology is committed to providing people with disabilities access to our information and services by meeting or exceeding the requirements of state and federal laws. To request an ADA accommodation, email SWMPublications@ecy.wa.gov, call 360-407-6000, or call Ecology through the Washington Telecommunication Relay for services including text telephone (TTY) at 711 or through your preferred relay service provider. Visit ecology.wa.gov/ADA for more accessibility information.

Accesibilidad bajo la ADA
El Departamento de Ecología está comprometido con ofrecer a las personas con discapacidades acceso a nuestra información y servicios, cumpliendo o excediendo los requisitos de las leyes estatales y federales. Para solicitar una adaptación bajo la ADA, como materiales en un formato distinto o apoyo en la comunicación, escriba a SWMPublications@ecy.wa.gov o llame al 360-407-6000. También puede comunicarse con Ecología a través del servicio de retransmisión de telecomunicaciones de Washington usando el 711; el servicio incluye teléfono de texto (TTY). O, use el proveedor de servicios de su preferencia. Visite ecology.wa.gov/ADA para más información.

ADA 접근성
주 환경부는 장애가 있는 사람들이 당사의 정보와 서비스에 접근할 수 있도록 주 및 연방 법률의 요건을 준수하거나 그 이상을 충족하기 위해 최선을 다하고 있습니다. 자료를 다른 형식으로 제공받거나, 의사소통 지원 등 ADA 편의를 요청하려면, SWMPublications@ecy.wa.gov 로 이메일을 보내거나, 360-407-6000로 전화해 주세요. 텍스트 전화(TTY) 등 중계 서비스를 이용하려면 711 또는 선호하는 중계 서비스 제공업체를 통해 주 환경부에 전화하실 수도 있습니다. 자세한 내용은 Ecology.wa.gov/ADA를 방문하세요.

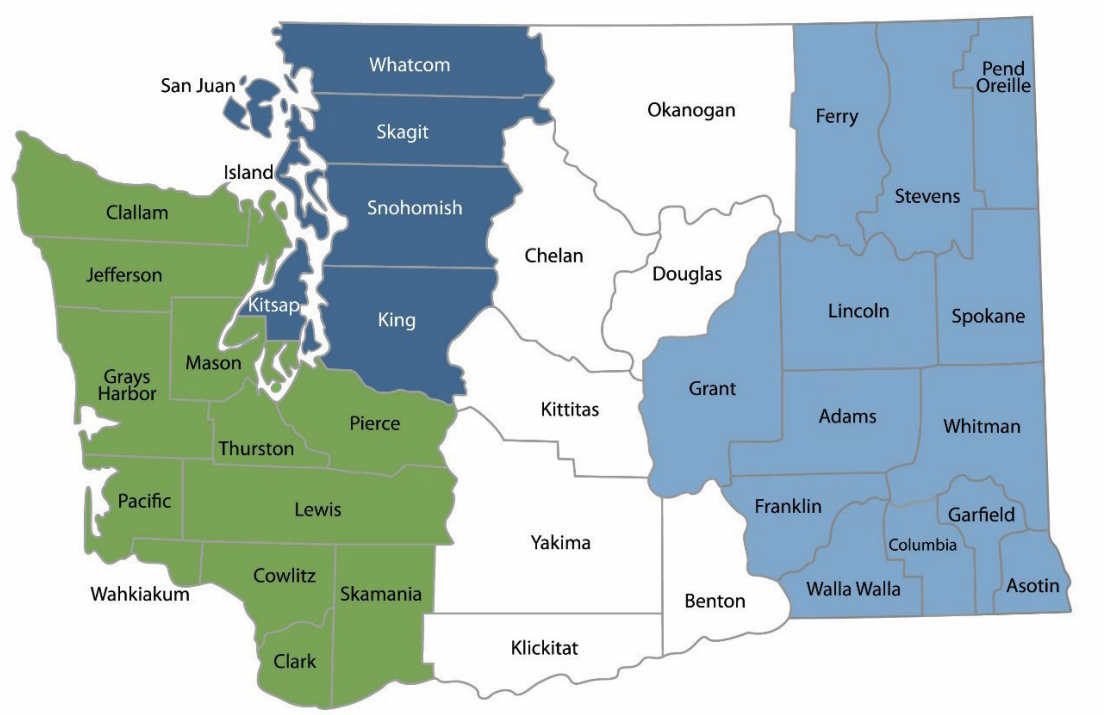
Khả năng tiếp cận ADA
Bộ Môi Sinh cam kết cung cấp cho những người khuyết tật quyền truy cập vào thông tin và dịch vụ của chúng tôi bằng cách đáp ứng hoặc vượt quá các yêu cầu của luật tiểu bang và liên bang. Để yêu cầu hỗ trợ ADA như các tài liệu ở định dạng khác hoặc hỗ trợ giao tiếp, hãy gửi email đến SWMPublications@ecy.wa.gov, gọi 360-407-6000. Quý vị cũng có thể gọi cho Bộ Môi Sinh thông qua Dịch vụ chuyển tiếp viễn thông Washington để được cung cấp các dịch vụ, bao gồm cả điện thoại văn bản (TTY), theo số 711 hoặc thông qua nhà cung cấp dịch vụ chuyển tiếp mà quý vị ưa thích. Truy cập Ecology.wa.gov/ADA để biết thêm thông tin.

ADA 残疾人便利服务
生态部致力于通过满足或超越州和联邦法律的要求，为残障人士提供获取信息和服务的便利。 如需 ADA 便利措施，例如不同格式的资料或沟通支持，请发送电子邮件至 SWMPublications@ecy.wa.gov，或致电 360-407-6000。您也可以通过华盛顿州电信中继服务（包括文本电话 (TTY)、711 或您首选的中继服务提供商致电生态部获取服务。访问 Ecology.wa.gov/ADA 了解更多信息。

Доступность согласно ADA
Департамент экологии стремится предоставлять лицам с ограниченными возможностями доступ к информации и услугам согласно требованиям государственных и федеральных законов или по своей инициативе.
Чтобы запросить приспособление ADA, например, материалы в другом формате или коммуникационную поддержку, отправьте электронное письмо SWMPublications@ecy.wa.gov или позвоните по номеру 360-407-6000. Вы также можете позвонить в службу экологии через Washington Telecommunication Relay для получения услуг, включая телетайп (TTY), по номеру 711 или через вашего поставщика коммутируемых сообщений. Более подробную информацию можно получить Ecology.wa.gov/ADA на сайте.

Department of Ecology's Regional Offices

Map of Counties Served



Southwest Region 360-407-6300	Northwest Region 206-594-0000	Central Region 509-575-2490	Eastern Region 509-329-3400

Region	Counties served	Mailing Address	Phone
Southwest	Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum	PO Box 47775 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6300
Northwest	Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom	PO Box 330316 Shoreline, WA 98133	206-594-0000
Central	Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Yakima	1250 W Alder St Union Gap, WA 98903	509-575-2490
Eastern	Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman	4601 N Monroe Spokane, WA 99205	509-329-3400
Headquarters	Across Washington	PO Box 46700 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6000

Guidelines for Local Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plans

Solid Waste Management Program
Washington State Department of Ecology
Olympia, WA

Publication 26-07-028 | May 2026 – Revised September 2026

Table of Contents

List of Figures

Introduction

A Solid or Hazardous Waste Management Plan is a tool for local governments and their partners and constituents to examine current practices, consider changes, and plan ahead to ensure adequate or enhanced programs in the future. These guidelines help local governments write and maintain their Solid Waste Management Plans (SW Plans) and Hazardous Waste Management Plans (HW Plans).

RCW 70A.205.070 directs the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) to, "provide to counties and cities technical assistance including, but not limited to, planning guidelines, in the preparation, review, and revision of solid waste management plans required by this chapter." RCW 70A.300.350(4)(a) directs Ecology to provide Hazardous Waste Planning Guidelines. The Legislature has added new planning requirements to these RCWs over the years, including Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plans for SW Plans and the Used Oil element for HW Plans. These guidelines encompass or directly reference any guidelines written for those additional elements in one comprehensive document.

These guidelines are part of Ecology's ongoing support to local governments and the communities they serve to successfully implement their SW or HW Plans and achieve their solid and hazardous waste management goals. Ecology also has helpful staff specialized in planning, referred to as "Ecology planners" throughout these guidelines. Ecology's local planning webpage[5] has their contact information.

Changes Since the 2010 Publication of the Guidelines

This document replaces the 2010 Guidelines for the Development of Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Plan Revisions[6] and the 2010 Guidelines for Developing and Updating Local Hazardous Waste Plans[7].

- **Legislative changes**– Several changes have occurred, leading to a need for significant updates in Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plans. These are summarized in Appendix B: Legislative Changes 2010-2025 and called out as needed in these guidelines. Details concerning the 2020 recodification are provided in Review of Pertinent Laws and Regulations.

[5] https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/plans-policies/washington-state-waste-plan/local-waste-planning
[6] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/summarypages/1007005.html
[7] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/summarypages/1007006.html

- **New challenges and priorities** – New federal accessibility standards, environmental justice, climate change impact tools, and disaster debris planning are among the items new to planning. While not required by RCW, they are touched on in Appendix D: Other Related Plans and Topics.

- **Shift to Combined Plans** - Most counties now have combined their SW and HW Plans into one document called a Combined Plan. Thus, the SW and HW planning guidelines have now been combined into this document. When referring to the three kinds of Plans broadly (SW, HW, or Combined), these guidelines simply say, "Plan" or "Plans". The checklists in the final Appendices show what is required in stand-alone SW and HW Plans.

- **Box folders and shared resources** – New sharing platforms have come online, such as the Planning and Waste Reduction Resource Library on Box, which makes publicly accessible all current Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plans and related resources.
  Privately, each jurisdiction leading a Plan update (known as the Planning Authority) now has a "local folder" on Box. Ecology shares this repository of documents relevant to that Planning Authority directly with the government, rather than publicly. This helps ensure consistency in records and smooths the bumps of staff turnover.

- **Submitting Plans electronically** – All Plans must be submitted in digital format with searchable text. The preferred method is to submit through the Box platform. Digital Plans allow us to rethink the format of Plans. This section discusses the use of links in Plans.

- **Accessing the Guidelines** – These guidelines are provided exclusively in digital format. Links to resources online or in the Box application are underlined in blue. Links for navigation within this document are underlined in black.

  TIP: To return to your previous location after clicking a bookmark link, press **Alt + Left Arrow** on your keyboard.

- **New guidance on old RCW means some differences from the 2010 Guidelines**
  - **Interlocal agreements likely not required** – While Interlocal Agreements for planning are still highly recommended, new interpretation of the RCW clarifies plan types and requirements. Details are in City Responsibilities.

- **Public comment periods likely 14 days** – The 2010 SW Planning Guidelines stated a 30-day public comment period was necessary, but that is not always the case. While local obligations may vary, often 14 days are all that is required by the state. Details are in Appendix F: State Environmental Policy Act.

- **Description of local climate, geology, etc. likely not required** – Details are in Facility Siting Criteria.

- **Descriptions of Zone Designations no longer required** – Details are in the HW portion of these guidelines, in Three: Hazardous Waste Inventory.

- **Clearer guidance on SQG services and the Used Oil Recycling Element** – Guidelines text and the HW Plan Contents Checklist provide greater clarity of requirements to meet for Ecology approval. This means HW Plans that may have fallen short of the RCW in the past will need adjusted if seeking new Ecology approval. Details are in the HW portion of these guidelines, in Four: Program Elements & Services and Five: Used Oil Recycling.

Process for Updating the Guidelines

- **Planning Process and Cost Survey** – A 2022 survey of local governments analyzed the utility of planning, opportunities for improvement, and costs. Results of the survey showed that engaging with the community and participating in the Plan update process is a valuable learning experience for many jurisdictions. However, the requirements are complex and the process long. It also showed local governments spend a lot of money to update their Plans, with the smaller and more rural counties spending significantly more per capita. Ecology has updated these guidelines with this input in mind.

- **Local government input –** Local governments from across the state joined together in 2023 to form an advisory body that assisted in the development of these guidelines. The team was called the Guidelines Rejuvenation and Modernization Team, or GRAM. The main members attended monthly meetings and provided important perspectives and input on draft guidelines.

Main GRAM members

Tatum Flowers	Clark County
Joelle Loescher	Clark County
Sara Schroeder	Clark County

[a] https://app.box.com/s/r6jdrsznwbchuo9kme3qa4gdf2uawhfk

Becci Piepel	Douglas County
Joan Sieverkropp	Grant County
Christine Kim	King County
Caitlin Newman	Kitsap County
Chris Piercy	Kitsap County
Margo Gillaspy	Skagit County
Lindsay Chapman	Spokane County
Jennifer Hayden	Whatcom County

Additional GRAM members monitored group activities via email and the GRAM files on Box, providing input or attending meetings as able.

Additional GRAM members

Henry Allen	City of Spokane Valley
Leah Rohan	City of Walla Walla
Sarah Keirns	Clark County
Ashley Blauman	Douglas County
Al Cairns	Jefferson County
Travis Dutton	Washington Association of County Solid Waste Managers (WACSWM)
Mike Young	Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC)
Jeanine Leggett	UTC

Ecology thanks the GRAM for their immense help with this update!

Ecology also received input on the Designated Recyclables Lists from participants in the Statewide Recycling Coordinators meetings, and worked with health jurisdictions, the Association of Washington Cities, and subject matter experts on applicable topics. Ecology appreciates their time and collaboration.

Types of Plans: Solid Waste, Hazardous Waste, or Combined

In these guidelines, the word "Plan" refers to all three of the following types of Plans: SW Plans, HW Plans, and Combined Plans. The bulk of these guidelines focus on SW Plans. The HW Plan Guidelines are found in the Local Hazardous and Moderate Risk Waste Management Plan chapter.

Solid Waste Plans

Solid Waste Management Plans (referred to in the RCW as "comprehensive solid waste management plans" and called "SW Plans" in this document) originated from 1969 legislation[8]. That date is before the federal Environmental Protection Agency (1970) and the federal Resource Recovery and Conservation Act (1976). At the time, Washington had many open dumps that attracted bears, caught fire, and so forth. The legislation called for protections for humans and the environment via orderly development of facilities and operations to meet budding minimum functional standards for solid waste handing.

Legislation has continued to shape SW Plans, gradually incorporating sustainable materials management, in particular:

- The Waste Not Washington Act of 1989, which inserted the waste reduction and recycling element and mandatory service levels into SW Plans
- 2010 legislation that brought more focus to construction and demolition debris and organics
- The recent suite of Organics Management Laws
- The 2025 Recycling Reform Act (RRA)

Hazardous Waste Plans

Hazardous Waste Management Plans (referred to in the RCW as "local hazardous waste management plans" and called "HW Plans" in this document) originated from 1985 legislation[9]. HW Plans were created mainly to ensure safer local options for managing moderate risk waste, but also touch on the wider scope of hazardous waste in the planning area. See the HW Chapter for specific guidelines for HW Plans.

Combined Plans

Most Planning Authorities combine their SW and HW Plans into a single document, often because waste streams are managed within the same department. Planning for them together supports holistic, systems-based decision making and creates efficiencies. These guidelines refer to such a Plan as a "Combined Plan."

A Combined Plan is a single document that incorporates all required elements of both a SW Plan and a HW Plan. A Combined Plan follows the SW Plan process for review and approval. To keep the two components distinct, the HW Plan should be presented as a separate chapter in the Combined Plan.

[8] Engrossed House Bill 596
[9] The Hazardous Waste Management Act

When submitting a Combined Plan to Ecology, local governments should identify it as a Combined Plan.

Recommended

Ecology strongly encourages using the following title format for clarity and statewide uniformity: "Example County Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan for Years 2030-2035".

How the Plan Relates to Other Plans

This chapter is mostly recommended practices. The basic requirements and recommendations follow.

Required

At the minimum:

- A SW Plan, when discussing solid waste handling facility development, must:
  - be consistent with plans for the entire county[10] and
  - take into account the comprehensive land use plan of each jurisdiction[11].

  This can be accomplished by citing the relevant plans and discussing the findings regarding consistency in areas of the SW Plan such as solid waste facility planning and the identification of priority areas for organics management facilities.

- A SW Plan covering a county must integrate the SW Plan of any cities within the county planning independently[12] or planning with a different Planning Authority[13].

  This can be accomplished by citing the relevant plans and discussing any impacts to the county and its solid waste system.

- A HW Plan must coordinate with other hazardous materials-related plans and policies as much as possible[14].

Recommended

Planning Authorities should look at other local, regional, and state plans as they may contain efforts or information that intersect. Other plans often include goals for land use, capital

[10] RCW 70A.205.045(3)
[11] RCW 70A.205.045(3)(b)
[12] RCW 70A.205.040(4)(a)
[13] RCW 70A.205.040(1)
[14] RCW 70A.300.350(2)

improvement, emergency response, or climate work that affect how waste is managed. Checking these plans helps avoid conflicts, reduces repeated work, and supports teamwork across jurisdictions. This ensures SW and HW Plans meet community needs and statewide priorities.

Cite the plans and relevant data, strategies, or goals within your SW or HW Plan as helpful. Conversations with the staff authoring or implementing those plans may result in synergies or new ideas that can be suggested in the SW or HW Plan.

Previous SW or HW Plans

Earlier iterations of your SW or HW Plan provide continuity and demonstrate progress. Referencing these plans in the current plan helps tell the story of the current plan.

Recommended
Name the previous Plan by title in the new Plan. Discuss progress made on the previous plan's recommendations and call out which recommendations will be carried forward into the new Plan.

County Plans

Other Plans that may intersect with the Solid or Hazardous Waste Management Plan include but are not limited to:

- Comprehensive Plans[15], within which the Capital Facilities Plan often intersects with solid or hazardous waste facility planning
- Disaster Debris or Emergency Management Plans
- Climate mitigation or preparedness plans such as Climate Action Plans[16]

More detail is offered in Appendix D: Other Related Plans and Topics.

Required
Ensure development of solid waste handling facilities is consistent with plans for the entire county and specifically accounts for the comprehensive land use plan of each jurisdiction[17]. Details are in the introduction of this chapter.

[15] https://mrsc.org/explore-topics/planning/gma/comprehensive-planning
[16] https://mrsc.org/explore-topics/environment/sustainability/climate-action-plans#plans
[17] RCW 70A.205.045(3)

SW and HW Plans from Local and Neighboring Jurisdictions

Cities within a county and Tribal lands or other entities neighboring a county can influence solid waste management in the county. Awareness of their practices and conversations with such partners during the planning process can be helpful, especially when services and facilities overlap. Many jurisdictions also benefit from seeing how others address Plan elements. All SW and HW Plans are available to browse in the Current Approved Plans[18] branch of the Planning and Waste Reduction Resource Library[19].

Required
Coordinate with all cities within the county, with special attention to those planning independently or with another Planning Authority. Details are in the introduction of this chapter.

State Plans

Similar to local planning jurisdictions, the state of Washington is required to have a state SW Plan[20] and a HW Plan[21]. These two state Plans were combined into one document from 2004 to 2021. However, due to programmatic decisions, the 2026 state SW Plan update will just be a SW Plan. The Plan will still address household hazardous waste and small quantity generator waste (the components of moderate risk waste (MRW)), as legally those wastes are exempt from the hazardous waste statute and thus regulated as solid waste. Because the new state SW Plan will cover MRW, it will remain the key document for local government to consider when updating the local SW or HW Plan.

The state HW Plan and information will be published as a webpage in 2026 with links to resources. It will address the bigger picture, including regulatory work regarding hazardous waste (referred to as "dangerous waste" in Washington State) from medium and large quantity generators, and an inventory of facilities that ultimately treat, store, or dispose of hazardous waste.

[18] https://app.box.com/s/u0cwvenm0wp0axx4yurjgtajigk00c74
[19] https://app.box.com/s/r6jdrsznwbchuo9kme3qa4gdf2uawhfk
[20] RCW 70A.205.210
[21] RCW 70A.300.310

Long known as the Beyond Waste Plan, the State SW Plan has a strong vision to reduce or eliminate most wastes and use the remaining wastes as resources. The State SW plan guides the management of waste and materials in Washington and aids local governments as they develop local solid and hazardous waste plans. The State Plan builds on waste hierarchies adopted in the solid and hazardous waste laws of the mid-1980s, which place waste reduction as the highest priority, followed by recycling, and then safe disposal. The State Plan's vision, and the sustainable materials management framework it adopts, supports this hierarchy.

State Plan Vision
We can transition to a society where most waste and toxics have been eliminated. This will contribute to economic, social and environmental vitality.

Sustainable materials management looks at the full life cycle of materials as illustrated[22]. The life cycle includes the design and production phase, the use and reuse phase, and the end-of-life phase when the material is either disposed or recycled. Looking at the full life cycle is crucial because the adverse environmental and health impacts of extraction, production, and use typically greatly exceed those associated with disposal when the material becomes a waste. By managing materials that become waste through all stages of their life cycle, we are best able to reduce harmful environmental, health, and climate effects.

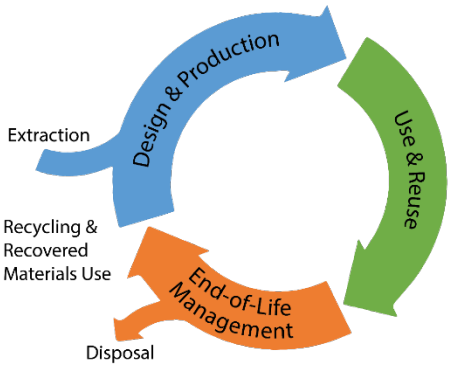


Figure 1 – Materials and Products Life Cycle (adapted from Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality)

To learn more about the State SW Plan, go to the State Plan website[23].

Other state-level plans include the Use Food Well Washington Plan[24], which provides a roadmap to a more resilient food system, and the Washington State Recycling Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plan,[25] which outlines statewide strategies to reduce recycling contamination.

Recommended
Add elements and strategies from state plans, such as reducing life cycle impacts, rescuing food, and reducing contamination, as appropriate for your jurisdiction and local resources.

[22] Graphic adapted from Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.
[23] https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/plans-policies/washington-state-waste-plan
[24] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2107027.html
[25] https://app.box.com/s/1ga3n9oyqsojuqgr941j78dj9z638igk

Using Links in Plans (both SW and HW Plans)

Hyperlinks within the main Plan document to items outside of the document are permitted. Approved use of links falls into two categories: Required Plan Content and Supplemental Content. For both categories, the links:

- Must be publicly accessible
- Must have explanation for the link in the main Plan document
- Are recommended to follow accessibility best practices, such as using meaningful, descriptive text on a hyperlink in the body text, with the URL spelled out in a footnote

Required Plan Content: Linking and Submittal

Linking from the main Plan document to other files containing Plan content is allowed. This allows for a shorter main Plan document and the ability to utilize formats and functions that would not be possible in a traditional Plan document. It may also allow for some of those pieces to be updated more easily than if they were within the main Plan document, depending on the locally-defined amendment process.

Examples of Required Plan Content that could be provided separately but concurrent with the main Plan document:

- The Cost Assessment Questionnaire-Designated Recyclables Lists Workbook[26] (CAQ-DRLs Workbook)
- Waste generation data
- Data such as Capital Improvement Plans that explain the financial projections
- Reference studies such as a Solid Waste System Study that contains necessary information about solid waste infrastructure needs

Required
When submitting a Plan to Ecology, all linked files that contain required Plan content must also be submitted as stand-alone files, even if the hyperlinks in the Plan direct to publicly accessible online locations. For content on a webpage that can't be submitted as a typical file, screenshots capturing key data may suffice. This effectively takes a snapshot of what is being submitted and analyzed for Ecology approval. If the Plan is approved, Ecology will post the collection of files to its online sharing platform for approved Plans (currently Box).

Recommended
It is recommended that links for required Plan elements are referred to in the main Plan document as appendices and submitted to Ecology with the corresponding appendix reference

[26] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx

letter in the file name. For files with a place to note when last updated or a version number, mark accordingly.

It is further recommended that if the local government posts its Plan online for public access, that all of the linked stand-alone files (the same as those submitted to Ecology) be posted with the Plan. This helps the public know how the linked item looked at the time of Plan approval (in case the linked item is updated) and preserves the content (in case the link becomes broken).

Supplemental Content: Linking and Submittal

Content that may be helpful to the reader but is not required in your Plan is called supplemental content.

Examples of supplemental information:

- Other plans your Plan relates to, such as a county comprehensive plan, disaster debris plan, or the state's solid or hazardous waste management plan.
- Ecology's Household Hazardous Substance List[b]
- Maps
- SWAC bylaws
- Links to where information beyond the basic required info or information that came in after the Plan submittal is located.

Recommended
Hyperlinking supplemental content is recommended but not required. When linking, provide the full document name in the link. This ensures that future readers will know which document was referenced even if the link breaks. This is especially important for Plan content that does not pull directly from another document, but does require checking against another document. For example, facility planning must be consistent with plans for the entire county (such as a county comprehensive plan)[27]. Cite the names of plans checked for consistency with the SW Plan.

When submitting the Plan to Ecology for approval, do not submit documents that are only included as supplemental references. In the example above, do not submit the county comprehensive plan.

[b] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2607007.html

[27] RCW 70A.205.045(3)

Revising a SW or Combined Plan: Processes & Timelines

SW and Combined Plans follow the same revision and timeline processes. The only difference is Ecology will also look for the required elements of a HW Plan within a Combined Plan. The processes for stand-alone HW Plans can be found in the HW chapter of these guidelines.

Revisions: the basics

A Plan revision is a Plan update that involves a review and update to all parts of the Plan and includes local adoption of the revised Plan. The requirement is to complete a Plan revision every six years, preferably starting in January of Year 5 of the current Plan, as a revision usually takes at least two years. Here is an example timeline of the years.

"Approved" Plan

The most recent approved Plan retains its "approved" status until a new Plan or Plan revision replaces it. An amendment (described in the Amending a Plan section) may be used to replace part of a Plan. Approval by Ecology is the final step of a revision or amendment.

Plan in "current condition"

To be considered in "current condition[28]", a Plan must meet both of the following criteria:

Time has not elapsed beyond the six-year planning period. The six-year planning period ends on December 31st of the sixth year. The period is defined by the Plan's own content, including its implementation schedule, capital improvements plan or budget, and the six years detailed in the Utilities and Transportation Commission's Cost Assessment Questionnaire.

The Plan is in compliance with any Ecology petitions to amend. Ecology may petition the Planning Authority to amend the Plan to ensure the Plan addresses time-bound legislative changes or for content reasons such as addressing a large shift to the management system. The amendment process may be used to adjust targeted text to bring a Plan into current condition in terms of content, but does not reset the six-year clock for the overall Plan.

It is possible to have an Ecology-approved plan that is not in current condition. However, there can be financial implications for Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance if a Plan is not kept in current condition. For this and for the many reasons to practice proactive planning, Ecology encourages local jurisdictions to keep their Plans in current condition and communicate with their Ecology planner early and often.

[28] RCW 70A.205.075(1)

SW and Combined Plan Revision Timeline

Plan revisions often take two years to complete. Thus, to complete the process before the SW Plan or Combined Plan falls out of currency at the end of its sixth year, Ecology suggests starting the process no later than early in the fifth year of the six-year planning period. Start even earlier if doing a Request for Proposals to hire a consultant. A diagram of the six-year planning period and key times is as follows:

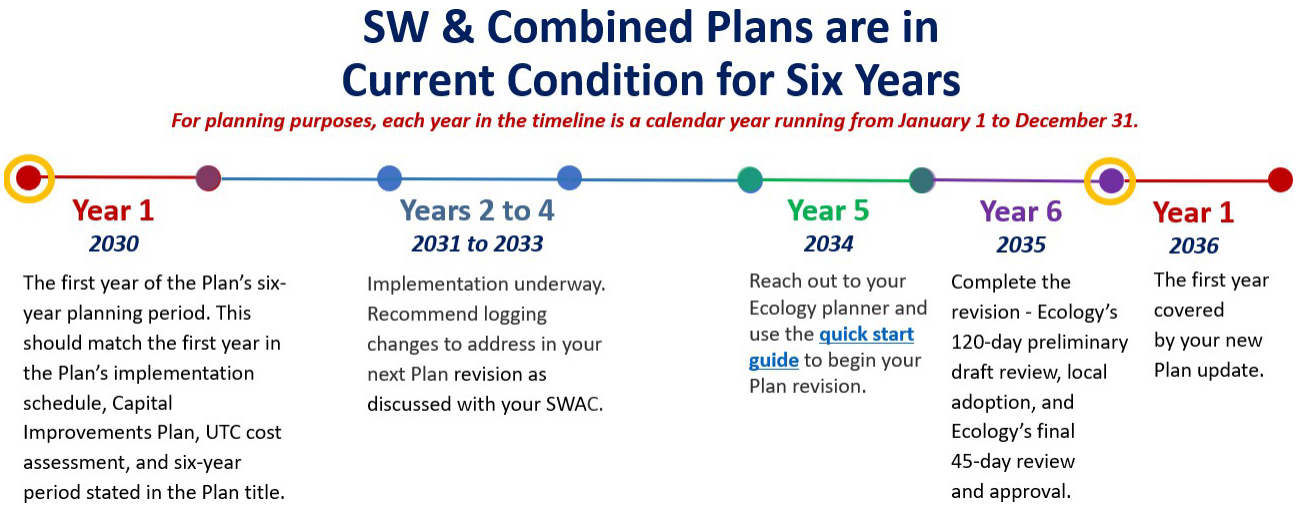


Figure 2 – The six years of a SW or Combined Plan

The basic steps of a revision are:

1. Define your planning area and Plan participants. Which other cities or counties will be part of the Plan? Will any Tribes participate?
    - Get written documentation[29], such as an e-mail, from all participants that shows their intent to work together and sign on to the final Plan. Interlocal agreements are recommended but required only in the case of a Joint City-County Plan.

2. Review the existing Plan cover to cover and begin to identify required and discretionary changes. Involve your SWAC, Plan participants, public, and local Ecology planner, which can help inform the content and desired direction of the Preliminary Draft Plan.

3. Working with the lead agency responsible SEPA official, identify the appropriate State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) analysis based on the scope of proposed Plan revisions.
    - If an Environmental Impact Statement[30] (EIS) process is used (rare for a Plan), issue the determination of significance and scoping notice.

[29] RCW 70A.205.040(4)
[30] https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/guide-for-lead-agencies/environmental-impact-statements

4. Write the Preliminary Draft Plan. SWAC participation is required[31].
    - Conduct one or more SWAC meetings to review residential curbside recycling per RCW 70A.205.115(1)[32]. (More details are in the SWAC section.)
    - Independent Cities have some choice regarding SWAC, outlined in Appendix G, Independent Cities.

5. Draft the required SEPA documents.
    - If a Determination of Nonsignificance[33] (DNS) or Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance[34] (MDNS) is being utilized for the environmental review of the draft Plan, include:
        1. The environmental checklist as required for a non-project proposal
        2. The threshold determination
    - If an EIS process is used, write the draft EIS

6. Prepare for comment period(s) and public review of the Preliminary Draft Plan. Minimum statewide requirements for public input are SWAC participation and SEPA review. In addition, identify any locally-required comment periods or hearings necessary for the adoption of the Plan. If a DNS or MDNS is issued for SEPA, a 14-day minimum comment period if required. If the EIS process is utilized, the Draft EIS requires a 30-day minimum comment period.
    - Draft the recipients list for SEPA
    - Decide if comment periods can be consolidated with SEPA to streamline the process

7. Submit the Preliminary Draft Plan for Ecology's 120-day review[35]. Ecology will send the Preliminary Draft Plan to the Washington UTC and Washington Department of Agriculture for their 45-day reviews[36]. Ecology will ensure those agencies' comments are given to the local government.
    - Ecology recommends starting the SEPA public comment period and any consolidated comment periods concurrently with Ecology's 120-day review. Do this by issuing notice(s) for public comment.
        - The Preliminary Draft submittal packet should include:

[31] RCW 70A.205.110(3)
[32] https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.205.115
[33] https://ecology.wa.gov/Asset-Collections/Doc-Assets/Regulations-Permits/Environmental-review/DNSTemplateWord
[34] https://ecology.wa.gov/Asset-Collections/Doc-Assets/Regulations-Permits/Environmental-review/SEPA-MDNS-Template-Word
[35] RCW 70A.205.055(1)
[36] RCWs 70A.205.060 and 70A.205.065

Required

1. A cover letter formally requesting preliminary review
2. An electronic copy of the Plan that is legible and searchable
3. All Interlocal Agreements or written authorizations
4. Evidence of SWAC participation, including the meeting regarding curbside recycling, if applicable[37]
5. The UTC Cost Assessment

Recommended

- Time the SEPA review as outlined above
- Provide Ecology with the received public comments as soon as the comment period ends. This step helps inform Ecology's review

8. Review comments received and incorporate into the Final Draft.
    - Share the comments received from Ecology's Preliminary Draft review and the public with SWAC and continue working with SWAC as edits are made.
    - Inform your partnering cities of your estimated completion date. Partnering cities can use this information to build a timeline to schedule their adoption process.
    - Consider comments and make appropriate changes to the SEPA analysis. The SEPA process must be complete before local adoption of the Final Draft Plan[38]. If EIS is used, write responses and finalize the analysis[39]. Final EIS must be issued at least seven days prior to local adoption of the Plan[40].

9. Consider an optional 45-day courtesy review by Ecology, especially if there were required changes stated in the preliminary review comments. Working closely with your Ecology planner helps ensure Ecology approval.

10. Obtain SWAC advisement on the Final Draft Plan.

11. Adopt the Final Draft Plan locally.

[37] Independent Cities may forgo this. See Appendix G: Independent Cities for details. See SWAC Curbside Recycling Meeting, Designated Recyclables List for SWAC details.
[38] WAC 197-11-070(1) and (2)
[39] WAC 197-11-560
[40] WAC 197-11-460

12. Submit the Final Draft Plan to Ecology for final review and potential approval[41]. Ecology has 45 days to respond with approval or denial of the Plan. If Ecology doesn't respond within those 45 days, the Plan is considered "approved".
    - The Final Draft submittal packet should include:

Required

1. A cover letter formally requesting final review
2. An electronic copy of the Plan that is legible and searchable. For all required Plan content that is linked to from the main Plan, provide electronic copies.
3. Documentation of a completed SEPA process (for a DNS or MDNS, this includes the threshold determination, checklist, and evidence of the public comment period)
4. All necessary Resolutions of Adoption
5. All necessary Interlocal Agreements or written authorizations
6. Evidence of SWAC participation reviewing the Final Draft Plan[42] (e.g. meeting minutes or a letter from SWAC)

Recommended

- Summary of changes from the Preliminary Draft Plan submittal (response summary)

Key aspects of the process are shown in the following diagram, including the very important step of implementing the final approved Plan.

[41] RCW 70A.205.055(2)
[42] Independent Cities may forgo this. See Independent Cities appendix for details.

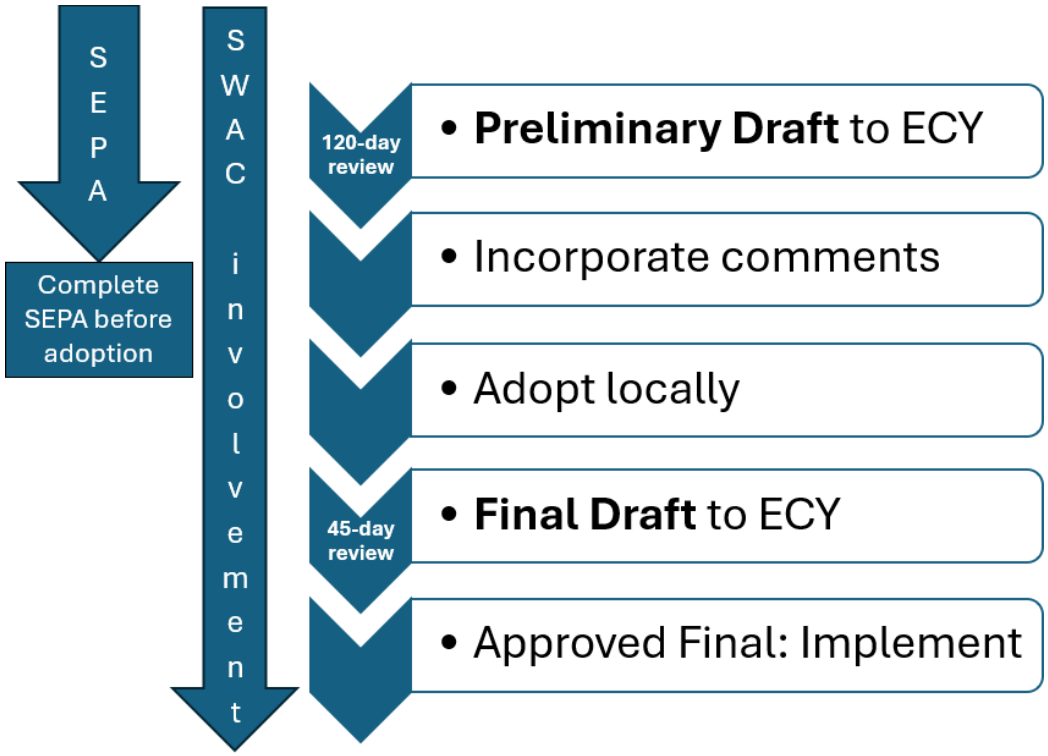


Figure 3 - Key steps in a SW or Combined Plan Revision

"Stopping the Clock" and additional reviews
In rare circumstances, a review may be paused, or an additional review required. Details on how this may be handled are in Appendix E: Stopping the Review Clock or Additional Review.

New Data, Legislation, or Time Effects on an Ongoing Revision

When is a Preliminary Draft no longer fresh enough to be submitted as Final?
If more than 365 days have elapsed since Ecology provided comments on a Preliminary Draft Plan and an adopted Final Plan has not been submitted, Ecology reserves the right to require resubmittal of a new Preliminary Draft Plan with updated content.

Note the next two sections assume an adopted Final Plan is submitted to Ecology within 365 days of the Preliminary Draft comments.

When do changes to the local system affect a Plan revision?
A Plan paints a moment in time while using data-based projections for the next 6 and 20 years. Local governments should provide the most up-to-date data when submitting their Preliminary Drafts. During the process of a Plan revision, changes may occur including updated data or changes to the local system. Local governments are encouraged to incorporate new data when possible prior to submitting the Final Draft. Plans not incorporating significant new changes risk Ecology disapproval of the Final Draft.

If new data comes available which **would not have a significant impact** on budget, overall strategies, or recommendations in the Plan, it may be folded in between the Preliminary Draft submittal and the Final Draft, at the local government's choosing. Examples: population projections and densities, tons received in the last year, actual spending vs budgeted spending.

If new information or data becomes known that **could significantly alter** the budget, overall strategies, or recommendations in the Plan, and your Preliminary Draft has already been submitted to Ecology, it is important to talk with your Ecology planner right away about how to fold the new information into your Plan. Adopting or approving a Plan that drastically mischaracterizes the true direction or financing of your solid waste system is not beneficial. Every effort should be made to incorporate new information. Options to incorporate the new information include:

- Withdrawing the Preliminary Draft and resubmitting a revised one
- Pausing the 120-day review clock while it is incorporated
- Incorporating the updates between the Preliminary and Final, with a suggested courtesy review by Ecology before local adoption.

Ecology will work with the Planning Authority to ensure a useful, up-to-date Plan with no surprises to partners. Examples of significant changes: a new contract, termination of a key recycling company, or new service levels not addressed in the Plan.

When does new legislation affect a Plan update?

At any moment in time, all Plans statewide are in various stages of currency and update. When new legislation is passed that affects what must be reflected in a Plan, Planning Authorities are highly encouraged to adjust their Plans accordingly. However, some may have a Plan close to adoption that may be costly or time-consuming to adjust. The following table outlines Ecology's general expectations for Plans affected by new legislation. (Exceptions may apply, such as when legislation required all Plans for jurisdictions of a certain size to adopt Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plans by July 1, 2021, regardless of where they were in currency or revision process.)

The following table outlines expectations for three scenarios in which legislation was passed requiring new Plan content.

The first is for legislation requiring new content, but by no specific deadline. The second is for legislation with a deadline specified in law, which is traditionally set at least a year after the effective date. The third is for when subsequent legislation adjusts the content required in earlier legislation, but the deadline in law remains unchanged. The third scenario occurred with HB 1799 in 2022 and HB 2301 in 2024. HB 1799 required Plans revised/amended 7/1/2024 or after to address certain things (RCW 70A.205.040(3)). HB 2301 changed what was required to be addressed, with an Effective Date of 6/6/2024 (the deadline set by HB 1799 remained 7/1/2024). In the example for scenario three, following the policy means the changes required

by HB 2301 would only *have* to be addressed in the *Final Plan* if the Preliminary Draft Plan was submitted 12/7/2024 or later (6 months after the effective date of HB 2301). This gives local governments time to adjust and allows those about to cross the finish line to avoid pivoting at the last minute.

Scenario	Timeline	Action/Requirement
1. Legislation Requires Plan Content (with No Deadline)	0-183 days (6 months) after legislation becomes effective	Preliminary Draft Plans submitted in this window are **not required but recommended to** have the legislation reflected in their *Final Plan* for approval.
	184+ days after legislation becomes effective	Preliminary Draft Plans submitted on or after this date **must** have the legislation reflected in the *Final Plan* for approval.
2. Legislation Requires Plan Content (with Deadline) (Assumes the deadline is at least one year after leg. effective date)	Before the deadline	Preliminary Draft Plans submitted before the deadline will receive the comment that this content is required by the deadline. *Final Plans* submitted before the deadline are **not required but recommended to** have the legislation reflected for approval.
	On or after the deadline	Preliminary Draft Plans submitted on or after the deadline will receive the comment that this content is required. *Final Plans* **must** have the legislation reflected for approval (exception in scenario 3).
3. Legislation Adjusts the Requirements for Plan Content (Deadline Remains Unchanged) (Assumes the deadline is within the six months after adjusting leg. effective date)	0-183 days (6 months) after effective deadline	Preliminary Draft Plans submitted in this window are **not required but recommended to** have the **new** requirements reflected in their *Final Plan* for approval.
	184+ days after legislation becomes effective	Preliminary Draft Plans submitted on or after this date **must** have the new requirements reflected in the *Final Plan* for approval.

In summary, Ecology's policy is to provide a six-month grace period when legislation requires new Plan content. If Ecology finds a Preliminary Draft Plan lacks needed content in relation to a law, Ecology will categorize its comments as either recommended or required, per the timelines above. If new legislation comes in after Ecology comments have been submitted to the local jurisdiction, the jurisdiction is not expected to fold it in, assuming the Final Plan is submitted to Ecology for approval in a timely manner (within 365 days of receiving Ecology's comments).

Amending a Plan (both SW and HW Plans)

Amendments: the basics

An amendment is a formal process to make targeted changes or updates to the Plan. It may be done to a SW Plan, a HW Plan, or a Combined Plan. It does not affect the 6-year timeline of a SW or Combined Plan. Because the planning authors can define their own amendment process within the Plan itself, there are several ways to accomplish an amendment depending on what works best for each group of planning partners.

When considering an amendment, it's advised to contact the Ecology Local Planner early. One important part of the amendment process the Ecology planner can advise on is how to update the UTC if there are any planned changes to potential rates. In addition, based on the updated content of the proposed amendment, the local Ecology planner may advise an alternate route, such as potentially forgoing an amendment and simply noting this as something to address in the next Plan revision, or the most appropriate amendment process based on the scope of the update.

Amendments are most likely needed if:

- The change is a large policy or structural shift away from what was planned, and partners should be made aware of the shift and be given the opportunity to provide input
- The Planning Authority and/or Ecology agree an amendment is appropriate to achieve a certain goal including, but not limited to, adjusting Plan content to reflect:
    - A desire to do discounted rates[43]
    - A desire to do an activity that could be covered by grant funds
    - A change to the Residential Curbside Designated Recyclables List or other service level expected of the g-certificated hauler

Ecology may disapprove of an amendment for SW Plan content[44] or HW Plan content[45]. While unlikely, reasons Ecology might disapprove an amendment include but are not limited to:

- Insufficient evidence that the amendment process found in the Plan was followed
- The process used was not transparent or inclusive enough for the content changed

[43] RCW 81.77.195
[44] RCW 70A.205.055(3)
[45] RCW 70A.300.350(7)

    - This may include Ecology requesting a more robust process than what is outlined in the Plan, such as to notify entities that would otherwise be excluded.
- The content does not fulfill planning requirements adequately (missing required content or goes against law, etc.)

Amendments: final steps of any process

Within 45 days after local completion of the amendment process, provide to Ecology:

- A redline version of your Plan or other agreed-upon documentation that clearly reflects the changed content and date of amendment approval
- Evidence of following the amendment process in your Plan, or the process agreed upon with Ecology. For example, SWAC minutes showing discussion of the amendment, etc.

For all Plans, Ecology will review the amendment within 90 days and inform the Planning Authority if it is approved or disapproved[46]. Ecology will notify the Planning Authority, UTC, and WSDA of the final amendment that Ecology posts to its online sharing platform where all current Plans and their amendments are publicly available.

At the time of this writing, that platform is the Current Approved Plans[47] branch of the Planning and Waste Reduction Resource Library on Box.

[46] RCW 70A.300.350(7)

[47] https://app.box.com/s/u0cwvenm0wp0axx4yurjgtajigk00c74

Amendments: the Process

Recommended

Amendment processes are not required to be outlined within a Plan, but are strongly recommended. By having an amendment process within an adopted Plan, the Plan participants provide a path by which content of the Plan may be changed and still be considered the adopted effective Plan. Once the amendment process is complete, the newly amended Plan replaces the old Plan as the version of the adopted Plan that is in effect. An illustration of the covers of such Plans follows:

Old adopted Plan, superseded by new Plan. No longer has effect.

New Plan, which is an amended version of the old Plan. Adoption carries over because the Plan's amendment process was followed.

Figure 4 – Example of how to title an amended Plan

There are several different options that can be used for an amendment process, and the Plan participants dictate the process. A Plan may also outline different amendment processes for different parts of a Plan or topics within a Plan (such as an amendment process specific to Designated Recyclables Lists.

Example amendment processes

Whatcom County has both a traditional SWAC and a Solid Waste Executive Committee (SWEC). The SWEC was established by interlocal agreement in the 1990s and is comprised of the county executive and the mayor of each city. Whatcom's amendment process is as follows:

If a Plan amendment is necessary, the County will start the process outlined as follows:

1. Receive a written petition from an individual or organization to amend the Plan.
2. Investigate the basis for the petition.
3. Produce a red-lined version of the Plan, incorporating any changes noted in the petition.
4. Provide the red-lined version to SWAC for review and approval. Whatcom considers the SWAC meeting as sufficient for meeting its local public comment requirements.
5. Incorporate any relevant comments from the public and/or SWAC to the red-lined version.
6. If substantial changes were made due to public or SWAC comment, provide the updated redlined version to SWAC for review and approval.
7. Present SWAC-approved, red-lined version of the plan to SWEC for review and approval.
8. Present SWAC and SWEC-approved, red-lined version to County Council for review and approval.
9. Present County-approved, red-lined version to the Department of Ecology for review and sharing with relevant state agencies.

Spokane County has a very simple amendment process. They also have very good SWAC participation, and schedule SWAC meetings every other month even when not in a Plan revision process. Every signatory city to the Plan has an available seat on the SWAC. Their process is outlined as follows:

1. Required change/update is identified.
2. A draft Plan is created incorporating the change in track changes.
3. The SWAC is notified of the update requirement and the updated draft is distributed for review.
4. A SWAC meeting will be scheduled (if not already regularly scheduled) and held to discuss and inform SWAC of change(s).
5. The update process will be recorded in the Plan and the amended Plan will be finalized.
6. The finalized Plan will be sent to Ecology along with a cover letter describing the change.
7. The finalized Plan will be sent to each participating jurisdiction along with a cover letter describing the change.

Minimum amendment process

If no amendment process exists within the current Plan, the local Ecology planner will work with the Planning Authority to agree on an appropriate process if an amendment is needed or requested. This could vary depending on the level of information that is being amended. A likely minimum process for minor changes to the Plan that primarily affect the Planning Authority is described as follows.

The lead solid waste decision maker in the Planning Authority brings the proposed amendment to a public SWAC meeting for a discussion and a vote. If the change would affect the g-certificated haulers, each will be notified adequately in advance of the SWAC meeting. The SWAC meeting discussing the amendment serves as public input, so long as it is publicly

advertised. Within 45 days, the amended Plan and documentation of the amendment process are sent to Ecology who shares it with the UTC and WSDA.
Examples of changes that may use this minimum process include but are not limited to:

- Implementing new recycling drop-off sites
- Adding a new straightforward activity for grant funding purposes
- Updating the Designated Recyclables List for g-certificated areas
    - Note: If a city that does not default to the g-certificate changes its list, the Plan does not need an amendment because the Plan does not direct the hauler. That information can be held until the next Plan revision.

Amending a linked part of the Plan
If a linked file is all that is amended, it may be amended in a manner listed above and the newer version should be clearly indicated by including the amendment date both in the file name and the file content. Ecology will place the newly amended file in the same online sharing folder (e.g. Box) as the SW Plan and previous file. For example, if a Cost Assessment Questionnaire-Designated Recyclables Lists workbook (CAQ-DRLs Workbook) is all that is amended, the new CAQ-DRLs workbook will be uploaded once approved. The new workbook will have an updated "Local government last updated this list: MM/DD/YYYY" cell found at the top of the updated worksheet(s) and should have a file name indicating it is the updated workbook.

Scoping and Defining Responsibilities for SW Plans

Whether creating a new Plan or updating an existing Plan, the first steps are to identify the geographic area the Plan will cover and to get the right people involved. This section explains how to define the planning area, clarifies the responsibilities of counties and cities, and covers interlocal agreements.

Planning Area

The planning area is defined as the geographical region where the Plan will apply. This generally includes the boundaries of the Planning Authority (the jurisdiction leading the writing of the plan) and any Plan participants. Multiple counties may collaborate in regional Plans. If writing a Combined Plan, the defined Planning Area must be the same for both the Solid and Hazardous Waste portions of the Plan unless an alternative path is negotiated with your Ecology planner.

Federal lands should be included in the planning area, as state and local solid waste laws still apply, per 42 United States Code 6961[48].

[48] https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=(title:42%20section:6961%20edition:prelim)

Cities with population in the county but not signing onto the county plan may be excluded from the planning area. See the County Responsibilities and City Responsibilities sections for details.

Tribal lands do not have to be included in the planning area, as Tribes have jurisdiction over their waste management systems. However, the local plan should acknowledge the existence of these areas.

Required
List the participating jurisdictions and define the planning area[49]. Include any relevant interlocal agreements (ILAs). (Examples include ILAs for MRW acceptance in a neighboring county, agreement on the flow of waste[50], or for planning together.)

Recommended
Include a map of the planning area boundaries.

County Responsibilities

Each county must prepare a SW Plan in cooperation with its cities[51]. The county is usually the lead entity, as the vast majority of SW Plans are written via the "county plans on behalf of the city" method described in the following City Responsibilities section.

The department that is responsible for solid waste management is the Planning Authority; they author the SW Plan or direct its writing. The Planning Authority has primary responsibility for maintaining the SW Plan and implementing the portions over which it has influence.

In the early 1990s a handful of jurisdictions prepared collaborative multi-county plans. This remains an option and is encouraged where solid waste is managed on a broad, regional scale. Work with your Ecology planner if you wish to explore this option.

Required

- Maintain the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)[52].
- Implement the SW Plan and maintain it in a current condition[53].
- Upon starting a SW Plan revision, coordinate with all cities within the county. For example, gather the appropriate documentation showing their level of participation (details in the City Responsibilities section).

[49] RCW 70A.205.040(1)
[50] RCW 36.58.040(1)
[51] RCW 70A.205.040(1)
[52] RCW 70A.205.110(3)
[53] RCWs 70A.205.075(1) and (4)

- Integrate any independent city SW Plans into the county Plan[54].
- Ensure the Plan touches on all city populations within the county borders, at least to include where the city's SW Plan may be found and how it is integrated with the county SW Plan (i.e. how it impacts the county SW Plan)[55]. This is likely needed for border cities (cities that straddle the county border). Border cities may have other implications, such as potential effects on grant funding or flow control. Integrate any plans made under RCW 70A.205.040(5) into the county plan.
- If the county designates disposal sites and has a g-certificated hauler with territory in more than one county (such as border city using the UTC g-certificated hauler), ensure an interlocal agreement outlines the flow of solid waste[56].

Recommended
Invite Tribes to be included via incorporation of their solid or hazardous waste plans or by planning jointly. SWAC membership is encouraged. Furthermore, if solid waste or recyclable materials are handled off tribal land, discuss where the material is handled in the Plan.

Military installations and federally recognized Tribes are not prohibited from being a signatory to a SW or HW Plan, but they are also not required to formally adopt a Plan. Each jurisdiction should work with these entities to determine the best course of action.

Resources to reach Tribes include the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs[57] and the Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network[58].

City Responsibilities

Since the dawn of SW Plans via 1969 legislation, cities have needed to cooperate with another jurisdiction on a SW Plan or prepare their own. Ecology strongly encourages cities and counties to work cooperatively to develop the SW Plan to ensure the most efficient use of their resources. Planning arrangements may have an impact on flow control, grant funding, and local revenues. Discuss with the appropriate city and county staff and be aware of potential annexations.

Plan types:
RCW 70A.205.040(4)[59], has subsections (a), (b), and (c) that outlines the three main kinds of SW Plans:

[54] RCW 70A.205.040(4)(a)
[55] RCW 70A.205.040(1)
[56] RCW 36.58.040(1)
[57] https://goia.wa.gov/
[58] https://www.tswan.org/
[59] https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.205.040

(a) **Independent City Plan:** While rare, a city may opt to write its own Plan. Example: City of Seattle SW Plan (2022-2027)[60]. Reasons to use this option may be to have more autonomy, transparency, and predictability regarding funding and fees, control flow of materials, or write a Plan in a manner befitting the city.

Recommendation for this plan type: The statute does not require documentation at the start of the planning process, but Ecology recommends discussion with the home county and Ecology and documentation thereof. After the city has adopted the SW Plan, the city must deliver its plan to the county auditor[61]. More information is in Appendix G – Independent Cities.

(b) **Joint City-County Plan:** Rarely done. This is when a city co-leads with a county on a Plan. Other cities may also sign on to the Plan. Example: Tacoma-Pierce SW and HW Plan (2022-2027)[62]

Required documentation for this plan type: when starting the planning process**,** an interlocal agreement (ILA)[63] outlining the city's participation in preparing the joint plan.

(c) **County plans on behalf of the city ("County Plan"):** By far the most common approach. Here, the city authorizes the county to plan on its behalf. Example: Benton County SW and HW Plan (2024-2029)[64]. Reasons for this approach include synergies realized by a solid waste system coordinated across the county, a relative reduction in city resources spent on solid waste planning, and an ability to still maintain a large degree of city autonomy through powers like contracting, city-provided services, or city ordinances.

Required documentation for this plan type: when starting the planning process, written authorization from the city for the county to do the planning, which can be as simple as an e-mail.

Recommended for this plan type: While an ILA is not required by law when embarking on a Plan where the county plans on behalf of the city, it is highly recommended. An ILA helps ensure the city stays abreast of the planning process and is prepared to adopt it at the end, instead of backing out.

[60] https://app.box.com/s/8puxm50jepypfi7nge4c7pp1qgqxh0vz
[61] RCW 70A.205.040(4)(a)
[62] https://ecy.app.box.com/folder/152433526613?s=yvkas6z5ixx1koof2aohtivon7dgmf58
[63] RCW 70A.205.040(4)(b)
[64] https://app.box.com/s/uhq31jpbwetrgkyjd8a3qoie96zgpede

RCW 70A.205.040(5)[65] provides other options for cities, such as planning jointly with another city, planning with an adjoining county, or planning with two counties (such as for border cities). Work with your Ecology planner for these special circumstances.

Required: A city must be signatory to at least one SW Plan. The SW Plan of its home county(ies) must include where the city's SW Plan may be found and how it is integrated[66].

Use of Interlocal Agreements or Resolutions of Adoption

Interlocal Agreements (ILAs)

The purpose of an ILA is to formalize cooperation between government entities. These are written or revisited as a first step when embarking on a Plan revision to ensure it is known who will be participating in the final, updated Plan. However, as noted in the City Responsibilities, an ILA for SW Planning is only required by RCW in the rare case of a joint city-county plan under RCW 70A.205.040(4)(b)[67]. Still, entering into or refreshing an ILA before starting a Plan update process has long been the practice of cities and the county with which they are planning, for both SW and HW Plans. Like a contract, ILAs clarify roles and expectations and hold entities to those roles and expectations. Ecology encourages this continued use for both SW and HW Planning.

ILAs must be developed in accordance with Chapter 39.34 RCW[68], the Interlocal Cooperation Act. The Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC) provides local governments with guidance on ILAs, including this Interlocal Cooperation Basics[69] webpage. Each jurisdiction's governing body (county commissioners and city councils) approves and signs the ILA.

Some jurisdictions use an ILA to outline only the agreements related to planning, which simplifies things if adjustments are desired. Others include many aspects of how waste will be managed and how the system will be funded.

[65] https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.205.040
[66] RCW 70A.205.040(1)
[67] https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.205.040
[68] https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=39.34
[69] https://mrsc.org/explore-topics/government-organization/interlocal/interlocal-cooperation-basics

Required

An ILA is required for a joint city-county SW or Combined Plan[70]. It should be done early in the planning process and submitted with the Preliminary Draft Plan.

Recommended

ILAs are recommended for any Plan and it is recommended to include them in an appendix of the Plan.

Common ILA components:

- Explanation of responsibilities of all parties in a solid waste management system. Example areas are management, planning, operations, and collection services.
- An effective date and duration, with clauses enabling either party to terminate or renegotiate the agreement. Duration should cover at least the six-year planning period.
- Clarity around any cost-sharing arrangements for planning activities.
- Outline of procedures for final adoption of the plan (may include creative options as outlined in the following section on Resolutions of Adoption).
- Some set amendment procedures.

Examples are available on Box in the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) Examples[71] folder.

Resolutions of Adoption (ROAs)

Prior to submitting the final draft Plan to Ecology for review and approval, it must be adopted by all participating jurisdictions. A Resolution of Adoption formally approves the Plan and sets it as a guiding document. If a jurisdiction refuses to adopt the Plan and all efforts to resolve the conflict are exhausted, the Planning Authority must explain the circumstances surrounding the issue(s) when they submit the Final Draft Plan. Ecology will contact local governments that did not adopt the Plan and inform them of their options. In most cases, options will be limited to conflict resolution with the Planning Authority or for the jurisdiction to write their own Plan.

Military installations and Tribes are not prohibited from adopting the Plan but are also not required by law to do so. Each Planning Authority should work with these entities to determine the best course of action.

[70] RCW 70A.205.040(4)(b)

[71] https://app.box.com/s/ymyjv5m8gsffqtqd0plmuwll1cpcakvw

Required

Local adoption of the Plan.

Recommended

Some planning authorities have had difficulty securing adoption from partner municipalities in a timely manner. Options to mitigate this include:

1. Provide the Preliminary and Final Draft Plans early to allow ample time to review.
2. Include a provision in the ILA that states that if a Plan participant does not act within a certain number of days of receiving the final Plan for adoption, it will be considered adopted by that jurisdiction. Clark County has done this.
3. Establish a population threshold for adoption in the ILA. In Pierce County/Tacoma and King County, once jurisdictions representing 75% of the population of incorporated areas have adopted the Plan, it is considered adopted by all incorporated areas.

The following diagram illustrates how an initial ILA and subsequent ROAs can be used to support continuous collaboration to ensure all participating jurisdictions adopt your current Plan update, and future updates, in a timely way.

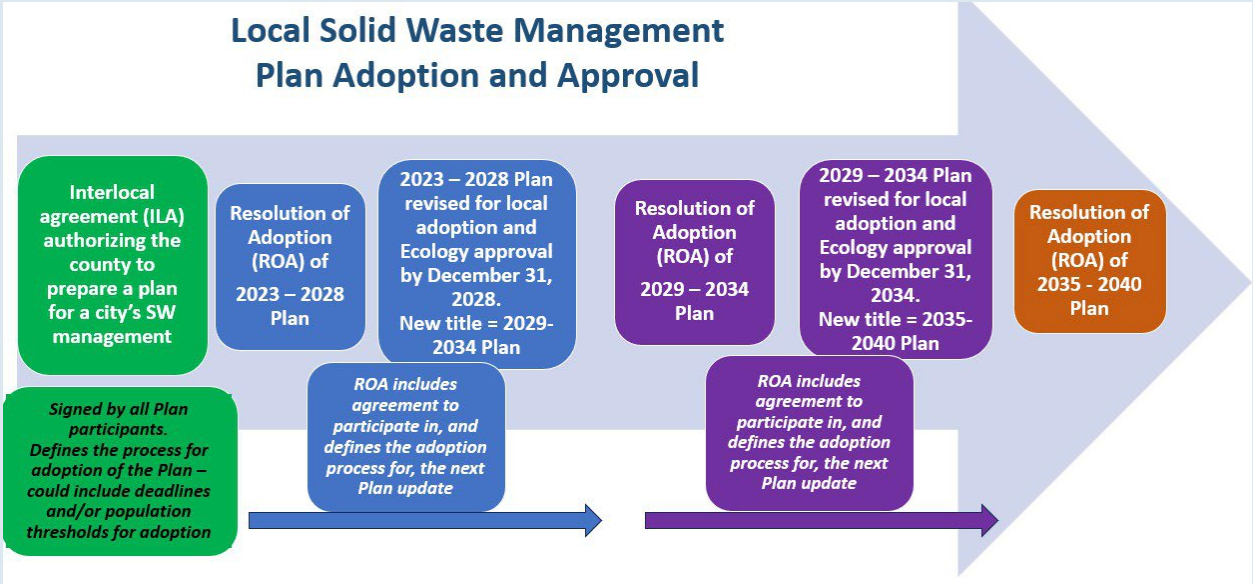


Figure 5- Example timeline of how a Resolution of Adoption can double as an agreement to continue planning together.

Example ROAs are available on Box in the Resolutions of Adoption Examples[72] folder.

[72] https://app.box.com/s/zjg3ss77yh6447q5tskb68fej7x5w8qj

Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

Local SWAC Introduction

The local SWAC, mandated by RCW 70A.205.110(3)[73], is an ongoing committee appointed by the county. The committee is an advisory body that conducts public meetings and gives a voice to diverse community members, including the public. Local SWACs review and comment on proposed rules, policies, ordinances prior to adoption, including SW Plans.

SWAC Membership

Required

SWACs must have at least nine members. This is especially important during a SW or Combined Plan revision. The members are appointed by the county legislative authority and must represent a balance of interests including, but not limited to[74]:

1. Citizens
2. Public interest groups
3. Business
4. The waste management industry
5. Agriculture
6. Local elected public officials

Recommended

Tribal representation and involvement is highly encouraged. Resources to reach Tribes include the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs[75] and the Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network[76].
If membership is not the best fit, it is still encouraged to document outreach to Tribes or community-based organizations for underrepresented populations. Outreach may include hosting listening sessions or sharing data with these entities.

If you need to fill vacancies on your SWAC, *start the recruitment process early to allow for ample time.* See Ecology's folder of SWAC resources[77] for items such as a SWAC Recruitment Letter Example[78] and recruitment materials from other jurisdictions. Otherwise, use your current SWAC members to recruit or social media, radio ads, etc.

[73] https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=70A.205.110
[74] RCW 70A.205.110(3)
[75] https://goia.wa.gov/
[76] https://www.tswan.org/
[77] https://app.box.com/s/0bc9qh3iyjinkanw50bsqt3x9r9plabt
[78] https://app.box.com/s/ygrzabfcrxwi77jrsdfb6nlfcmo50u3m

County SWAC Plan Revision Participation

A SWAC should be active during a Plan revision. As an advisory body, SWACs should be reviewing the SW, HW, and Combined Plans throughout the planning process and making recommendations. While SWACs are required for SW Plans, public involvement is required for HW Plans. As noted in the HW portion of these guidelines, use of a SWAC can satisfy HW public involvement needs.

RCW does not require SWACs to approve SW, HW or Combined Plans for submission or adoption. SWACs provide advice to the local governing body, which will then make final decisions after considering those recommendations and other available information. If a SWAC does not recommend approval, a jurisdiction can still move forward with the SW, HW or Combined Plan, but the SWAC's recommendation should be taken into consideration.

Required

Ecology will not accept a county SW or Combined Plan without SWAC review. Evidence of SWAC participation must reflect three milestones:

1. Participation in the curbside recycling meeting[79] described following.
   Exception: jurisdictions without curbside recycling during the planning period.
2. Participation leading up to submittal of the Preliminary Draft Plan.
3. Participation leading up to local adoption of the Final Plan (ensures SWAC is aware of what is in the final plan, with opportunity to advise).

Evidence of the three milestones may be provided as meeting notes, comments and response to comments, etc. The evidence can be inserted into a Plan as an Appendix, or jurisdictions can link to the information on their website within a Plan.

SWAC Curbside Recycling Meeting, Designated Recyclables List

Jurisdictions planning for curbside recycling must host at least one SWAC meeting with local recycling and collection businesses to discuss how to shape the residential recycling programs[80]. Hosting the meeting early in the planning process both informs the Plan and helps meet the RCW requirement to hold the meeting at least a year before the final Plan is submitted to Ecology.

[79] RCW 70A.205.115(1)
[80] RCW 70A.205.115(1)

Required

If residential curbside recycling will occur in the planning area during the six-year planning period, the SWAC must hold at least one meeting to discuss it. This is not inclusive of organics. The meeting must occur during development of the Preliminary Draft Plan.

Discussion of processing and marketing materials must be included, and an updated draft of the Designated Recyclables List (DRL) as it pertains to residential curbside recycling must be discussed at the meeting. A template for the residential curbside DRL that also reflects Ecology's latest material designation recommendations is provided on Tab 2, Res. Curbside DRL of the CAQ-DRLs Workbook[81]. Ecology's recommendations are based on multiple criteria, including markets. See the Designated Recyclables List section of these guidelines for more information, and visit Box for recent market data[82].

Jurisdictions must invite private recyclers. "Private recyclers" means the residential curbside recycling hauler(s) and Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs). This is inclusive of all haulers and receiving MRFs serving across the planning area (cities, too). It does not require reaching out to entities beyond those handling/marketing residential curbside.

Document within the Plan how this requirement was met via inclusion of the SWAC agenda or minutes showing the relevant topic, and a sentence or two explaining how it was met.

Recommended:

Invite representatives from end markets who remanufacture the materials into new goods. Host a similar meeting to discuss the fate of organics collected.

Tips for Managing a SWAC

It is important to note the SWAC is an ongoing committee. Regular meetings should be held to discuss issues that arise within the solid waste system, even when a plan revision is not in process. A good strategy is to have less frequent meetings when not revising a plan, but continue to meet at least twice a year for members to stay abreast of issues and operations and make recommendations as needed.

An active SWAC means the committee meets as often as necessary to have meaningful discussion and provide useful feedback to the legislative body it serves. Being "active" applies to both the SWAC and the members. Active members are consistently present, review the plan, stay abreast of current issues and provide input. A SWAC's bylaws may determine what an active member is. For example, in some bylaws, if a member has missed three consecutive

[81] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx

[82] https://app.box.com/s/klxstztju7kh8aql5qvzaf2vfo0oguun

meetings without notice, they can be removed. Ecology provides examples of SWAC bylaws and Meeting Procedures, and additional resources in the Box folder of SWAC resources[83].

A question Ecology has received is whether the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 42.30 RCW, applies to SWACs. It is up to the local government to make the call. However, the RCW intent of SWACs as a gateway for public input is clear, and Ecology will expect strong effort from counties to ensure that gate is open. The Washington State Office of the Attorney General offers training on the Open Public Meetings Act through their Open Government Training[84] program. Some SWACs require their members to take this training. See the Box folder of SWAC resources for Open Public Meetings Act guidance[85].

Independent City SWAC Requirements

Required

Though highly recommended, Independent City SW Plans are not required to be developed with a SWAC nor a SWAC-like entity.

However, for an Independent City to receive Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance (LSWFA) from Ecology, it must qualify as an Independent City as defined by the LSWFA program., Qualification includes:

1. Have an Ecology-approved SW Plan
2. Created the Plan with the participation of a "SWAC-like entity[86]"
3. Provide for disposal site(s) wholly within city jurisdiction[87]

A SWAC-like entity is not defined in RCW nor WAC, but is the best way to merge the intent of the final sentence of RCW 70A.205.110(3)[87] without requiring a city to have a county-appointed advisory committee. A SWAC-like entity is assembled by the city, but otherwise has the same balanced representation of interests and functions as a traditional SWAC.

Statewide Dialogue

Diverse stakeholder input is important at the state level, too. A state SWAC was originally mandated by RCW 70.95.040.[88] That RCW was repealed in 2010. However, Ecology continues to host every-other-month meetings for all interested in solid waste issues. Meetings are open and

[83] https://app.box.com/s/0bc9qh3iyjinkanw50bsqt3x9r9plabt
[84] https://www.atg.wa.gov/open-government-training
[85] https://app.box.com/s/83cpsz2uqazupxvnr2430z6a79av99oc
[86] RCW 70A.205.110(3) and WAC 173-312-040
[87] RCW 70A.205.080
[88] RCW 70.95.040

attendance is recommended to stay in tune with statewide solid waste issues. More information may be found on the Solid Waste Information Meeting webpage[89].

Population, Disposal, and Waste Characterization Trends

This chapter touches on key data necessary to inform SW planning in areas such as policy, collection, facilities, operations, and outreach. Data specific to key diverted materials are found in those chapters.

Population Projections and Density

To adequately plan for capacity and services over the six- and twenty-year planning horizons, one must know the current and projected population of the planning area. Population density informs this plus helps determine urban or rural areas and related levels of service[90].

Projecting out the population also helps jurisdictions plan ahead for solid waste related legislation that comes into play after certain population thresholds. Examples include:

- Contamination reduction and outreach plan[91] (25,000, see CROPs)
- Organics recycling collection area[92] (25,000 and various densities, see ORCAs)
- Compost procurement ordinances[93] (25,000, see CPOs)
- Use of construction aggregate and recycled concrete[94] (100,000)

Required

Required Projections: Show the current population and projections over the six- and twenty-year planning horizons. The Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) provides projections on its population forecasts and projections[95] page, or more directly, on the Growth Management Act population projections for counties[96] page.

[89] https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/accountability-transparency/partnerships-committees/solid-waste-advisory-committee
[90] RCW 70A.205.050
[91] RCW 70A.205.045(10)
[92] RCW 70A.205.540(3)(a) and (3)(b)
[93] RCW 43.19A.150
[94] RCW 70A.205.700(3) and (4)
[95] https://ofm.wa.gov/washington-data-research/population-demographics/population-forecasts-and-projections
[96] https://ofm.wa.gov/washington-data-research/population-demographics/population-forecasts-and-projections/growth-management-act-county-projections/growth-management-act-population-projections-counties-2020-2050

For most SW Plans, which have the county as the Planning Authority, showing projections for the county is sufficient. Cities planning independently and joint city-county plans must include key city projections. City projections could be extrapolated from the OFM population estimates[97] released annually by April 1. That data has populations of cities, unincorporated areas, and counties as a whole.

The UTC requires the six-year range of this data in the template in the CAQ-DRLs Workbook[98]. A screenshot of the relevant portion follows:

Demographics								
	Base Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	
Population	number of people	number of people	number of people	number of people	number of people	number of people	number of people	as needed

Figure 6 – Cost Assessment Questionnaire excerpt showing the required population fields.

Required Density: Provide the population density of each city and each area served by a g-certificated hauler[99]. The following steps may be used:

Cities: Get the city and town population density from the Washington State Office of Financial Management population density page[100]. Provide the data in a list or table.

Areas served by the g-certificated haulers: While UTC g-certificated haulers often operate as the hauler for a city, it is useful to know the densities in the city and, separately, the county. The OFM County Unincorporated Population Density[101] spreadsheet lists the unincorporated county population density.

This county number may be used for all g-certificated hauler areas, but if reasons exist to estimate certain g-certificated areas to be more dense than others (Tourism Promotion Areas, etc.), please provide those estimates and the rationale. Maps of UTC g-certificated hauler territories[102] are available online (and ideally will be part of your SW Plan).

[97] https://ofm.wa.gov/washington-data-research/population-demographics/population-estimates/april-1-official-population-estimates

[98] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx

[99] RCW 70A.205.045(5)(c)

[100] https://ofm.wa.gov/washington-data-research/population-demographics/population-estimates/population-density

[101] https://app.box.com/s/zkf66a3c1e5ly5cm0jbjtsk6btqrk0aw

[102] https://www.utc.wa.gov/regulated-industries/transportation/regulated-transportation-industries/solid-waste-carriers/solid-waste-service-maps-county

Recommended

Knowing key demographic data of populations served in the planning area can guide planning decisions such as outreach (for example, languages spoken and cultural norms) and policy (for example, employment, age, and consideration of low-income discounts). Also, for areas where tourism is a large factor, consider using information and projections from sources such as State of Washington Tourism.[103]

MSW Disposed

Required

State the amount of waste disposed through the planning area's solid waste system that ultimately went to an MSW landfill or to an energy recovery and incineration facility. Start with the last year for which data is available. Project out the anticipated annual waste that will be disposed as MSW by the planning area, at least through the end of the six-year planning period[104]. Factors to consider include anticipated population changes, changes due to law (such as new diversion of organics under the Organics Management Laws or changed diversion due to the Recycling Reform Act), and changes due to policy.

The UTC requires waste projection data be broken out as seen in the template in the CAQ-DRLs Workbook[105]. A screenshot of the relevant portion follows:

Waste Generation	*in tons of MSW from all sources*							
	Base Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	
UTC G-certificated Hauler	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	as needed
UTC G-certificated Hauler	as needed	as needed	as needed	as needed	as needed	as needed	as needed	as needed
Non-Regulated Haulers - Total *cities that provide muncipal service or contract for service*	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	as needed
Self-Haul	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	as needed
Total Tons of MSW Disposed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	as needed

Figure 7 - Cost Assessment Questionnaire excerpt of the waste generation section.

The UTC Cost Assessment Questionnaire also has a question in the Facilities section asking if the facilities owned or operated by the county, or that the county contracts to operate, accept materials from outside of the county. If acceptance of out-of-planning area waste is and will continue to be a strategy of the Planning Authority, mark yes. Also include those quantities in your projections.

Projections may be presented as numbers for the entire planning area (i.e. countywide). Data for cities or other key areas should be broken out where helpful. Most planning jurisdictions

[103] https://industry.stateofwatourism.com/data-research/
[104] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(c) and helps inform RCWs for facility and collection needs
[105] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx

have contracts or other means of obtaining local data, and direct discussion with collection and facility partners is key. Ecology can provide some data as discussed in the following section.

Finally, estimate the MSW that will need disposed in twenty years. This informs the long-range needs for SW handling facilities[106]. This can be presented as seen in Appendix J: Sample 20-Year Generation and Facility Needs Tables.

Recommended
Break the data out in ways that help anticipate and avoid collection and facility challenges. For example, chart seasonal variations and factors or tons specific to certain collection areas or facilities. Describe how the projections were calculated.

Discuss the projected quantities of hard-to-handle wastes that enter the county (or city) disposal system and how that may affect collection or facility needs. This can be within a "Miscellaneous Wastes" chapter.

Discuss how other key disposed wastes handled outside of the solid waste system described above are trending. For example, industrial waste, medical waste, and waste from Tribes encompassed by but not participating in the planning area.

Ecology data:
Ecology posts tonnage information gathered from the annual reports submitted by landfills and energy recovery and incineration facilities. Such facilities are required to report the origin of the waste (county and/or city), sector of origin (commercial or residential), and the destination of materials if delivered off-site, among other required data. Ecology compiles these numbers into the "Solid waste disposal data by county (1994-20xx)[107]" workbook posted annually to Ecology's solid waste & recycling data webpage[108]. From the data in this workbook, a basic trend of total tons of MSW disposed over the past few years can be compiled for each county or statewide. Dividing a year's total MSW by the same year's population provides the amount of MSW disposed per capita. The per capita number can be multiplied by future year anticipated populations to help estimate future tons of MSW generated.

To find county MSW disposed data, go to a year tab and find your county. Following is an example from the 2022 tab of the workbook, filtered for Grant County. Your county will likely have different headers in columns B and beyond. That's because filtering by a county will automatically shrink or expand the table to show all columns with a positive value. There are over 20 waste material types in columns B and beyond, so some county tables are quite wide.

[106] RCW 70A.205.045(2)
[107] https://ecology.wa.gov/disposal-by-county
[108] https://ecology.wa.gov/research-data/data-resources/solid-waste-recycling-data

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
Disposed Solid Waste by County (tons)	Waste Materia								
County	Asbestos	C & D Debris	Industrial Waste	Medical Waste	Mortalities and other animal parts	Municipal/Commercial Solid Waste	Special Waste (permitted)	Tires (disposed)	Grand Total
Grant	**295.5**	**22.7**	**1,177.0**	**5.1**	**0.1**	**127,130.2**	**3,933.6**	**0.5**	**132,564.6**
Ephrata Landfill	269.3					127,069.5			127,338.8
Greater Wenatchee Regional Landfill	26.1	22.7			0.1	6.1	3,933.6	0.5	3,989.1
Roosevelt Regional Landfill MSW			1,177.0						1,177.0
Spokane Regional Waste to Energy Facility				5.1		54.6			59.7
Grand Total	**295.5**	**22.7**	**1,177.0**	**5.1**	**0.1**	**127,130.2**	**3,933.6**	**0.5**	**132,564.6**

Figure 8– "Solid Waste Disposal Data by County" workbook excerpt

Look at the column "Municipal/Commercial Solid Waste". This column represents all materials collected for disposal via route vehicles over which local government has control (both residential and commercial), plus any self-hauled MSW. This is the key column for which you need to plan your solid waste services. Totals by facilities used and/or the county as a whole may be charted over recent years to get a trend line helpful for your projection over the planning periods of six and twenty years. Facility-specific data is also available from Ecology, in the "Solid waste disposal data by facility (20xx)[109]" workbook posted to the same Ecology data webpage.

Evaluating county disposal data beyond "Municipal/Commercial Solid Waste" is encouraged. This data may show material streams with large recovery opportunities, or materials need to be handled as MSW if they are not being handled directly by limited purpose or inert waste landfills. Questions about the data may be directed to your local Ecology planner.

Waste Characterization

As noted in the previous section, disposal data collected by Ecology can provide insight into the various materials disposed. An even better approach is to conduct a county- or city-specific waste characterization study (sometimes called a waste audit). Waste characterization is an important starting point for solid waste management because it can help define problem and emerging wastes, and untapped local recovery potential. It can also raise awareness of and track the amount of materials addressed in programs such as product stewardship and moderate risk waste collection, such as electronics and motor oil. It is useful for projecting solid waste collection and facility needs and opportunities.

Waste characterization studies involve sampling the waste from predefined geographic areas and generator sectors to determine the material components of the waste stream. These studies sort through disposed waste to statistically analyze specific components of waste, and

[109] https://ecology.wa.gov/disposal-by-facility

often quantify the seasonal variations of waste generation. Many counties use existing waste characterization studies from similar communities, waste generation area -specific data from statewide waste characterization studies, or conduct their own.

Ecology has conducted waste characterization studies since the 1980s. At the time of this writing, the most current study is the 2020-2021 Washington Statewide Waste Characterization Study[110]. It and other studies are posted on Ecology's solid waste & recycling data webpage[111] (see "Reports and studies"). If you plan to do a waste characterization study, please consider coordinating with Ecology's statewide study efforts to make the data as consistent and broadly usable as possible.

The following graph reveals many materials, including food in goldenrod, that are discarded despite ready technologies to recycle or otherwise recover them.

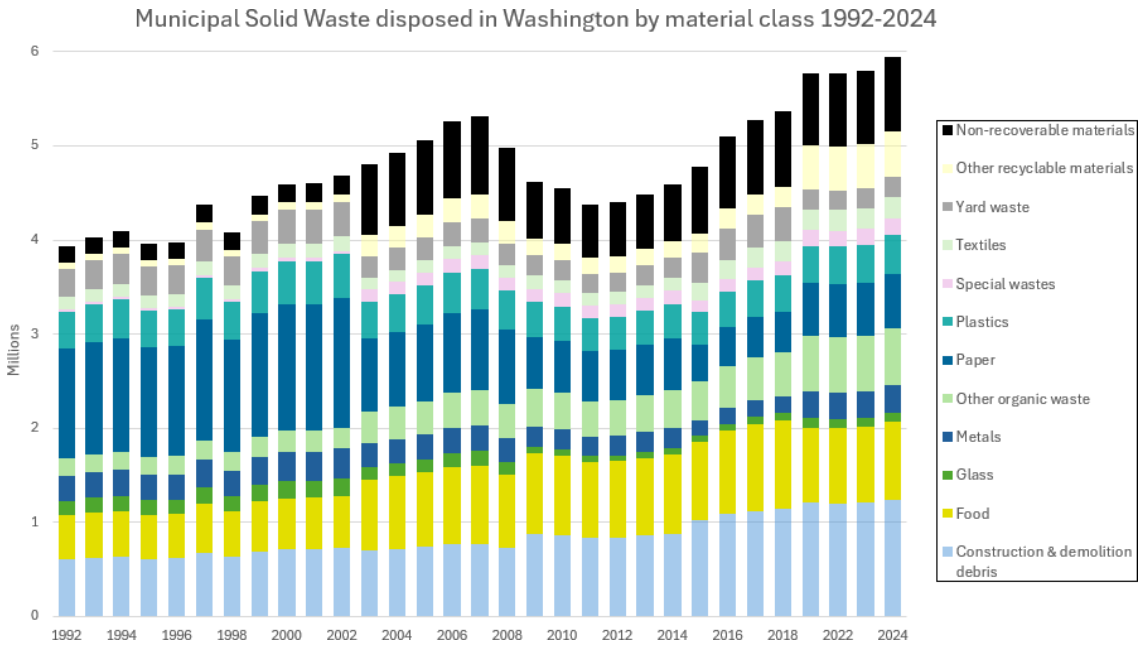


Figure 9 -Estimations of the composition of Washington's solid waste going to MSW landfills or MSW energy recovery, based on waste characterization studies from 1992, 2003, 2009, 2015-16, and 2020-21. Sources from Ecology's solid waste & recycling data webpage[112]. Contact: Gretchen Newman[113].

[110] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2107026.html
[111] https://ecology.wa.gov/research-data/data-resources/solid-waste-recycling-data
[112] https://ecology.wa.gov/research-data/data-resources/solid-waste-recycling-data
[113] Gretchen.Newman@ecy.wa.gov

Required

A description of waste composition is required[114]. Present data for your area from Ecology's most recent waste characterization study or other sources to describe the makeup of municipal solid waste (MSW) disposed in a landfill or an energy recovery and incineration facility.

Recommended

Consider how changes in what's disposed due to legislation or otherwise may affect collection or facility needs over the six-year planning period.

Waste Reduction and Education

Waste Reduction (Prevention) Introduction

Reduction of overall discards is waste reduction. Waste reduction does not include recycling, composting, or other recovery strategies. These methods, while preferable to disposal, are ways to manage waste; not reduce it. Waste reduction is preventing material from being discarded in the first place. Examples of waste reduction include reuse and repair of products, refusing single-use items, or redesigning a product to be more durable. The benefits of waste reduction and prevention are profound, making it the top priority for waste management in the state[115], and in local SW Plans[116].

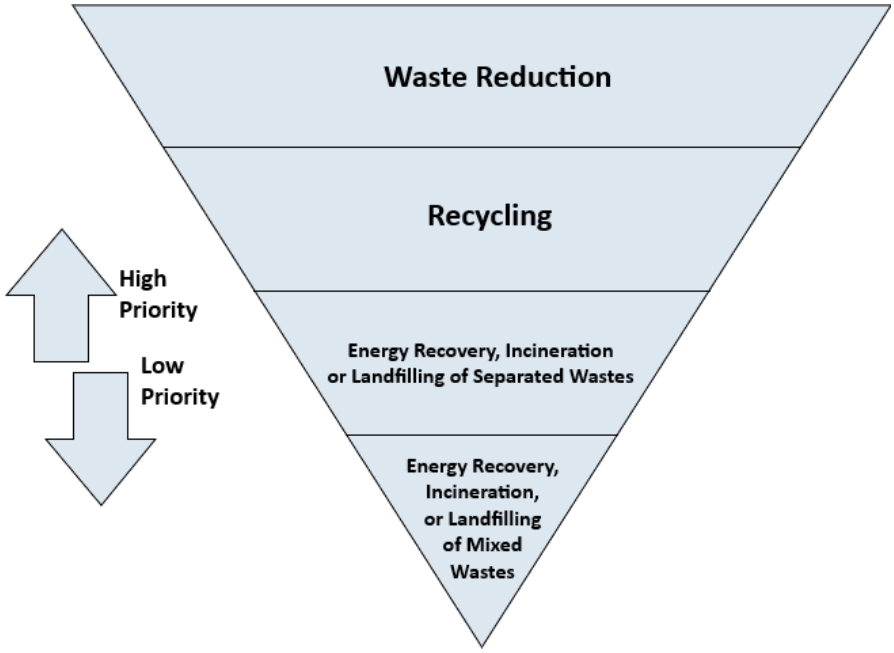


Figure 10 – Inverted pyramid of waste management priorities.

Statewide waste generation and recovery data[117] is posted annually by Ecology and discussed in the Waste in Washington online story map. The document "Measuring Waste Generation and

[114] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(c)
[115] RCW 70A.205.005(8)
[116] RCWs 70A.205.045(6) and (7) and RCW 70A.205.005(6)(c)
[117] https://ecology.wa.gov/research-data/data-resources/solid-waste-recycling-data

Recovery in Washington Methodology 2017 and Beyond"[118] explains how the shift toward sustainable materials management and life cycle thinking adjusted the lens through which the "success" of waste management methods is measured. Landfill diversion is not enough. The state's goal to achieve a 50% recycling rate by 2007[119] is now overshadowed by goals such as:

- Eliminate yard debris in landfills by 2012 in areas where alternatives are available[120]
- Food Waste Reduction Act[121] goals:
    - Rescue 78,012 tons of edible food waste for human consumption by 2025
    - Reduce edible food waste by at least 195,032 tons by 2030
    - Reduce total annual food waste by at least 608,390 tons by 2030
    - Reduce landfilling of organic materials by 75%[122]

While these goals are still largely focused on landfill diversion, the legislature also chose these materials due to the relatively large potential for human and environmental benefits, such as alleviating hunger and combatting climate change by not wasting food.

A Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) is a method of quantifying and examining the impacts of a material or service through production, use, and disposal. Some tools for such an assessment are offered in the Life Cycle Analysis folder[123] in the Planning and Waste Reduction Resource Library, including the Environmental Protection Agency's Waste Reduction Model[124] (WARM). LCA tools can help jurisdictions prioritize waste management strategies with the greatest environmental benefit.

[118] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2107025.html
[119] RCW 70A.205.005(9)
[120] RCW 70A.205.005(10)
[121] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/organics-and-food-waste/sustainable-food-center
[122] RCW 70A.205.007(1)
[123] https://app.box.com/s/857r4f9bg78ponhb52mz66d99o4x3dgz
[124] https://www.epa.gov/waste-reduction-model

Waste Generation Trends

From the year 2000 to 2024, solid waste generation in Washington State increased by 55%, as seen in the following graph. Although both overall and per capita waste generation have decreased in recent years, Washington still has opportunities for further improvement.

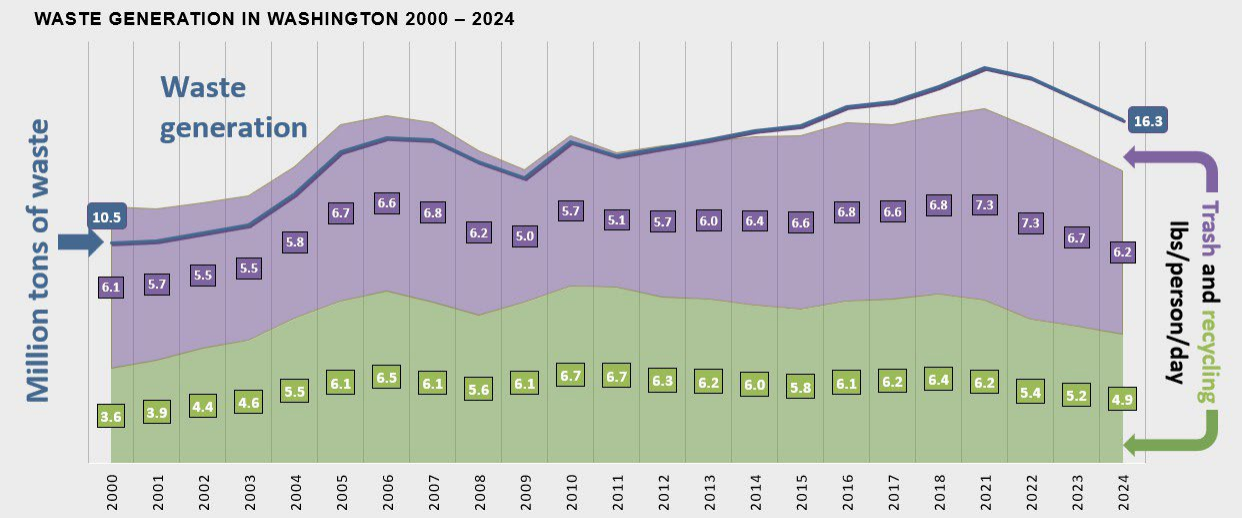


Figure 11 - From the "Charts" tab of the Waste Generation and Recovery Data (2024) workbook , downloaded March 2026.

Statewide waste generation and recovery data such as above is posted annually to Ecology's solid waste data webpage[125]. The green area labeled as recycling above, includes materials collected for traditional recycling, composting, and other beneficial uses such as burning for energy recovery, anaerobically digestion, or land application.

County-specific waste generation and recovery data is available by contacting your Ecology planner. Local data may be better. Per capita waste generation rates are one way to discuss waste generation trends. A per capita waste generation rate can be estimated as the total pounds of waste produced annually by each person in the county (or planning area). It includes all waste collected for disposal, recycling, composting, or other recovery. The rate is calculated as:

(Garbage + Recycled + Composted + Recovered Waste) ÷ County Population.

If a daily waste generation rate is desired, divide the annual rate by 365 days.

[125] https://ecology.wa.gov/research-data/data-resources/solid-waste-recycling-data

Required
Review waste generation trends[126] on a per capita basis or other method of your choosing. This data can inform waste reduction strategies and track progress.

Waste Reduction: Infrastructure and Policy (Use Food Well)

The waste reduction and recycling element brought into SW Plans by 1989 legislation leads with waste reduction. This is in accordance with the priorities established in RCW 70A.205.005(8)[127].

Required
SW Plans are required to provide programs that reduce the amount of waste generated[128]. This may include strategies to reduce wasted food and food waste[129]. Discuss waste reduction strategies[130] and programs[131] offered in the planning area. Describe any infrastructure or policy efforts underway to support waste reduction.

Recommended
Food waste is a particularly important material stream to reduce, either at the source or by redirecting to feed people or animals before it becomes a waste. It is emphasized as a waste reduction strategy in RCW 70A.205.045(7)(a), which also references the Use Food Well Washington Plan[132]. Food waste is a surprisingly large component of our waste stream. In the 2020-2021 Washington State Waste Characterization Study, food waste made up nearly 14% of the disposed materials (8.5% was deemed edible). The state legislature set a goal to capture 20% of edible food at risk of being tossed and rescue it for human consumption[133] as well as a goal to reduce overall food waste[134].

Consider how local government could support waste prevention via infrastructure or policy. Infrastructure such as refrigeration units has been identified as one way to support food rescue operations. The Washington Center for Sustainable Food Management[135] is happy to support your planning in this area. Email them at foodcenter@ecy.wa.gov. Another focus area that benefits from infrastructure, reuse/refill, is described as follows.

---

[126] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(c)
[127] RCW 70A.205.005(8)
[128] RCW 70A.205.045(6)(a)
[129] RCWs 70A.205.045(6) and (7)
[130] RCWs 70A.205.040(2)(e) and 70A.205.045(7)(a)
[131] RCW 70A.205.045(6)(a)
[132] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/organics-and-food-waste/sustainable-food-center/use-food-well-washington-plan
[133] RCW 70A.205.007(1)(b)
[134] RCW 70A.205.715(1)
[135] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/organics-and-food-waste/sustainable-food-center

Waste Reduction: Education (Refill, Reuse, Recycle, too!)

RCW[136] has long required SW Plans to outline programs to educate and promote the concepts of waste reduction and recycling. In 2025, the Recycling Reform Act added reuse and refill to that list.

Required

Discuss education/promotional programs in the planning area focusing on the following topics[137]. Name the agency(ies) in charge of the programs and their funding sources.

- Waste reduction
- Refill
- Reuse
- Recycling (Providing incentives for source separation[138] and telling folks about them fits well here. Also see the next section for ways to partner with haulers.)

Recommended

The above terms are broad. Recycling includes organic materials. Organics rescue or diversion is a high priority statewide right now, as noted in the Waste Reduction: Infrastructure and Policy and Organics sections. People who source separate materials like food for composting often notice the amount of waste material generated. This opens the door to upstream waste prevention education.

The state operates a toll-free hotline[139], but more importantly an online database that can be used to support recycling education efforts: https://1800recycle.wa.gov[140].

Repair also reduces waste. Many governments are now promoting repair via Fix-It Fairs or Tool Libraries. A statewide reuse and repair directory is at RepairEconomyWA.org[141].

[136] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(b)(iv)
[137] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(b)(iv)
[138] RCW 70A.205.045(6)(b)
[139] RCW 70A.205.070(2)
[140] https://1800recycle.wa.gov/
[141] https://www.repaireconomywa.org/

Hauler Educational Partnerships

Distribution of materials

Local governments may request educational materials from Ecology or the Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) implementing the Recycling Reform Act. Those materials can be distributed by haulers at the haulers' (ratepayers') expense, rather than local government[142].

Once RRA is implemented, local governments registered as a service provider could instead distribute materials and be reimbursed by the PRO for eligible costs. See RCW 70A.208.170 or contact the RRA team at RecyclingReform@ecy.wa.gov for more information.

Revenue Sharing

State law allows g-certificated haulers to retain up to 50% of the revenue paid to the companies for recyclables as long as the revenue is used to increase recycling, as agreed upon with the local government[143]. This has been used by a handful of jurisdictions to fund shared outreach via what's known as Revenue Sharing Agreements.

In 2025, legislation edited the law cited above to limit revenue sharing to those items not covered under the Recycling Reform Act (RRA). Under the RRA, service providers retain all revenue from the sale of collected covered materials[144]. Under this law, covered materials are packaging and paper products. The change begins when collection of covered materials begins (January 1, 2030) and likely puts an end to traditional Revenue Sharing Agreements. This is because g-certificated haulers might not be allowed to collect residential recyclable materials other than the RRA covered materials[145]. Contact your Ecology planner or the RRA team at RecyclingReform@ecy.wa.gov for more information.

Required

If Revenue Sharing Agreements are happening in your planning area, discuss them and how they'll be impacted by the RRA[146].

[142] RCW 70A.205.500
[143] RCW 81.77.185
[144] RCW 70A.208.170(2)(c)
[145] RCW 70A.208.090(4)(a)
[146] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(b)(iv)

Compost Procurement Ordinances: Purchases and Education

Compost Procurement Ordinances (CPOs) are a tool for cities and counties to buy local compost and compost products for use in projects. This element of the Organics Management Laws supports the demand side of organics markets through direct purchases and education. The jurisdictions required to pass a CPO are listed in the Local Government Requirements workbook[147].

Required

For the jurisdictions that must have a CPO, their SW Plan must outline strategies to inform residents about two things[148]:

- How the local governments are using compost in their operations
- The value of compost

This can look like a listing of the planning partners that must have CPOs and the methods they are using, such as their webpages. If the relevant planning partner does not currently have a method in place to inform their residents, note this omission and outline strategies to mitigate it.

Recommended

Strategies to inform residents could include posting informational signage at public places where local government has used compost, news articles, demonstrating compost benefits via a public garden bed using compost versus not using compost, posting the amount of compost used to a webpage, partnering with gardening groups such as Washington State Extension Master Gardeners[149] to promote compost, and more. Ecology has a webpage about the benefits of compost[150].

Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plan (CROP)

All counties with a population of more than 25,000 must include a Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plan (CROP) in their Solid Waste Management Plan[151]. This requirement also applies to cities with Independent City Plans in counties with more than 25,000 people.

[147] https://app.box.com/s/ws8wjnwql4mkd6f4jdjjwp8f4e65m023
[148] RCW 43.19A.150(4)
[149] https://mastergardener.wsu.edu/
[150] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/organics-and-food-waste/managing-organics-compost
[151] RCW 70A.205.045(10)

The CROP must be updated with each Plan revision and jurisdictions have several options to meet the requirements. They may adopt the state CROP[152] by using the Ecology-provided template as is, customize the template, or develop their own custom plan. Details about each option and the template are available in the Guide to Local CROPs[153].

In 2025 the RRA amended the CROP RCW[154] to also allow jurisdictions to adopt the PRO's Plan, which is anticipated to be approved by Ecology around July of 2029. However, if a jurisdiction intends to conduct its own outreach and education, developing a locally tailored CROP is strongly recommended. A local CROP ensures outreach strategies and contamination reduction efforts are specified to the region's unique materials, challenges, and audiences – resulting in more effective and sustainable outcomes.

Since RCW 70A.205.070(4)(b) states "contamination means any material not included on the local jurisdiction's acceptance list," it is essential that your CROP aligns directly with your Residential Curbside Designated Recycling List (DRL). The Residential Curbside DRL reflects what materials are accepted for residential recycling across the planning area, and thus can show material(s) that one jurisdiction may accept, but another jurisdiction may consider a contaminant. See Designated Recyclables Lists for more information on DRLs, and The Recycling Reform Act for information on the statewide lists coming soon for covered materials.

Required

Adopt the State or PRO's CROP, or develop a custom CROP that, at a minimum, includes the following[155]:

1. A list of actions to reduce contamination in existing recycling programs for single-family and multi-family residences, commercial locations, and drop boxes.
2. A list of key contaminants identified by the jurisdiction or Ecology.
3. A discussion of problem contaminants and their impact on the collection system.
4. An analysis of the costs and other impacts on the recycling system from contamination.
5. An implementation schedule and details on conducting outreach. Contamination reduction outreach may include sharing community-wide messaging through newsletters, articles, mailers, social media, websites, community events, educating drop box customers about contamination, and improving signage.

[152] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2007021.html
[153] https://app.box.com/s/kvyo5uo7zopohy9h8k9tk6siarma8dou
[154] RCW 70A.205.045(10)
[155] RCW 70A.205.045(10)

Recommended
Jurisdictions that do not have to adopt a CROP by law are encouraged to discuss contamination and methods to combat it within their SW Plans. One method of reducing contamination is alliance with the bin color and label standards.

Recycling

Recycling Introduction: The Waste Reduction and Recycling Element

The Waste Not Washington Act of 1989 is often viewed as the legislation that ushered in mandatory recycling across the state. While this is true (see Recycling Collection: Required Residential Service Levels), the Waste Reduction and Recycling Element that it added to SW Plans[156] contains much more. It starts with waste reduction. Then it moves on to recycling, which is essentially managing remaining materials in a way that doesn't waste them. A key to recycling is source separation[157], which is defined as the separation of different kinds of solid waste at the place where the waste originates[158]. Recyclables can be collected in individual streams, like cardboard only, be collected with similar materials, like all types of metals together, or be collected with many different materials in one bin (commingled).

The term "recycling" can be used to encompass both traditional remanufacturing of used paper into new paper, and the transformation of organics into compost, concrete into aggregate, and other recoverable items into marketable materials. At some points in RCW, the full scope of the term "recycling" or "recyclable material" is considered, such as in the Designated Recyclables Lists. At other times, a smaller scope of the term "recycling" or "recyclable material" is intended, such as just traditional recyclables picked up curbside from residences. In these guidelines, each piece of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Element is described in the most fitting sections. The following list shows where each part is addressed in these guidelines, as well as the last digits of the correlating RCW. All RCWs for the Waste Reduction and Recycling Element start with RCW 70A.205.045(6) or (7).

[156] RCW 70A.205.045(7)
[157] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(b)
[158] RCW 70A.205.015(26)

- Programs in accordance with the State hierarchy of waste management[159].
    - Reduce waste ((6)(a))
        - Location: Waste Reduction: Infrastructure and Policy
    - Incentives and mechanisms for source separation ((6)(b))
        - Location: Recycling Programs, Improvements, and Implementation (and similar sections in Organics and C&D)
    - Establish recycling opportunities for source separated waste ((6)(c))
        - Location: Recycling Programs, Improvements, and Implementation (and similar sections in Organics and C&D, as well as markets sections)
- Waste reduction strategies ((7)(a))
    - May include food-related strategies in line with the Use Food Well WA Plan.
        - Location: Waste Reduction: Infrastructure and Policy
- Collection of residential traditional recyclables ((7)(b)(i))
    - Minimum service levels in urban and rural areas set in 1989
    - New standards coming into effect under the Recycling Reform Act in 2030
        - Location: Recycling Collection: Required Residential Service Levels
- Monitoring of commercial recycling ((7)(b)(ii))
    - May include any material designated as recyclable (organics, drywall, etc.)
        - Location: Monitoring Commercial Recycling
- Collection of yard and food waste ((7)(b)(iii))
    - Establish a program if it is found there are adequate markets for the composted material near the service area
        - Location: Organics Collection: Yard and Food, Dependent on Markets
- Education ((7)(b)(iv))
    - Regarding waste reduction, refill, reuse, and recycling
        - Location: Reduce, Refill, Reuse, Recycle: Education
- Recycling strategies for materials not covered by the Recycling Reform Act ((7)(c))
    - Describe markets for recyclables
        - Locations: Recycling Markets (and similar sections in Organics and C&D)
    - Discuss waste generation trends and composition
        - Location: Waste Characterization, Recycling Generation and Composition (and similar sections in Organics and C&D)
    - Discuss and describe existing programs and any additional programs needed to assist public and private sector recycling
        - Locations: Recycling Programs, Improvements, and Implementation (and similar sections in Organics and C&D)

[159] RCW 70A.205.005(8)

- Populate Designated Recyclables Lists
  - Location: Designated Recyclables Lists
- Provide an implementation schedule for the provision of recycling collection services
  - Locations: Recycling Programs, Improvements, and Implementation (and similar sections in Organics and C&D)

Recycling Markets

To support recycling strategies, RCW 70A.205.045(7)(c) requires SW Plans to have a description of markets for recyclables. This RCW had been applicable to all recyclables but changed with the passage of the Recycling Reform Act in 2025. The RCW was changed such that SW Plans no longer need to discuss markets for materials covered under the RRA. Materials covered under the RRA are residential packaging and paper products. SW Plans should address all remaining recyclables including organics, mattresses, concrete, commercial recyclables, etc.

Required

Describe the markets of recyclables generated in the planning area, including at least:

- Organics: (discussed in the Organics Markets and Composition section)
- Construction and Demolition (C&D): Known markets for items commonly included under the umbrella of C&D (discussed in the C&D Markets section).
- Recyclables (non-organic) picked up by government-directed route vehicles or accepted at government-directed self-haul options. (This requirement will shift some when RRA is implemented.)
  - Note that SWAC discussion of markets for residential recyclables picked up curbside is required early in the planning process and must include key recyclers. See SWAC Curbside Recycling Meeting for details.

Because all key recyclables are captured on the Designated Recyclables Lists, and Ecology provides recommendations for every item on the CAQ-DRLs Workbook[160] template based on statewide market data, use of the Workbook is one way to outline the scope of materials for which market descriptions are needed, and provide basic descriptions. However, recycling systems can vary locally, so supplementing Ecology's statewide recommendations with local information in SW Plan text is important.

[160] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx

Recommended

Use sources of market information (examples follow) and consider focusing on markets for recyclables over which you may have education/outreach influence or which have high economic or environmental value but still show up significantly in the disposed stream (see the following Generation and Composition section)

- Conversations with local recyclers and haulers, and SWAC
- Conversations with other local governments
- Conversations with the jurisdictional health department that inspects facilities
- Information from sources such as the Washington State Recycling Association[161], Recycling Market Development Center[162], and Ecology's twice-yearly Recycling Coordinator meetings.
- Conversations with your Ecology planner and subject matter experts
- Commodity prices discussed in trade magazines and as posted in the Recycling Market Data[163] folder.

Discussion could include:

- A list of:
    - Existing regional recycling centers, including the location of each and materials handled
    - Recycling brokers to whom existing recyclers may sell their materials, including locations
    - Processing centers (planned and existing capacity)
    - Possible recycling markets for materials not handled by existing recyclers
- Description of strengths and weaknesses of the markets
- Discussion of the general demand for various materials
- Summary of the general market conditions and their potential future

[161] https://wsra.net/

[162] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/waste-reduction-programs/recycling-development-center

[163] https://app.box.com/s/klxstztju7kh8aql5qvzaf2vfo0oguun

Recycling Generation and Composition

As further support for recycling strategies, RCW 70A.205.045(7)(c) requires SW Plans to consider waste generation and composition trends.

Required

Discuss the generation and composition of recyclables generated in the planning area, including at least:

- Organics: (discussed in the Organics Markets and Composition section)
- Construction and Demolition (C&D): (discussed in the C&D Markets, Generation, and Composition section)
- Recyclables (non-organic) picked up by government-directed route vehicles or accepted at government-directed self-haul sites
- Other recyclables as able

To consider while discussing the preceding items:

- Are there shifts in the quantity of materials that could prompt a change in management strategy?
- Are there shifts in the composition of the source-separated waste stream in question that could prompt a change in management strategy?
- What are the anticipated impacts of legislation and population changes?
- Are there key seasonal variations in generation or composition?

The UTC requires recycling projection data be broken out as seen in the template in the CAQ-DRLs Workbook[164]. A screenshot of the relevant portion follows:

Recycling Generation	*in tons only from residential sources*							
	Base Year	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**Year 4**	**Year 5**	**Year 6**	
UTC G-certificated Hauler [Insert Hauler Name, G-cert number, and Address]	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	as needed
UTC G-certificated Hauler [add rows as needed]	as needed	as needed	as needed	as needed	as needed	as needed	as needed	as needed
Non-Regulated Haulers - Total *cities that provide muncipal service or contract for service*	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	as needed
Self-Haul	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	as needed
Total Tons of Recyclables	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	as needed

Figure 12 - Cost Assessment Questionnaire excerpt of the recycling generation section.

[164] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx

Finally, estimate the tonnage that will need to be managed for recycling in twenty years. A common way to project these tons is to multiply the per capita generation of each material type by the projected population. This informs the long-range needs for SW handling facilities[165]. This can be presented as seen in Appendix J Sample 20-Year Generation and Facility Needs Tables.

Recommended

Discuss with haulers, MRFs, and others as outlined in the previous section on markets. Utilize data to see which recyclables may warrant extra planning attention due to prevalence in the **disposed** waste stream despite having established sorting and marketing methods and high environmental or economic value.

Example materials are corrugated cardboard and aluminum cans. In the 2020-2021 Waste Characterization Study[166], cardboard and kraft packaging still made up approximately 5.2% of materials going to MSW landfills. Aluminum cans were 0.4% of the disposed stream, or approximately 20,000 tons per year. (These are statewide figures; the report also gives more localized data.) Considering the relative ease of collecting and sorting these materials with the economic and environmental benefits might inspire Plan recommendations.

[165] RCW 70A.205.045(2)

[166] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2107026.html

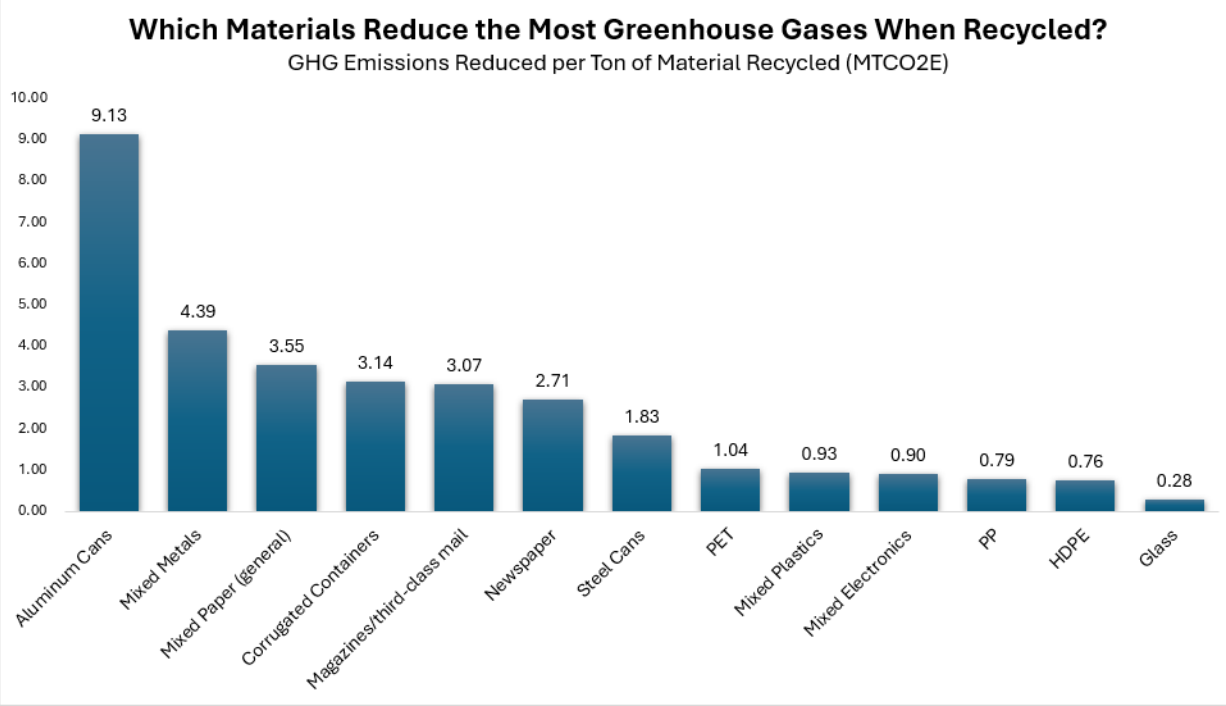


Figure 13 – Greenhouse gases reduced per ton of material recycled. Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency (2023), Waste Reduction Model (WARM), version 16.

Information on the composition of traditional recyclables and organics collected for recycling or recovery instead of disposal is found in the 2022-2023 Recycling and Organics Characterization Study[167].

A list of solid waste facilities[168] and basic activities conducted there, as well as a workbook of materials collected for recycling or recovery statewide (Waste generation and recovery data (20xx).xlsx[169]) are posted on the Ecology data webpage[170]. County-specific data of which facilities are reporting tonnage, as well as waste generation and recovery numbers, are available in Box folders shared directly from Ecology to each county, known as the local Box folders, or by contacting your Ecology planner.

By examining information gathered in Ecology's recycling survey and annual reports over multiple years, trends in types of materials recycled or recovered and recovery rates may be determined. This includes recycling and recovery reported from the commercial (industrial/commercial/institutional or ICI) sector. However, county information can be

[167] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2407007.html
[168] https://ecology.wa.gov/solid-waste-facilities
[169] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-generations-and-recovery
[170] https://ecology.wa.gov/research-data/data-resources/solid-waste-recycling-data

incomplete due to difficulty some facilities have in determining the origin of materials collected, and companies that choose not to report on the voluntary recycling survey. Typically, this information will need to be supplemented by local data and analysis to apply to the planning area and its particular conditions. Local data may include some commercial recycling and recovery but is often limited to data provided by local hauling programs.

Recycling Collection: Required Residential Service Levels

A SW Plan directs the levels of service that must be provided by g-certificated haulers in the areas they serve[171]. Municipalities that do not default to g-certificated haulers set levels via contracts or the services they provide directly. RCW 70A.205.050[172] requires SW Plans to define levels of service, and opens the door to all services described in RCW 70A.205.045, which includes some organics and non-residential recyclables. However, this section of the guidelines focuses on residential traditional recyclables such as bottles, cans, and papers.

RCW 70A.205.045(7)(b)(i)[173] defines required service levels for traditional recyclables from residences in urban areas, and separately, rural areas.

In urban areas, the service level is collection of source-separated materials from both single and multifamily residences (i.e. curbside) unless the department approves an alternative program according to the criteria outlined in RCW 70A.205.045(7)(b)(i)(A) and estimated average travel time of residents to the drop box(es) provided as an alternative to curbside.

Rural area minimum services include but are not limited to drop-off boxes or buy-back centers, at each solid waste transfer, processing, or disposal site, or other convenient locations[174].

The above requirements put in place in 1989 will hold true until overtaken by the new Recycling Reform Act (RRA) residential service level requirements effective January 1, 2030. These are in RCW 70A.205.045(7)(b)(i)(B)[175]. You may track the progress of the RRA and opportunities to participate in the development of rules and more by visiting the Recycling Reform Act webpage[176] or contacting the Ecology RRA team at recyclingreform@ecy.wa.gov.

Urban vs. Rural Designation

Counties and cities shall develop clear criteria for designating areas as urban or rural to help determine levels of service for communities. The criteria must consider these planning guidelines, total population, population density, and any applicable land use or utility service

[171] RCW 81.77.030(1)(g)
[172] https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.205.050
[173] https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.205.045
[174] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(b)(i)(A)
[175] https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.205.045
[176] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/strategic-policy-and-planning/recycling-reform-act

plans[177]. The purpose of defining these areas is usually to inform setting the service levels for traditional recyclables, but it may extend to other items. For example, it is referenced [178] as a factor a county could use to dissuade RRA curbside recycling collection in certain rural areas.

Required designation of urban vs. rural areas

SW Plans must clearly delineate areas designated as urban or rural. Jurisdictions may define urban and rural areas on a map, or through clear descriptions of borders and criteria[179].

Recommended

It is highly recommended to show urban vs. rural areas in a map that also meets the city collection boundary requirement[180]. Consider using existing urban/rural designations set forth in other planning documents, such as urban growth areas in a Growth Management Plan, but only if that document has clear binary delineations or explanation is given in the SW Plan of how to interpret the terms in the Growth Management Plan. Consider outlining a process for review and adjustment of urban/rural designations as needed.

Required setting of service levels: Residential

State within the Plan how the required service levels outlined in RCW 70A.205.045(7)(b)(i)[181] will be met in each urban and rural area. A great way to outline required service levels is by completing tab 3-Prog Info in the CAQ-DRLs Workbook[182]. Complement it with discussion in the Plan.

Items to address when setting service levels include:

- Identify which items are designated as recyclable materials for residential curbside collection. This must include specific material descriptions such as those found on tab 2, Res. Curbside DRL, of the CAQ-DRLs Workbook[183]. The easy way to meet this requirement is to fill out tab 2 of the workbook. More information is found in Designated Recyclables Lists.
- Method of collection used in urban areas, and separately, rural areas. Call out any urban areas utilizing an alternative program to curbside until January 1, 2030, and ensure Ecology has approved the program.
- Container requirements, such as adherence to color and label standards[184].
- RRA effects.

[177] RCW 70A.205.050
[178] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(b)(i)(C)
[179] RCW 70A.205.050
[180] RCW 70A.205.045(5)(b)
[181] https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.205.045
[182] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx
[183] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx
[184] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/waste-container-colors

- As of January 1, 2030, the RRA service levels will come into effect. They are described in RCW 70A.205.045(7)(b)(i)(B)[185]. Key features are a standard list of accepted materials, collection of recyclables from single-family and multiple-family residences wherever curbside garbage collection services are provided to these entities, and frequency of collection.
- An exception is if a county invokes RCW 70A.205.045(7)(b)(i)(C)[186] and adopts an ordinance that directs all residential recyclables in rural areas served by g-certificated haulers to drop-off. The exception is only available if no curbside recycling was offered in those areas as of January 1, 2025.
- To meet service level planning requirements:
  - If updating your SW Plan before 2030:
    - State whether or not the county will invoke the drop-off exemption. If so, an ordinance must be adopted.
    - Further, state how the overall planning area will comply with the new service level requirements. This may be a statement that areas not covered by an exemption ordinance above will allow the model SW Plan amendment created by Ecology[187] to come into effect January 1, 2030.
  - If updating your SW Plan after 2030:
    - State whether or not the county has invoked the drop-off exemption (if eligible). If so, cite the ordinance or code and describe the drop-off services.
    - Further, state how the overall planning area complies with the new service level requirements. This may be a statement that areas not covered by an exemption ordinance above are following the model SW Plan amendment created by Ecology[188]. It may also incorporate programs described in an approved producer responsibility organization plan[189].

The Recycling Reform Act (RRA)

The RRA of 2025[190] brings producers of covered materials more fully to the table of waste management and sustainable materials management thinking. It is a paradigm shift in how many recyclables are managed, how reuse systems can be supported, and how those systems

[185] https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.205.045
[186] https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.205.045
[187] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(b)(i)(E)
[188] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(b)(i)(E)
[189] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(b)(i)(D)
[190] SB 5284

are funded. Covered materials under the RRA include packaging and paper products sold to consumers for noncommercial use (some exemptions apply). The RRA will establish a statewide collection list of covered materials to be collected residentially curbside, and covered materials to be collected in public places or via other means[191]. The initial statewide collection lists will be developed by October of 2026[192]. Implementation of collection via those lists begins January 1, 2030.

The RRA affects many areas of planning, and additional details will be fleshed out after these guidelines are published. Current resources include the newly codified Chapter 70A.208[193] RCW (though other RCWs were also affected), Ecology's Recycling Reform Act webpage[194], Ecology's Box folder for the RRA[195] in the Planning and Waste Reduction Resource Library[196], the Ecology RRA team at recyclingreform@ecy.wa.gov, and your Ecology planner.

Required soon, and a recommendation

Plans should reflect the reality of collection/operations/service levels/education/funding and what that will look like during the planning period. However, those details under RRA are under development at the time of this writing.

By January 1, 2030, all SW Plans must be updated to reflect the new RRA system and required service levels for residential recycling (both curbside and drop off)[197]. It offers two pathways for this:

1. Before January 1, 2030, your SW Plan may be amended or revised. If your SW Plan does not already outline a process for amending it, Ecology recommends getting one in place now.
2. On January 1, 2030, if your SW Plan has not been updated as above, a model amendment authored by Ecology will come into effect. Ecology must complete the model amendment by January 31, 2029[198].

[191] RCW 70A.208.090
[192] RCW 70A.208.060(2)(f)
[193] https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.208
[194] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/strategic-policy-and-planning/recycling-reform-act
[195] https://app.box.com/s/subu71t4x4cnq4veccizz3pwl2i5aarn
[196] https://ecy.app.box.com/folder/140712223712?s=r6jdrsznwbchuo9kme3qa4gdf2uawhfk
[197] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(b)(i)(E)
[198] RCW 70A.208.060(l)

Monitoring and Describing Commercial Recycling

Jurisdictions must monitor nonresidential recycling where there's sufficient density to sustain a program[199]. While this section of the law does not require jurisdictions to establish commercial programs, many urban governments have established commercial recycling collection programs either on their own or in coordination with local recyclers. Furthermore, many local governments conduct outreach about RCWs or local code directing businesses to do certain things with their discards. Finally, enforcement comes into this, such as monitoring commercial loads at transfer stations for contamination or hazards such as unsecured loads, asbestos, or hazardous waste.

Laws affecting commercial recyclables include:

Container Colors and Labeling

This law directs haulers and local governments, not businesses. However, commercial customers may notice a change in the color or labels of the bins from their service provider. Also, businesses and institutions are encouraged to align their initial collection bins (the smaller bins that are emptied into the carts or dumpsters serviced by haulers) with the colors in the law. The colors are blue for recycling, black or gray for garbage, and green or brown for organics. (The preference is green.)

Learn more on the waste container colors webpage[200]. Planning effects are in Bin Colors and Labels.

Public Event Recycling

Recycling must be provided at every official gathering and at every sports facility by vendors who sell beverages in certain containers[201]. Beverage vendors are responsible to provide and fund the recycling program at the official gathering/sports facility.

Including the Public Events Recycling Law in local planning documents and event permitting requirements is an effective way to ensure events and facilities are aware of their responsibilities. However, the law does not require you to do so.

[199] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(b)(ii)
[200] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/waste-container-colors
[201] RCW 70A.200.100

Marinas and Airports

Marinas with thirty or more slips and each airport with regularly scheduled commercial passenger service must provide adequate recycling receptacles for at least two of the following materials: aluminum, glass, newspaper, plastic, or tin[202]. This law references SW Plans, which indicates leadership from the Plan in regard to which materials are considered recyclable and any other local support.

ORCA & BOMA

ORCAs and BOMAs are differently defined areas where required organics collection service and/or participation affect certain businesses. See ORCAs for details, or this ORCA webpage[203], which includes a video on how to use the ORCA map that also has great information for businesses, and BOMA for details, or this BOMA webpage[204].

Restrictions on single-use serviceware, carryout bags, expanded polystyrene, and more

The following laws are important to be aware of when interacting with businesses not only from a waste prevention angle, but to reduce litter and contamination in commercial recycling. A quick-guide flyer on five waste and toxics reductions laws[205] is available for food service businesses.

- Single-use serviceware such as straws, condiments, and utensils may now only be supplied to customers upon request. Details are on the single-use serviceware webpage.[206]
- Reusable plastic film and paper carryout bags are now provided for a fee. Details are on the bag ban webpage[207].
- Expanded polystyrene (EPS) packing peanuts, food service products, and coolers may no longer be sold into Washington. Details are on the EPS ban webpage[208].
- Compostable plastic product labeling is standardized in Washington. While only the businesses creating compostable products like spoons, cups, and bags are accountable to follow the law, being aware of the law and able to spot violators helps the entire solid waste system. Except for wood and fiber-based items, a product that claims to be

[202] RCW 70A.200.110
[203] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/organics-and-food-waste/2022-organics-management-law/organics-management-for-local-governments
[204] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/organics-and-food-waste/2022-organics-management-law/organics-management-for-businesses
[205] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/2404013.pdf
[206] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/plastics/2021-plastic-pollution-laws/food-serviceware
[207] https://ecology.wa.gov/bagban
[208] https://ecology.wa.gov/epsban

compostable must have the logo of a third-party certifier and follow certain color or labeling criteria as described on the compostable plastics labeling webpage[209].

- Food packaging containing intentionally added per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)[210] may not be manufactured, sold, or distributed in Washington as of 2023 according to the prohibition on certain food packaging[211]. Details are on the PFAS in food packaging webpage.[212]
- Mini toiletries, the containers of which are often too small to sort effectively at material recovery facilities, are restricted at lodging establishments. It phases in over 2027 and 2028. Details are on the mini toiletries in lodgings webpage[213].

Construction and Demolition (C&D)

As noted in the C&D Section of these guidelines, this is a large part of the waste stream. It has been found to sometimes skirt flow control and find its way into landfills after being collected for recycling. Monitoring this waste stream to help ensure correct recycling is important.

Moderate Risk Waste (MRW)

If you have a Combined Plan, you may wish to mention businesses practices and governmental supports regarding commercial recycling of MRW here. Small quantity generators are part of the MRW program, and sellers of motor oil have requirements to support recycling as discussed in the Used Oil Recycling section.

Required

Describe which of the participating planning jurisdictions monitor nonresidential recycling in their areas, in terms of education and enforcement. Discuss if education and/or enforcement occurs at the point of generation or at places waste is aggregated (transfer stations), key topics or laws focused on, and what coordination has occurred across the planning area.

Identify which jurisdictions participate directly in the collection of commercial recyclables (such as via contracted hauler, city-provided service, or a collection district), and which general waste streams are collected (traditional recyclables, organics, etc.). Discuss other key commercial and public sector recycling occurring. This helps meet the related RCW to discuss and describe existing recycling programs[214].

[209] https://ecology.wa.gov/Compostable-Labeling
[210] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-toxic-chemicals/addressing-priority-toxic-chemicals/pfas
[211] RCW 70A.222.070
[212] https://ecology.wa.gov/PFAS-Food-Packaging
[213] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/plastics/toiletries-in-lodgings
[214] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(c)

After describing current practices, reflect on where there are opportunities for improvement. Are collected items actually recycled? Are there key materials that are getting missed that could or must (organics) get collected? How could contamination be reduced[215]? Decide what recommendations for nonresidential recycling the planning partners will pursue during the planning period[216].

Recycling Programs, Improvements, and Implementation

Throughout solid waste laws, local governments are directed to pursue strategies to incentivize and support source separation, and to establish recycling opportunities for source separated waste[217]. The Waste Reduction and Recycling Element culminates in a discussion and description of existing programs and any additional programs needed to assist public and private sector recycling[218].

Describe and Discuss Existing Programs

Before setting strategies for improvement one must take stock of what is happening currently. A SW Plan must describe and discuss existing public and private recycling programs[219]. Nonresidential was captured in the previous section, Monitoring Commercial Recycling.

Required description for public recycling programs (residential curbside):

For curbside, the easiest way to meet this requirement is to fill out tabs 2 and 3 of the CAQ-DRLs Workbook[220] (discussed in Designated Recyclables Lists chapter). This is filled out as a snapshot of what is happening currently or at the start of the planning period, with notes on anticipated changes.

If you do not use the Workbook, the same basic information may be provided in an alternative format for each unincorporated area and incorporated area.

Required description for public recycling programs (self-haul):

Government-provided self-haul option descriptions must include location, basic operating hours, and materials accepted. A column on tab 4 of the CAQ-DRLs Workbook[221] may be used to show what materials are accepted, and additional columns may be added as useful.

[215] RCW 70A.205.045(10)(a)
[216] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(c)
[217] RCW 70A.205.045(6)
[218] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(c)
[219] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(c)
[220] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx
[221] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx

Additionally, describe the colors of garbage, recycle, and organics bins placed in public areas by plan participants. This helps ensure compliance with the colors in RCW[222].

Required description for private recycling programs:
Describe known private recycling options available for businesses and residents in your planning area for most recyclables. This may include various self-haul or buy-back options, as well as non-traditional residential pickup such as doorstep or valet service.

Required discussion of existing programs and strategies for improvements
Items to discuss include:

- If the service levels set in the Plan comply with those set by RCW for urban and rural areas. If not, outline what steps will be taken to remedy this.
- Current programs incentivizing and providing mechanisms for source separation, and providing for materials to be recycled well.[223] Programs may include "pay as you throw" rate structures, ensuring a disposal bin is present if a recycling bin is provided[224], and more. If improvements are needed, strategize how they could be done.
- Strategies for any additional programs needed to assist public or private recycling[225].
- Any additional information you deem necessary[226].

Recommended in discussion of programs and improvements
Use the data and research conducted for this chapter to inform your discussion. Many local governments now discuss topics such as responsible recycling, supporting end markets by Environmentally Preferable Purchasing policies (some of which are mandated, such as Compost Procurement Ordinances and use of recycled concrete materials[227]), life cycle analysis/sustainable materials management, cost/benefit analysis that incorporates externalities such as climate change, and strategies to support product stewardship. At the time of this writing, Washington State has product stewardship[228] laws in place for the following items:

1. Batteries[229]

[222] RCW 70A.205.750
[223] RCW 70A.205.045(b) and (c)
[224] RCW 70A.205.010(3)
[225] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(c)
[226] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(d)
[227] RCW 70A.205.700(3)(a)
[228] Also known as extended producer responsibility (EPR).
[229] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/our-recycling-programs/battery-stewardship

a. Nationally, the long-running voluntary product stewardship program for rechargeable batteries is The Battery Network[230] (previously Call2Recycle, and RBRC before that).

2. Electronics[231] (mostly televisions, monitors, and computers)
3. Mercury lights[232]
4. Paint[233]
5. Pharmaceuticals[234]
6. Recyclables[235] (residential packaging and paper products)
7. Solar Panels[236]

The Northwest Product Stewardship Council[237] is a coalition of government organizations in Washington and Oregon that may serve as a resource on this topic. The Washington State Recycling Association[238] is another resource for the latest in recycling. Your jurisdictional health district is also plugged in, and may provide a helpful voice at SWAC meetings and more. Your Ecology planner is also happy to help connect you with resources.

Required Implementation schedule

A SW Plan needs to outline what is planned to be done, how, and when[239]. Set a realistic timeline for implementing the strategies and recommendations in your Plan.

Designated Recyclables Lists

Basic Structure and Purpose

Ecology and the UTC have partnered to combine the UTC Cost Assessment Questionnaire (CAQ) and Designated Recyclables Lists (DRLs). Ecology further created a standard material list and level of separation description for both the Residential Curbside and Beyond the Bin DRLs. These are provided on tabs 2 and 4, respectively, in an Excel template called the CAQ-DRLs Workbook[240]. The scope of the word "recyclables" as used here goes beyond bottles and cans, including items such as organics and tires. Local governments are strongly encouraged, but not required, to use the Excel template.

---

[230] https://batterynetwork.org/
[231] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/our-recycling-programs/electronics-e-cycle
[232] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/our-recycling-programs/mercury-lights
[233] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/our-recycling-programs/paint-stewardship
[234] https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/safe-medication-return
[235] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/our-recycling-programs/recycling-reform-act
[236] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/our-recycling-programs/solar-panels
[237] https://productstewardship.net/
[238] https://wsra.net/
[239] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(c)
[240] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx

This is a new approach to the DRLs, which have long been presented in a wide range of formats, been of limited utility, and had duplicative, sometimes conflicting lists hidden in the UTC CAQ.

Designation of recyclables is required within a SW Plan[241]. DRLs developed thoughtfully and with partner input will best support their utility. To ensure clear understanding, DRLs now must be split into a list for residential curbside, and a list for all other collection methods referred to in the Beyond the Bins list.

- **The Residential Curbside** Designated Recyclables List (DRL) needs to show:
    - Specific materials for recycling at residential curbside (including organics)
    - The level of separation for each material (commingled or in a separate bin)

The Residential Curbside DRL carries direct power in areas where curbside recycling is provided by the g-certificated hauler. A SW Plan directs the levels of service that must be provided by g-certificated haulers in the areas they serve[242]. The Residential Curbside DRL tells the g-certificated hauler what recyclables to collect and how. The UTC oversees the g-certificated hauler and refers to the list in the current SW Plan. Note: cities using the g-certificated hauler may pass a service level ordinance to have a different designated recyclables list or service level. Identify these in the SW Plan.

The Residential Curbside DRL does not have direct power in areas not served under a g-certificate. In those areas, implementation of the list comes via contracts or direct services using municipal trucks. The DRL for these areas is more descriptive, reflecting what is told to the entity(ies) serving that area regarding what recyclables to collect and how.

Areas not served under a g-certificate are not required to follow the same accepted material lists as their g-certificate served neighbors. However, only a few companies statewide receive and market the material, as seen in the MRF-sheds[243] maps. Harmonizing the residential DRL across a planning area (or beyond!) can help reduce contamination and achieve better outcomes from the local recycling system. The Recycling Reform Act will bring this change for most residential curbside materials (packaging and paper products).

- **The Beyond the Bin** Designated Recyclables List (DRL) needs to show:
    - Specific materials you designate as recyclable across the planning area collected in a method other than residential curbside.
    - The level of separation for each material (commingled or in an individual stream)

[241] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(c)
[242] RCW 81.77.030(1)(g)
[243] https://app.box.com/s/xi4bpus9l5ary0v6ahabxmdydcv9zh4y

The Beyond the Bin DRL specifies recyclable items collected beyond residential curbside service, including commercial collection, buy-back centers, and drop box facilities. RCW defines "recyclable materials" as those that are identified as such within a SW Plan[244]. This definition trickles into other regulations by reference and thus has far-reaching effects. The UTC may reference this list when enforcing RCW[245] and regulating hauling of solid waste materials from non-residential sources. This list could be used by Ecology to assess companies registered as Transporters of Recyclable Materials. Health jurisdictions and Ecology facilities specialists may also reference this list to understand what a recycling or material recovery facility may accept and process as a recyclable material.

The Beyond the Bin DRL establishes what a jurisdiction anticipates can be recycled in their area, and through omission establishes materials that lack legitimate outlets. The DRLs are not required to encompass every material recycled within a planning area, and there is no statutory authority that says a DRL is the maximum list of what can be recycled in a jurisdiction. However, the DRL could be a valuable tool for enforcement. An enforcement agency will have a stronger case against an entity that collected a waste material under the guise of recycling, but did not recycle the material if the DRL was specific and did not identify the collected material as recyclable. The entity could be found to have engaged in sham recycling.

Sham recycling, as defined in the 2021 State Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan[246], is the collection of materials under false or illegal claims for the perceived purpose of recycling where the materials are instead disposed or indefinitely stockpiled rather than legitimately recycled. A thoughtful list of recyclables ensures that transporters of recyclable materials and the UTC, which regulates waste haulers, understand easily what is identified as a recyclable material in a jurisdiction. Collecting materials that ultimately cannot be recycled only prolongs their inevitable journey to the landfill and causes greater environmental harm through inefficient transportation or improper handling. Jurisdictions lose disposal tip fee revenue when materials leave under the claim of being recycled but ultimately end up going to disposal elsewhere.

Locating and Completing the Designated Recyclables Lists

Find the Excel workbook template here: CAQ-DRLs Workbook[247].

Download a copy to edit locally. The final workbook will function best as a digital file linked from your main SW Plan (more on linking to Plan components is here). If your jurisdiction does not have a platform on which to share the completed digital resource, work with your Ecology planner to utilize Ecology's online sharing platform.

[244] RCW 70A.205.015
[245] Chapter 81.80 RCW
[246] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2104050.html
[247] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx

Many elements of the workbook are locked to help maintain consistency. Fill in jurisdiction names and check the boxes for materials designated for recycling in each jurisdiction. For the Beyond the Bin tab, checking the box in columns F or G signify designation across the whole planning area. Notes on minor material variations or timing of collection changes can be made in the Notes column. Additional materials may be added in the "Other" rows. Use the filter and sort function at the top of each column to condense or expand your view of the list. Ecology Local Planners are available to help, including making modifications to meet your local needs.

Q: On the Residential Curbside DRL, do I check boxes for materials currently collected, or that are planned to be collected?

A: Check the boxes for present conditions (including changes happening presently with the Plan amendment or revision) and use the Notes column to note planned future changes. For newly collected items, such as in ORCA areas, checking the box may precede actual collection in practice, but sets the stage for the required service. Clarify timing of new service in the notes column.

Q: On the Beyond the Bin DRL, what is implied if a box is not checked?

A: In columns F and G, if a jurisdiction leaves an item unchecked, it helps clarify to the jurisdictional health department and UTC that the material was considered and not identified as a material likely to get recycled in that area or when collected in the given manner (such as when commingled). Ultimately, what determines if it was recycled is if the material reaches an end user who transforms or remanufactures the waste into a new product. The Beyond the Bin DRL informs decisions around enforcement; it is not the final determinant.

Ecology's Recommendations for Materials

Ecology must "provide recommendations to local government on materials to be considered for designation as recyclable materials."[248] To do this, Ecology has color-coded the materials listed in the CAQ-DRLs Workbook. Materials and their tiers were selected based on conversations with internal subject matter experts, evaluating the Local Program Survey[249], and by soliciting feedback from outside stakeholders in local government and industry. Lists will be updated by Ecology periodically, and the updated workbook posted with the date therein updated accordingly.

Ecology's recommendation tiers:

- Green-shaded materials = recommended by Ecology

[248] RCW 70A.205.070(1)
[249] https://app.box.com/s/3j2wstr7kd6o0vu9y63vmhpef5kmleot

- Yellow-shaded materials = potentially recyclable. It is up to the local jurisdiction to determine if there are reliable ways to recycle those materials nearby.
- Grey-shaded materials = Ecology recommends against selection at this time.

Deciding Which Materials to Designate

When deciding which materials to designate as recyclable, consider the entire journey a material takes at the end of its life, from the moment a person chooses a bin, through collection and processing at the MRF or other processor, to its use as a feedstock at its final destination. Ecology used the criteria described in Appendix I: Material Selection Criteria for DRLs when evaluating materials for our recommendations. We encourage you to consider the same criteria when preparing your DRLs. This will likely require conversations with your MRF, jurisdictional health department, neighboring jurisdictions, Ecology staff, and other industry representatives.

It is important to be very clear about what is on a Designated Recyclables List. For this reason, Ecology's template has a specific material on each row. While minor grouping did occur, Ecology did not use broad descriptions like "construction and demolition wastes," "mixed plastics," or "other materials as markets allow," as such broad terms would undermine the utility of the lists. For any materials that have a definition in WAC 173-350-100,[250] that definition is implied, even if not all of the definition is found in this form. Ecology also sectioned the lists by *how* the materials are to be collected to qualify (i.e. commingled or collected individually).

Changing a Designated Recyclables List

Conditions change. Ecology recommends local governments outline within their Plan what process may be used to amend the DRLs between Plan revisions. It may be as simple as the minimum amendment process found in the Amending a Plan section of these guidelines.

If your workbook is linked to your Plan as recommended, also see the section on Linking Required Plan Content. DRL worksheets should indicate the date on which they were last updated. This helps with version identification.

A local government (usually a city) providing its own collection services or contracting for services may adjust what it collects without needing to amend the residential Designated Recyclables List. The information about the change can be updated during the next Plan revision.

[250] https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-350-100

Changes due to the RRA

As described at the end of the Recycling Collection: Required Residential Service Levels section, the RRA will come with standard materials acceptance lists and collection methods effective January 1, 2030. SW Plans will still require DRLs and will need to include mandatory statewide items on the lists. DRLs will also need to address packaging and paper products that are not covered by the RRA program and non-residential materials. The usefulness of the Beyond the Bin DRL for enforcement against sham recycling will not be changed by the RRA.

Using the CAQ-DRLs Workbook[251] template now helps you embark on a platform that is anticipated to continue past 2030, even if the specific materials recommended by Ecology and some materials you select will need to shift to align with the new program as of 2030. It also helps you capture a clear picture of what is collected where, and how, right now, which helps all parties gauge what will change due to RRA.

DRLs Requirements

Required

SWAC discussion in areas with or about to have residential curbside recycling:
RCW 70A.205.115(1) requires the jurisdiction to host at least one SWAC meeting to discuss residential curbside recycling with key partners. This applies to areas with existing curbside and those that will be starting curbside recycling due to the RRA. An updated first draft of the Residential Curbside DRL must be discussed at the meeting, as well as data relevant to recent market shifts. More information may be found in the SWAC Curbside Recycling Meeting section.

Align with the RRA materials and collection methods statewide by January 1, 2030[252]:
Ensure the materials collected and methods of collection depicted in the DRLs align with the RRA by January 1, 2030. If the SW Plan has not been updated to be consistent with RRA by then, the model amendment provided by Ecology by January 31, 2029[253] will apply across the planning area[254]. More information is at the end of the Recycling Collection: Required Residential Service Levels.

A residential curbside recycling DRL, which must specify, by jurisdiction:

- Which specific materials are currently collected for recycling at residential curbside (including organics where applicable)* and planned to be collected during the six-year planning period
- The level of separation for each material (commingled or in a separate bin)

[251] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx
[252] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(b)(i)
[253] RCW 70A.208.060(2)(l)
[254] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(b)(i)(E)

*The jurisdictions using the g-certificated hauler for residential curbside recycling and/or organics service must be identified and have their lists complete and specific, as the Plan directs service, and the UTC looks to the Plan for the lists. Identify any cities that use the g-certificated hauler but have passed a service level ordinance to require collection of different materials than the county. Accurately reflect those cities' lists. In the years leading up to implementation of the RRA, for areas **not** using the g-certificated hauler for residential curbside recycling, it may be possible to get an exemption from identifying which RRA-likely materials are collected by which cities, if those cities will all adopt the RRA list when available. Work with your Ecology planner.

For planned material adjustments, placement on or off the list may precede actual collection practices, and sets the stage for the required service. Clarify timing of service changes in additional text or the Notes column.

Use an initial draft of this list early in the planning process at the required SWAC Curbside Recycling Meeting.

A DRL for anything not collected at residential curbside (commonly called the Beyond the Bin DRL), which must specify:

- Specific materials you designate as recyclable across the planning area collected in a method other than residential curbside.
- The level of separation for each material (commingled or in an individual stream)

Recommended
Use the CAQ-DRLs Workbook[255] template and work with your Ecology planner and relevant entities as you develop it.

Outline in your SW Plan a simple process for amending one or both DRLs.

Organics

Organics Introduction

Since the publication of the last planning guidelines in 2010, legislation has placed more emphasis on better management of organic materials, including waste prevention. This chapter explains how to address such legislation in SW Plans. Additional information on legislation affecting organics can be found on Ecology's Organics Management Law[256] webpage.

[255] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx
[256] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/organics-and-food-waste/2022-organics-management-law

Organics Collection: Required Residential and Commercial Service in ORCAs

RCW 70A.205.540[c] establishes the Organics Recycling Collection Areas (ORCAs). In general, these areas are determined based on population. Customers in these areas must source separate their organic materials from their garbage and self-haul, manage on-site, or utilize a curbside organics collection service. Starting in April 2027, impacted jurisdictions must provide year-round organics curbside service to business customers producing 0.25 cubic yards (approximately 45 gallons) of organic material waste per week and all single-family homes. Year-round is defined as 26 weeks or more of collection service per year. By 2030, these same customers must receive this service on a nonelective basis and food waste must be allowed in the organics curbside collection bin.

When ORCAs exist or will soon exist in your planning area, the SW Plan is mostly affected in the following areas:

- descriptions of existing programs and necessary additional programs
- minimum service levels and Designated Recyclables Lists
- outreach planning
- facility planning

The SW Plan may also be affected in other areas such as:

- adjusted waste generation and composition trends
- markets for organic products, such as compost

Required

One-time requirement regarding amendments: In the rare case an amendment is conducted before the SW Plan has ever considered the transition to ORCA, the amendment must consider ORCA[257].

To meet ORCA planning requirements, Ecology has prepared a template[258] that may be used. In lieu of the template, follow these steps.

(1) Use the Ecology ORCA Map[259] to identify ORCAs in the planning area, including current and near-future ORCAs: An area's population exceeding 25,000 is the primary determinant of whether it is an ORCA. Municipalities are wholly included;

[c] https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=70A.205.540

[257] RCW 70A.205.040(3)(a)

[258] https://app.box.com/s/nqj8lx6ju4npgk7mwsp3xv47rx20iej7

[259] https://gis.ecology.wa.gov/portal/apps/instant/basic/index.html?appid=ad4be8d8358c4e89bd4f3c8f3b8fb1 35

unincorporated areas may only have certain Urban Growth Areas included. Use the "brink areas" on the map to view ORCAs that may start during the six-year planning period due to population growth. Ecology's Local Government Requirements workbook[260] may also be used to identify areas.

List all current and near-future ORCAs for the planning area. Ecology suggests capturing this on tab 3-Prog Info of the CAQ-DRLs Workbook[261].

If your planning area contains ORCA(s) or is anticipated to contain ORCA(s) during the planning period, continue to steps 2-4. If not, document the analysis and determination of no ORCAs in your SW Plan and do not do steps 2-4; you are done.

(2) Identify in your SW Plan the minimum service level needed in ORCAs

The level of service and required participation in ORCAs for businesses generating 0.25 cubic yards (approximately 45 gallons) or more of organic waste per week and single-family residences is summarized in the following table. All organics collected per the requirements must be managed through organic materials management facilities[262]. See Step 4 for more details on the multifamily phase-in.

ORCA	By April 1, 2027[263]	By April 1, 2030[264]
Required Level of Service	*At minimum* yard debris curbside collection available on a year-round basis (26 weeks/year)	*At minimum* food waste and yard debris curbside collection available on a year-round basis (26 weeks/year)
Required Participation	Ability to subscribe to the service must be available to: • all single-family homes • businesses producing more than 0.25 cubic yards (approximately 45 gallons) of organic material waste per week	All single-family homes and businesses as described at left are provided the service on a mandatory basis *if that entity receives other curbside SW services.* Impacted customers must be exempted from the mandatory service if able to certify to the jurisdiction that it is managing organics on-site or self-hauling its organics for organic materials management.
Multifamily phase-in	Local government sets the timeline	

[260] https://app.box.com/s/ws8wjnwql4mkd6f4jdjjwp8f4e65m023
[261] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx
[262] RCW 70A.205.540(b)(ii)
[263] RCW 70A.205.540(1)(a)
[264] RCW 70A.205.540(1)(c)

(3) Describe existing programs; identify where program changes are needed

For each existing or anticipated ORCA, analyze if current services meet the criteria outlined in the table above. If they don't, describe planned strategies each area will explore to meet the requirements.
Include:

- Method(s) to ensure services are available
- Methods(s) to ensure participation while allowing exemptions
- Anticipated timeframes
- Identification of any areas intending to apply for a waiver, and details. For more information on waivers, please visit the Extensions and Exemptions section of Ecology's Organics Management for Local Governments webpage[265]."

Reminders:

- **Bin colors and labels:** Newly placed organics collection bins must be green or brown[266]. (The preference is green.) This is part of the larger Bin Colors and Labels law.

- **Adjust the Designated Recyclables Lists as needed**
  Ensure the following are included for each jurisdiction with an ORCA on the Residential Curbside Designated Recyclables List, and on the Beyond the Bin Designated Recyclables List. This sets the stage and intention for these materials to be collected for recycling. Details such as "beginning April 1, 2030" may be made in the Notes column.
  1. yard debris
  2. food waste

- **The SW Plan drives services in UTC-served areas:** For areas using the g-certificated hauler for ORCA services (most counties and many cities), update your SW Plan with all relevant and specific details to ensure the UTC directs the hauler to plan accordingly for the requirements. The UTC will ask the hauler to conduct a cost-of-service/rate study. Consider adding specifics to how the county would want the hauler to address management of ORCA exemptions for individual customers, enforcement on contamination offenders and/or education on contamination reduction.

[265] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/organics-and-food-waste/2022-organics-management-law/organics-management-for-local-governments
[266] RCW 70A.205.750

- **Contracted areas:** Some jurisdictions' solid waste contracts may need to be amended to meet the requirements of the ORCA law[267]. When possible, any new contracts negotiated ahead of 2027 and 2030 should include the level of service and participation requirements outlined in the ORCA law. Consider outlining how customer exemptions and contamination education/enforcement will be handled. Most contracts have a clause that directs development of an amendment to the contract should laws change during the term of the contract and changes are necessary to be in compliance with the law.

- **Ordinances**
  Passing an ordinance that defines the level of service and required participation in city/county code can support compliance. Ecology has developed model ordinances that can be used as a potential template for your jurisdiction's ordinance.

- **Other changes**
  Describe any other planned strategies to meet the service and participation requirements. This could include establishing a SW Collection District.

(4) Plan for multifamily[268]

Describe the phase-in programs and timeline for each ORCA. Include anticipated milestones and dates of implementation.

Any preliminary draft SW Plans submitted to Ecology on July 1, 2026 or later must include programs and a timeline for phasing in multifamily organics collection in ORCAs. The programs must include required collection of source separated organic materials for all newly constructed or substantially remodeled multifamily residential buildings certified for occupancy. "Substantially remodeled" means a remodeled building for which the total cost exceeds one-half of the assessed value of the building for property tax purposes at the time the contract for the remodel work was made.

The programs established may allow for individual waivers[269] for an existing multifamily structure if the structure does not have adequate storage space for collection of source-separated organic materials. In that case, the feasibility of shared containers with nearby entities must be evaluated before a waiver is granted. These waivers would need to be handled at the local level.

[267] RCW 70A.205.540
[268] RCWs 70A.205.540(5)(a)-(c)
[269] RCW 70A.205.540(5)(b)

Recommended

Continue to monitor Ecology's ORCA map[270] or Ecology's Local Government Requirements workbook[271] after its update each September to see if new ORCAs have appeared in your planning area.

Organics Collection: Required Commercial Participation in BOMAs

Business Organics Management Areas (BOMAs) are areas of the state where businesses generating at least 96 gallons of organic material waste per week must arrange for organic materials collection[272],with some alternatives to collection allowed[273]. A BOMA represents those parts of the state where Ecology has determined both qualifying conditions exist:

- Businesses have access to year-round curbside food waste and organic materials collection, and these materials are delivered to an organics management facility such as a compost facility or anaerobic digester for processing. Year-round is defined as 26 weeks or more of collection service per year.
- Capacity exists at these facilities to accept increased volumes of organic materials from businesses.

Additional information on Ecology's Organics Management for Businesses webpage[274] includes which businesses must comply, how a jurisdiction may request an exclusion, Ecology's BOMA map[275], and an outreach toolkit with resources for local governments. In accordance with the RCW, the BOMA map is updated each year by July 1. The map outlines BOMAs which are in effect for the following calendar year.

Required

Review Ecology's BOMA map. In the SW Plan, document the map year and any BOMAs present in your planning area. Using advice from your SWAC and general awareness of practices in your county, consider if a BOMA is likely to appear during your six-year planning period. If no BOMAs are present or likely, you're done.

When BOMAs exist or are anticipated to exist in your planning area, ensure the SW Plan:

- Describes existing programs and recommended or anticipated additional programs
- Includes yard debris and food waste on the "Beyond the Bin" Designated Recyclables List

[270] https://gis.ecology.wa.gov/portal/apps/instant/basic/index.html?appid=ad4be8d8358c4e89bd4f3c8f3b8fb135
[271] https://app.box.com/s/ws8wjnwql4mkd6f4jdjjwp8f4e65m023
[272] RCW 70A.205.545
[273] RCW 70A.205.545(3)
[274] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/organics-and-food-waste/2022-organics-management-law/organics-management-for-businesses
[275] https://gis.ecology.wa.gov/portal/apps/instant/basic/index.html?appid=2a8fb1760f324c14a48ae5f7f173fcf1

- Adjusts waste generation and composition trends accordingly (how much goes to which material stream over time)

Recommended

Describe any outreach planned. Also describe the enforcement program to ensure business compliance with the BOMAs, if any, and which entity(ies) are leading enforcement efforts.

Organics Collection: Required Yard and Food, Dependent on Markets

The Waste Not Washington Act of 1989 stated the Waste Reduction and Recycling element shall include programs to collect yard waste, if the county or city submitting the SW Plan found there "are adequate markets or capacity for composted yard waste within or near the service area to consume the majority of the material collected". In 2019, the RCW was edited to include food waste[276].

Required

If any part of the planning area does not have a food and yard waste collection program (including self-haul), the county or city submitting the plan should start one if it determines that nearby markets can absorb most of the compost produced. Describe plans for the program, how it would be funded, and where materials would go.

Identifying the Required Capacity to Meet the State Goal

The Washington State Legislature set a goal to reduce the amount of organic material going to landfill by 75% by 2030, compared to 2015 levels.[277] The legislature requires counties to identify the capacity needed at organic materials management facilities to manage the county's organic materials[278] in line with the goal. Organic materials management is defined as management of organic materials through composting, anaerobic digestion, vermiculture, black soldier fly, or similar technologies[279].

Required

Except for Independent City Plans, each SW Plan must identify the annual organic materials management facility volumetric capacity needed to meet the 75% landfill reduction goal. The 75% goal is based on how much organic material went to landfills in 2015. It also assumes that the amount of organic material already being diverted in 2015 will continue.

To calculate the total amount that needs to be managed, Plans should:

[276] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(b)(iii)
[277] RCW 70A.205.007
[278] RCW 70A.205.040(3)(a)(ii)
[279] RCW 70A.205.015(17)

- Start with the amount of organic material that was diverted in 2015,

and

- Add 75% of the organic material that was landfilled in 2015.

This total shows how much organic material needs to be managed (through composting, anaerobic digestion, or related means) each year to both maintain past diversion and reduce landfill disposal further. Capacity needs are important when planning facility needs, so include this number in the SW Plan's discussion of Projected Facility Needs.

Recommended

Use Ecology's table of Estimated Capacity Needed Based on 2015 [280] or your own numbers.

The law focuses on expanding capacity at organic materials management facilities (like composting or anaerobic digestion) to handle the material that would otherwise go to a landfill. But we also recognize that not all organic materials need to be "managed" in this way. Keeping food out of the waste stream in the first place, through prevention (reducing food waste before it happens) and rescue (feeding people with edible food otherwise intended for disposal), are even higher and more impactful actions in the waste hierarchy.

If your county is investing in prevention and food rescue programs, that's a major success. Those efforts reduce the amount of organic material that needs to go to a composting or digestion facility. You still need to show how much facility capacity would be needed to meet the 75% reduction goal, but you can and should account for the reductions you are achieving through prevention and rescue. For example, Ecology's table of Estimated Capacity Needed has a column for "2015 Tons Edible Food Rescued". Data was only available for Kitsap and Spokane, but if food rescue efforts continue to expand and the current year data shows an increase in rescue, the capacity needed at recovery facilities could be reduced.

Priority Areas for Organic Materials Management Facilities

The legislation that added the volume estimate above also requires all counties to identify priority areas for the establishment of organic materials management facilities[281]. Again, organic materials management is defined as management of organic materials through composting, anaerobic digestion, vermiculture, black soldier fly, or similar technologies[282].

[280] https://ecy.app.box.com/file/1647101075348?s=npgirig751c0e7kruck84wq0hudv7jrx
[281] RCW 70A.205.040(3)(a)(i)
[282] RCW 70A.205.015(17)

Required

With the exception of Independent City Plans, each SW Plan must clearly identify priority areas for organic materials management facilities. Existing facilities may be part of the identified areas. Facilities only performing transfer or pre-processing do not count.

The priority areas may not be located in overburdened communities as identified by Ecology under chapter 70A.02 RCW[283]. To ensure identified areas are not in overburdened communities, visit the Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map[284]. Ecology has identified overburdened communities as the areas within the "Tribal Census Tracts" layer (yellow with diagonal lines), or those with an overall "Environmental Health Disparities Rank" of 9 or 10. These layers can be toggled on or off by going to the "EHD Overall Rank" menu in the upper left of the map and adjusting the checkboxes. Use the "Find" feature in the upper right of the map to enter addresses of areas you are considering to be identified as priority area. You can also zoom in to hover over the areas in question.

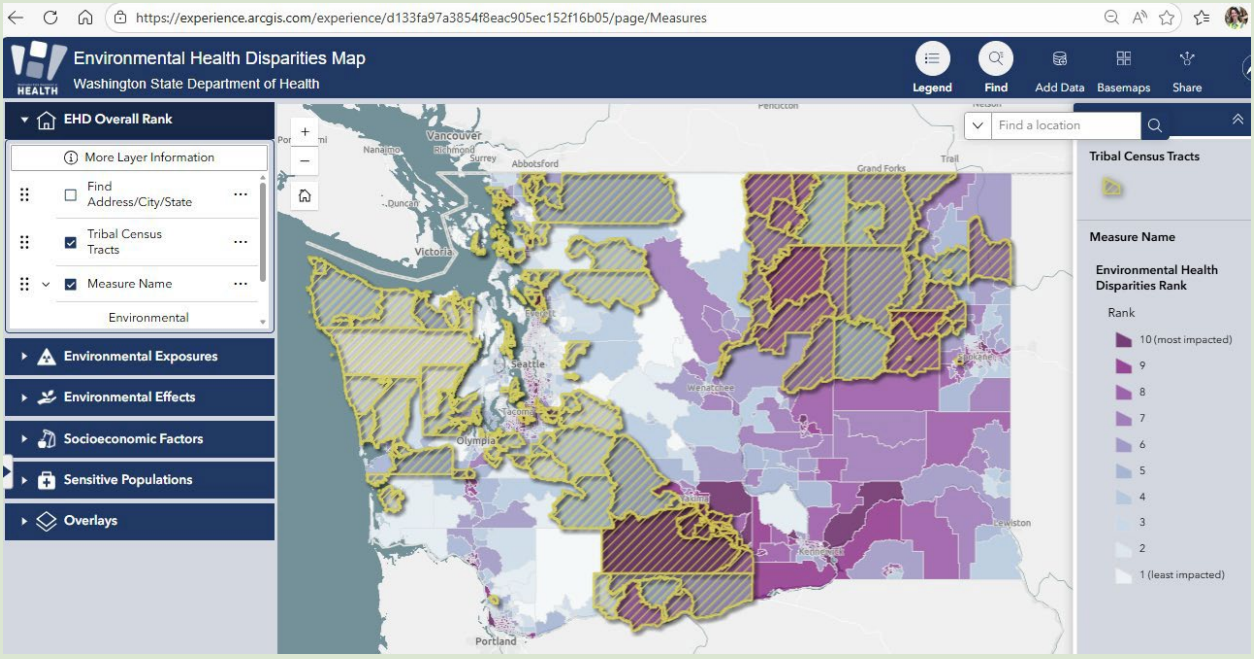


Figure 14 - Screenshot of the Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map.

The areas must also be in either industrial, agricultural, or rural zones, and be chosen to minimize impact to residential areas. Ensure the areas are consistent with plans for the entire county[285], including the comprehensive land use plan[286] (cite any plans used for this verification). Existing OM facilities that annually processed 200,000 tons or more as of 2019 may

[283] https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.02
[284] https://doh.wa.gov/data-and-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn/washington-environmental-health-disparities-map
[285] RCW 70A.205.045(3)
[286] RCW 70A.205.045(3)(b)

not expand their annual processing capacity[287]. (That expansion restriction does not apply to anaerobic digestion facilities.)

Recommended
Maps are recommended to identify the potential facility locations. Ideally, maps and/or diagrams would include contextual siting information like general location characteristics, proximity to key feedstocks and end markets, major thoroughfares, transportation routes, trunk utility lines and major terminal facilities.

Speak with the county planning department as you begin identifying priority areas. This can help identify zones that may appear to allow composting but actually preclude it, or ensure that areas are generally zoned appropriately for organic materials management facilities. It will likely also help in the creation of maps for your areas, as maps are common under Comprehensive Plans, and thus the planning department will have related resources. This coordination may also spark other synergies, and will lay the groundwork for when you present your final identified areas and capacity needs, as discussed in the Organics Specific Items to Address portion of Projected Facility Needs (6-year and 20-year planning).

A Facility Specialist in each Ecology region is available to help walk you through the considerations for siting an OMM facility. Ecology planners for each region are identified at the bottom of this Local Planning webpage[288], and can put you in contact with the Facility Specialist.

Organics Markets, Generation, and Composition

In recycling, it is important to begin with the end in mind. A SW Plan must include a description of end markets for recyclables, a review of waste generation trends, and a description of waste composition[289]. This includes organics recycling.

Markets have a supply side and a demand side. In recycling, the supply side can be seen as the materials collected curbside or otherwise. Those are processed and sold to the demand side (MRFs, paper mills, etc.). If there is no demand side, the system is broken. Information about recycling markets can be difficult to pinpoint. However, organics end markets are nearly all local, so information is more available than for many other recyclables.

The types of organic materials collected are important because most often, materials are composted, and composting requires a certain recipe to work well. Using more food waste to create compost is complicated by the fact that food waste needs to be mixed with three to four times its volume in bulking agents such as wood or yard waste for compost. It is worth checking

[287] RCW 70A.205.040 (3)(c)
[288] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Plans-policies/Washington-state-waste-plan/Local-waste-planning
[289] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(c)

with your compost facility to see if they've noticed a change in the composition of materials, and if there might be policies you could explore to help them get the right mix. (An example could be more capture of clean wood (untreated) from deconstruction for composting.)

Ecology has recently published the Compost Market Study[290]. An express purpose of the study is to gain insight into the types and volumes of organic materials each jurisdiction needs to plan for. It considers the impact of legislation, anticipated population changes, and capacity constraints.

Required

Using the Compost Market Study (CMS) or similar, project the following for organic materials generation and markets[291] during the six-year planning period:

- The projected organics available for recovery in the planning area over the six-year planning period.
- The projected finished compost generated in the planning area for over the six-year planning period.

To consider:

- Are there shifts in the quantity of materials that could prompt a change in management strategy?
- For those with Compost Procurement Ordinances, is there more work to be done internally to increase use of compost?

The UTC requires organics projection data be broken out as seen in the template in the CAQ-DRLs Workbook[292]. A screenshot of the relevant portion follows:

Organics Generation	*in tons only from residential sources*							
	Base Year	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**Year 4**	**Year 5**	**Year 6**	
UTC G-certificated Hauler [Insert Hauler Name, G-cert number, and Address]	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	as needed
UTC G-certificated Hauler [add rows as needed]	as needed	as needed	as needed	as needed	as needed	as needed	as needed	as needed
Non-Regulated Haulers - Total *cities that provide muncipal service or contract for service*	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	as needed
Self-Haul	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	number of tons	as needed
Total Tons of Organics	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	as needed

Figure 15 – Cost Assessment Questionnaire excerpt of the organics generation section.

[290] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/summarypages/2507062.html
[291] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(c)
[292] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx

Using the CMS or similar, discuss the composition[293] of the organics anticipated during the six-year planning period.

To consider:

- Are there differences in the composition of the residential or commercial organics that would prompt different management strategies?
    - Based on the projected material types to be collected, what type of partnerships with existing stakeholders can be formed to manage the material (E.g. What roles can farms play in managing large volumes of agricultural waste?)
    - Using the CMS, you may also want to look at contiguous counties' projected recovery tonnages and material types. This review may prompt consideration for county partnerships.

Finally, estimate the organics that will need to be managed outside of disposal in twenty years. This informs long-range needs for SW handling facilities[294]. This can be presented as seen in Appendix J: Sample 20-Year Generation and Facility Needs Tables.

Recommended

Use the Compost Market Study[295] to identify the impacts of the organics management law in your jurisdiction. This includes planning for the total growth in organic materials to be collected (Table 5 in the study), the breakdown of the material types to be collected, and total finished compost likely to be produced based on the growth of collected material (Table 10 in the study). The Compost Market Study can also provide high level analysis of capacity constraints in your region. For technical assistance on the study, including access to the Excel model used, contact Ecology's Organics Management Team at organics@ecy.wa.gov. We also recommend that you speak directly with the organics management facilities in use by your planning partners, and others in the region to best understand their capacity considerations. Use the information to set strategies to support organics recovery.

[293] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(c)
[294] RCW 70A.205.045(2)
[295] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/summarypages/2507062.html

Organics Programs, Improvements, and Implementation Schedule

A SW Plan must describe and discuss existing public and private recycling programs[296]. Much of this will have been captured in the previous sections.

Required description for public organics recycling programs (residential curbside):
Include basic information such as that found on tabs 2 and 3 of the CAQ-DRLs Workbook[297] (discussed in the Designated Recyclables chapter). This is filled out as a snapshot of what is happening currently, with notes on anticipated changes.

Required description for public organics recycling programs (self-haul):
Government-provided self-haul option descriptions must include location, basic operating hours, and materials accepted. A column on tab 4 of the CAQ-DRLs Workbook[298] may be used to show what materials are accepted, and additional columns may be added.

Additionally, describe the colors of trash, recycle, and organics collection bins placed in public areas by plan participants. This helps ensure compliance with the bin colors in RCW[299].

Required description for private organics programs:
Describe known private options available for businesses and citizens in your planning area for recycling or recovery of organics. This may include various self-haul or direct pickup options to destinations such as wood recyclers, composters, and pre-processing facilities like depackagers that then send organics on for recycling.

Required discussion of existing programs and strategies for improvements:
Items to discuss include:

- If the service levels set in the Plan follow those set by RCW. If not, outline what steps will be taken to remedy this.
- Current programs incentivizing and providing mechanisms for source separation, and providing for materials to be recycled well.[300] Programs may include "pay as you throw" rate structures, ensuring a disposal bin is present if a recycling bin is provided[301], and more. If improvements are needed, strategize how they could be done.

[296] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(c)
[297] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx
[298] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx
[299] RCW 70A.205.750
[300] RCW 70A.205.045(b) and (c)
[301] RCW 70A.205.010(3)

- Strategies for any additional programs needed to assist public or private recycling[302].
- Consideration of methods to address yard debris, food waste, and food contaminated paper products for organic materials management[303].
- Any additional information you deem necessary[304].

Recommended in discussion of programs and improvements:

While both food waste prevention and food rescue are prioritized over recovery and may have been discussed in your Waste Reduction text, any creative solutions to help capture this material are encouraged. The Washington Center for Sustainable Food Management[305] is available to support your planning in this area. Email them at foodcenter@ecy.wa.gov.

Ecology's Organics Management team is available to provide assistance on potential improvements such as siting a public organic materials management facility or potential policies. Email them at organics@ecy.wa.gov.

Ecology's Planning and Waste Reduction Resource Library[306] may also support your ideas for improvements. The Organics Management Laws & Resources folder[307] is an example.

Required implementation schedule:
A SW Plan needs to outline what is planned to be done, how, and when[308]. Set a realistic timeline for implementing the strategies and recommendations in your Plan.

Construction and Demolition (C&D)

C&D Introduction

According to solid waste reports[309] and waste characterization studies[310] conducted by Ecology, C&D debris made up about 42% of all the waste generated in Washington in 2023. While some

[302] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(c)
[303] RCW 70A.205.040(2)(b)
[304] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(d)
[305] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/organics-and-food-waste/sustainable-food-center
[306] https://app.box.com/s/r6jdrsznwbchuo9kme3qa4gdf2uawhfk
[307] https://app.box.com/s/r7shmywl2t798nu43f1udkp1481bcx6y
[308] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(c)
[309] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-generations-and-recovery
[310] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2107026.html

is captured for recycling, recovery (burned for energy), or even reuse, a lot of C&D ends up in landfills, including MSW, limited purpose and inert waste landfills.

In 2010, the legislature added a new requirement to SW Plans. Each SW Plan must now consider methods that will be used to address C&D waste for recycling or reuse[311]. C&D is not a defined term in the solid waste regulations and may contain many different types of materials. Some, like copper piping, may fall under another category (metals). Some may be hazardous, such as lead and asbestos. Because C&D is a broad, undefined category of waste, these guidelines require consideration of C&D as a whole, but focus on three key reusable or recyclable materials, for the following reasons:

1. Concrete
    a. Concrete is a large component of the waste stream and heavy. Procurement requirements of the recycled materials are outlined in RCW[312]. When put back into new concrete it displaces mined rock.
2. Wood
    a. Wood is a large component of the waste stream and a lot of wood goes to landfills or is burned as fuel. Wood is an organic material, which has an increased focus on it due to organic management laws and climate change.
3. New gypsum scrap
    a. New gypsum scrap is a large component of the waste stream that must be handled in a certain way to be recycled. It is also a major contaminant when commingled with other recyclable C&D material. It is a significant contributor to noxious odor complaints related to C&D management and can cause dangerous levels of hydrogen sulfide gas in landfills.

Washington State Building Code now includes Appendix P: Commercial C&D[313] and Appendix Y: Residential C&D[314] which, if adopted by permitting jurisdictions, requires building salvage assessments, C&D reporting, and the use of dedicated C&D disposal dumpsters when recycling dumpsters are being used (already required statewide by the "two-bin" rule WAC 173-345-040).

C&D Markets, Generation, and Composition

C&D is generally collected and recovered or disposed of via entities other than those directed by local government. This operation outside of the typical SW system creates challenges in

[311] RCW 70A.205.040(2)(a)
[312] RCW 70A.205.700
[313] WAC 51-50-4700
[314] WAC 51-51-60108

tracking details such as how much is generated, what's in it, and where it goes. Still, as potentially reusable or recyclable materials, those are the kinds of things to consider while crafting strategies for management[315].

As with all solid waste management, it is important to know where collected material will ultimately end up. C&D debris has many components with varying markets and may pass through many hands before ultimate recovery or disposal. Ecology has worked with public and private entities to analyze markets and shape Ecology's statewide recommendations given on the Beyond the Bin Designated Recyclables List. The most recent version of the list is found in the Excel workbook template here: CAQ-DRLs Workbook[316]. Notice the recommendations vary by the degree of separation from other materials. Some materials like asphaltic roofing shingles are recycled via niche markets, prioritizing quality over perceived quantity diverted. An entity accepting items for recycling should always be able to provide documentation that the items actually get recycled. If a material is shaded grey (meaning Ecology recommends against collection at this time), this burden of proof of recyclability is particularly strong.

Waste reduction via waste prevention results in no C&D material for which to find a market to recycle or recover it. SW Plans could prioritize strategies that support markets for sustainable building materials such as metal roofing material (which not only reduces waste over its very long life but is readily recoverable in the end). This can help mitigate the poor recycling markets for other roofing materials. Recycling of asphaltic roofing shingles usually only occurs when clean material goes directly from roofers to asphalt batch plants. Most asphalt roofing is not recycled. The 2020-2021 Waste Characterization Study shows an estimated 78,500 tons of this material discarded as MSW statewide each year, second only to drywall in the construction materials category in that study. Note that study does not count waste sent to non-MSW landfills.

Waste reduction via reuse is another option. Building materials from existing buildings can be salvaged, including cabinets, bathroom fixtures, and even flooring. This process typically leads to reuse for only the items that have high value for the labor cost needed to remove them. Recovery for reuse and recycling is most possible when buildings are deconstructed. Deconstruction means systematically taking buildings apart piece by piece, so the parts (like lumber) can be reused in new buildings. Building material salvage yards are a growing reuse sector in Washington that can be supported. The reuse value in structural lumber locked up in many buildings is lost through traditional demolition which splinters the wood into bits which

[315] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(c)
[316] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx

are, at best, only appropriate for use as alternative energy. The energy recovery option is fading as hog fuel boilers in Washington continue to shut down. In the King County area, some local governments support deconstruction via legal requirements and monetary incentives. The Washington State Building Code now has Appendix Z[317] which, when adopted by permitting jurisdictions, requires deconstruction in place of demolition for residential structures over 90 years old. More information on deconstruction can be found at Build Reuse[318].

Required

Discuss the markets, generation, and composition of C&D generated in the waste area[319].

- Review and reflect on Ecology's recommendations given on the Beyond the Bin Designated Recyclables List template.
- Consider what major facilities in your planning area accept C&D and what end markets may exist in your region for such materials.
- Consider population and new housing trends.
- Review the information you've included in your SW Plan regarding waste characterization in terms of C&D. Where possible, tease out the three key materials (concrete, wood, and new gypsum scrap). (Note that Ecology's long-running waste characterization studies have been on waste going to MSW landfills, so does not include C&D to other landfills.)
- Finally, estimate the C&D that could be reused or recycled in twenty years. This informs the long-range needs for SW handling facilities[320]. It may be a broad estimate and may focus just on concrete, wood, and new gypsum scrap. This can be presented as seen in Appendix J: Sample 20-Year Generation and Facility Needs Tables.

Recommended

While analyzing C&D in your area, converse with your local health department. Ask about concerns or potential synergies.

Specific to the three materials, here is template language you may use in your SW Plan:

> Concrete is usually recycled into a replacement for aggregate. This is called recycled concrete material (RCM). RCM can be used in place of virgin mined aggregate for road base, parking lots, foundations, and other applications where crushed rock might be

[317] WAC 51-51-60109
[318] https://www.buildreuse.org/
[319] 70A.205.045(7)(c)
[320] RCW 70A.205.045(2)

used. Concrete recyclers can be found in many counties and typically manage materials generated locally due to the high cost of transportation. [Add local knowledge.]

Wood in buildings being torn down is best captured if the building is deconstructed instead of demolished. This allows for reuse, as well as better sorting for "clean wood" (untreated/unpainted) to be able to go to compost facilities and wood product manufacturers. If demolished, there is still some opportunity to divert the wood, most often for use as fuel in a paper mill boiler. [Add local knowledge.]

New gypsum scrap is drywall pieces left over from new construction or remodeling. When this material is kept clean and source-separated, it has good markets on the eastern side of Washington for agricultural use. On the western side of Washington, it can go to new drywall (though some goes east for agricultural use).

Drywall removed from existing structures and new drywall scraps which have been commingled with other C&D materials have considerably less value. Paint (especially lead paint) and wallpaper are contaminants and because gypsum drywall is friable it contaminates and reduces the value of other recyclable materials when commingled. [Add local knowledge.]

C&D Programs, Strategies for Improvement, and Implementation

Required

Describe any current government programs or policies related to C&D[321]. Describe methods planned to be used to address C&D waste for recycling or reuse[322] and any additional programs needed to assist public and private sector recycling[323]. Set a realistic timeline for implementing the strategies and recommendations in your Plan. This may include adoption of regulations or ordinances to implement the Plan[324].

Recommended

Consider adopting the Washington state building code appendices mentioned above. "Green building" is a term for the optimization of the built environment to reduce negative physiological and environmental effects caused by the stages of building, use, and demolition of

[321] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(c)
[322] RCW 70A.205.040(2)(a)
[323] RCW 70A.205.045(7)(c)
[324] RCW 70A.205.100

buildings. More information is available here: United States Green Building Council[325]. Increase education about the "two-bin" rule. Require waste reports for C&D projects to estimate the amounts, types, and fates of materials generated.

Solid Waste Collection

This section addresses RCW 70A.205.045(5) and other RCWs that relate to curbside solid waste collection. Self-haul is addressed in Chapter Solid Waste Handling Facilities.

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) Basics

The UTC regulates privately owned utilities that serve the public to ensure the services are safe, reliable, and fairly priced. Example industries regulated by the UTC are energy, water, and haulers of solid waste. SW Plans most intersect with g-certificated haulers, and non-residential haulers of recyclable materials.

G-certificated haulers (regulated under Chapter 81.77 RCW[326])
The state is divided into geographic areas where one hauler is given exclusive rights to collect solid waste as defined by the UTC in each area. That hauler holds a "g-certificate" (the "g" originally stood for "garbage"). The UTC's definition of solid waste includes all trash from residential and commercial sources, plus all source-separated recyclables picked up from single family and multifamily residences[327]. Unincorporated areas must use the g-certificated hauler for trash collection, but may contract for residential recycling collection[328]. SW Plans define what services must be provided in areas covered by a g-certificate[329], including which recyclables must be collected from residences.

The UTC offers a webpage of solid waste service maps by county[330]. It also links to the statewide map[331] of which an image is on the following page.

[325] https://www.usgbc.org/
[326] https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=81.77
[327] RCW 81.77.010(7)
[328] RCW 36.58.040(5)(a)
[329] RCW 81.77.030(1)
[330] https://www.utc.wa.gov/regulated-industries/transportation/regulated-transportation-industries/solid-waste-carriers/solid-waste-service-maps-county
[331] https://www.utc.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-02/SWCertificates_02252019%20-%20updated%2010312019%20with%20new%20UTC%20logo.pdf

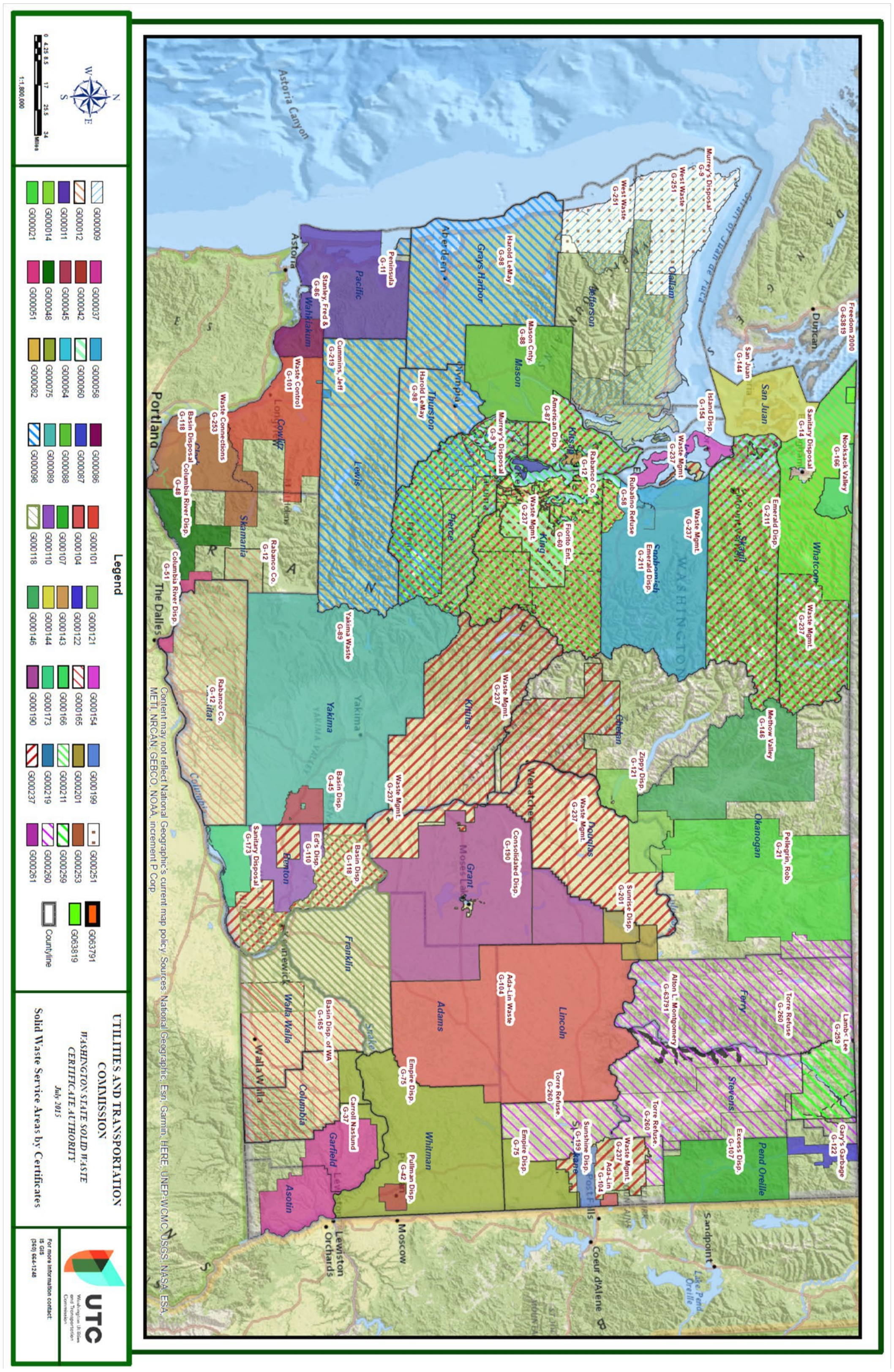


Figure 16 – UTC map of solid waste service areas by certificates.

City collection options

Incorporated areas are free to contract with the hauler of their choice or provide their own solid waste collection services. If they do not, the default collection option is service under the g-certificated hauler. Federal installations and Tribes can also contract with haulers or provide their own solid waste collection.

Non-residential haulers of recyclable materials (regulated under Chapter 81.80 RCW[332])

RCW 81.80.470[333] speaks to the UTC's authority to regulate the transportation of recyclable materials collected from non-residential sources.

Most SW Plans discuss non-residential recyclables via the Beyond the Bin Designated Recyclables List. More information is found in the Designated Recyclables Lists section, including discussion of sham recycling.

Required:

Prepare an assessment of the Plan's impact on the costs of solid waste collection[334] as discussed in UTC Cost Assessment. Specify the service levels, as discussed in the requirements of Current Curbside Collection Services.

Bin Colors and Labels

Washington adopted color code and labeling requirements in 2025[335]. Haulers and local governments are responsible for carrying out the law.

The color code affects containers smaller than 101 gallons for provision to a customer (like curbside rolling carts), or for public use (like in a city park), and affects all three streams: waste, recycle, and organics. As of August 1, 2025, when haulers or city/county government purchases a bin, the bin must align with the colors in the law. By January 1, 2028, solid waste containers provided by the hauler or local government must align with the colors. (This allows some time to use up existing stock.) Nobody needs to pull or replace bins that are incorrectly colored, if the bins were purchased or distributed before the deadlines and they are still functional.

- Garbage containers must be gray or black
- Recycling containers must be blue
- Organic waste containers must be green or brown

[332] RCW 81.80
[333] RCW 81.80.470
[334] RCW 70A.205.045(8)
[335] RCW 70A.205.750

- Lids must be the same color as the cart, or they can be black

Furthermore, all bins must have a clear and obvious label (such as "Garbage", "Recycle", or "Organics") by January 1, 2028. If the container holds more than one cubic yard of waste, the label must be at least one square foot in size with five-inch text or larger. Learn more on Ecology's Waste Container Colors and Labels webpage[336].

Required

State the curbside bin colors used by each jurisdiction.[337]. Note which jurisdictions are in the process of changing colors, and for which material stream(s). Such jurisdictions will likely have multiple colors in use for the waste stream(s) during the transition. This information may be captured on Tab 3- Prog Info of the CAQ-DRLs Workbook. Outline how the haulers and local governments in the planning area intend to fulfill this law[338].

Current Curbside Collection Services

Required

Provide an inventory and description of current SW collections operations in the planning area[339]. Include at least the following for curbside (self-haul is in Solid Waste Handling Facilities):

- Which g-certificated haulers are operating in the planning area, including the name, g-certificate number, and address[340]. You may do this on tab 1-CAQ of the CAQ-DRLs Workbook[341].
- The information necessary to fill out tab 3-Prog Info of the CAQ-DRLs Workbook[342]. Ecology created tab 3-Prog Info to capture the key information required in an inventory and description of collection services.
- The areas covered by each g-certificated hauler and the boundaries of any city solid waste operation (including contracted operations) within the county[343]. This is best shown on a map, and the same map may be used to call out urban/rural designations. Include the names and boundaries of cities within the county that are not planning with the county.

[336] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/waste-container-colors
[337] RCW 70A.205.045(5)
[338] RCW 70A.205.045(5)(d)
[339] RCW 70A.205.045(5)
[340] RCW 70A.205.045(5)(a)
[341] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx
[342] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx
[343] RCWs 70A.205.045(5)(a) and 70A.205.045(5)(b)

- The population density of each city and each area served by a g-certificated hauler[344]. If already covered in a Population Projections and Density section, reference that.
- If the county is exercising its contracting option for collection of residential recyclables and/or organics[345] (e.g. Clark and Klickitat Counties). Briefly describe the contract, including when the contract expires and the destination of the materials.
- If the county is exercising its right to have a SW Collection District (e.g. Whatcom Co). Provide a description of it.
- Describe the minimum required/offered service levels and whether or not they satisfy the required service levels outlined in the Recycling and Organics sections (or discuss plainly in those sections).
  - SW Plans must define in greater detail what services are to be provided in areas covered by a g-certificate[346]. The covered areas are all unincorporated parts of a county (including urban growth areas), plus any incorporated areas that are defaulting to the g-certificated haulers. All customers are offered the same service options, such as the materials collected for residential recycling (which may be specified on tab 2-Res. Curbside DRL on the CAQ-DRLs Workbook[347]), at the same prices, with the following potential exceptions:
  - If the city passes an ordinance to differ in service (rare)
  - If the county has chosen to invoke discounts for low-income customers
  - New under the RRA: If the county passes an ordinance to only have drop-off services for traditional recyclables. (Criteria apply; see RCW 70A.205.045(7)(b)(i)(C).)
- Which cities and/or county areas have government-directed commercial waste collection services. Identify the solid waste streams handled (i.e. garbage, recycle, or organics). Some of this may have been discussed in Monitoring and Describing Commercial Recycling. County methods of controlling collection are complicated by the limit of the g-certificate to commercial garbage, not recyclables. However, methods such as flow control, a SW Collection District, or ordinances may come into play.
  - If hard-to handle materials are collected curbside, discuss the details of that collection. Refer readers to the Miscellaneous Waste section as fitting.

[344] RCW 70A.205.045(5)(c)
[345] RCW 36.58.040(5)(a)
[347] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx

Recommended:
Use the CAQ-DRLs Workbook[348] to capture much of this information.

Projected Collection Needs

Required for curbside
Project solid waste collection needs for each jurisdiction for the next six years[349]. Consider population and density changes and legislative effects such as ORCAs, bin colors and labels, and the RRA.

Ensure the solid waste service levels for solid waste handling set by the SW Plan[350] are adequate. This may have already been discussed in the recycling and organics chapters. Use this opportunity to consider needs for disposed waste and hard-to-handle wastes. The Plan most directly affects g-certificated haulers, who must comply with SW Plans and related implementation ordinances[351]. Educational and even some financial support may be spelled out. Cities may vary their services some, but they must remain in substantial compliance with the SW Plan[352].

All collected material ends up at a solid waste handling facility. As discussed in the next section, check in with final facilities to ensure they are able and willing to meet your changing material needs in the coming years.

Recommended
Consult others' minimum service level ordinances[353] when crafting your own. Model ordinances[354] for organics are also offered. A model SW Plan amendment for the Recycling Reform Act will be offered by January 2029.

[348] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx
[349] RCW 70A.205.045(5)(d)
[350] RCW 70A.205.050
[351] RCW 81.77.030(1)(e)
[352] RCW 35.21.156(1)
[353] https://app.box.com/s/97ofymfcr0ypbmtlq91dnsa05j0q50a3
[354] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2507003.html

Solid Waste Handling Facilities

This section addresses RCWs 70A.205.045(1) – (3)[355] and related criteria. SW facility planning is a core part of the SW Plan. SW Plan content regarding facilities can also affect permitting, as permits may not conflict with the approved SW or HW Plan[356].

Closed Facilities

Facilities such as closed or abandoned landfills can pose risks to human health and the environment. Benefits of finding and tracking historic landfills include prevention of contamination and unintended consequences of building on old unknown landfills. Inventories of these sites are often incomplete. However, many sites are known, and some are conducting post-closure care or cleanup actions. RCW 70A.205.045(1) requires an inventory of all existing SW facilities, including closed facilities.

Required

List known closed/abandoned landfills in the planning area (name and location)[357]. Work with the jurisdictional health department for this list.

Describe in greater detail the closed facilities for which the Plan participant(s) have a fiscal responsibility or legal obligation. Address costs (such as post-closure care) for these sites in the Funding Section.

Describe at least:

- Name and location
- Basic materials known to have been accepted
- Known contamination or environmental hazards
- Cleanup actions, maintenance, or legal issues

Recommended

Provide more detail on the sites for which the Plan participants do not have fiscal or legal ties, especially if contaminated. A tool to find contaminated sites is Ecology's What's in My Neighborhood Mapping Tool[358].

[355] https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.205.045
[356] WAC 173-350-710(3)(a)(iii)
[357] RCW 70A.205.045(1)
[358] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/neighborhood/?lat=47.500000&lon=-121.000000&zoom=7&radius=false

Washington Department of Agriculture

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is responsible for carrying out Chapter 17.24 RCW,[359] which establishes a statewide system to exclude plant and bee pests and diseases. This mandate is implemented through regulations that control the movement of infested materials and establish quarantines to protect Washington's forest, agricultural, horticultural, floricultural, and apiary industries, as well as native plants, landscapes, and the broader environment. The law aims to reduce the public and private costs that arise when harmful pests become established.

In 2016, solid waste planning requirements were updated to address the role of solid waste in spreading agricultural pests and diseases. Specifically:

- WSDA must review all local SW Plans for compliance with Chapter 17.24 RCW. This happens concurrently with Ecology's 120-day review of the Preliminary Draft SW Plan[360].
- Each local SWAC must include an agricultural representative[361].

When preparing or updating a SW Plan, jurisdictions should evaluate how their solid waste system may contribute to the spread of agricultural pests and identify measures to minimize risk. At a minimum, plans should consider:

- **Pest status of the jurisdiction:** Is the county located within a pest quarantine or pest-free area for pests such as Apple Maggot[362] or Japanese Beetle[363]?
- **Waste movement:** Does solid or organic waste from the jurisdiction move from a quarantined area into or through a pest-free area (such as via transfer stations, long-haul trucking, rail, or landfill disposal)?
- **Facility siting and operations:** Are transfer stations, compost facilities, or other solid waste handling operations located in or near quarantine areas? If so, are staff aware of quarantine restrictions around the transport of regulated articles? Do their practices reduce the potential spread of pests?
- **Material types:** Are certain waste streams (e.g., yard debris, food waste, organics) more likely to carry regulated pests, and are they managed in a way that minimizes risk? Are organics listed on your DRLs?

[359] https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=17.24
[360] RCW 70A.205.060
[361] RCW 70A.205.110
[362] https://agr.wa.gov/departments/insects-pests-and-weeds/insects/apple-maggot/quarantine
[363] https://agr.wa.gov/departments/insects-pests-and-weeds/insects/japanese-beetle

- **Organics management laws:** Is the jurisdiction subject to new or existing organics diversion requirements that may change how higher-risk materials (such as food waste and yard debris) are transported or processed?
- **Coordination with WSDA:** Has the jurisdiction engaged with WSDA for current quarantine maps, compliance expectations, and best management practices?

Required

At a minimum, the SW Plan must specify the facilities that receive the organic materials collected by local government or its agents, and must be in compliance with Chapter 17.24 RCW. Facility information is captured on tab 3-Prog Info of the CAQ-DRLs Workbook[364]. Where possible to monitor, the SW Plan should also discuss where non-residential organics are going[365]. Finally, the SWAC must include an agricultural member[366].

Currently Operating Facilities

A SW Plan must have, "A detailed inventory and description of all existing solid waste handling facilities including an inventory of any deficiencies in meeting current solid waste handling needs."[367]

Required

List all permitted facilities (such as transfer stations, compost facilities, MRFs, MRW facilities, etc.) within the jurisdiction and the basic materials accepted at each. Work with the jurisdictional health department for this list. This list does not need to include permit-exempt facilities.

Describe the major facilities that manage the following materials generated from within the planning area, regardless of facilities' physical location relative to the planning area or their permit status:

1) Landfill-bound materials (e.g. MSW and limited purpose landfills, transfer stations, drop boxes, or an energy recovery and incineration facility)
2) Traditional recyclables (e.g. MRFs managing traditional recyclable materials usually collected curbside from residences)
3) Organic materials (e.g. compost facilities, anaerobic digesters, pre-processors)
4) **Not in scope:** Biosolids. Biosolids that meet quality standards are regulated separately
5) from Construction and demolition materials (e.g. MRFs, recyclers, landfills) solid waste.

[364] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx
[365] RCW 70A.205.045(7)b)(ii)
[366] RCW 70A.205.110(3)
[367] RCW 70A.205.045(1)

A major facility is defined as those that the government-controlled solid waste system relies on for moving and properly managing its collected solid waste. Major facilities also include places relied on to meet recycling and recovery goals. This includes facilities that handle waste not directly managed by the government, such as private C&D facilities. C&D is called out due to RCW's requirement for local government to strategize ways to recycle or reuse it[368]. Because these are the key facilities managing the waste from the planning area, they will also be addressed in the Projected Facility Needs and Financials sections.

Describe at least:

- Name and address
- General operating days
- Materials accepted
- Deficiencies in meeting current SW handling needs (such as those that would limit the ability to continue operations or handle capacity)[369]. Work with the jurisdictional health department on at least this detail. Identifying major problems in a SW Plan helps all jurisdictions prepare for the future, keep materials moving safely, and plan for costs.
- Deficiencies in meeting current required residential recycling and organics service levels. Specifically, for traditional recyclables, this means to ensure rural areas either have curbside, or have sufficient self-haul options to meet the requirements in discussed in Recycling Collection: Required Residential Service Levels. For organics, this includes facilities receiving materials from an ORCA or a potential self-haul program as noted in Organics Collection: Required Yard and Food, Dependent on Markets. Organics facilities utilized must also be located so as to not spread pests or diseases (see Washington Department of Agriculture).
- For facilities owned or operated by the county, or that the county contracts to operate, fill out the Facilities section of the Cost Assessment Questionnaire (Tab 1 of the CAQ-DRLs Workbook[370])

Recommended

Provide maps and/or tables, details on materials accepted (see Column H of tab 4 of the CAQ-DRLs Workbook[371]) and further helpful details.

[368] RCW 70A.205.040(2)(a)
[369] RCW 70A.205.045(1)
[370] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx
[371] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx

Projected Facility Needs (6-year and 20-year planning)

The primary responsibility for adequate SW handling is assigned to local government[372], including aggressive and effective waste reduction and source separation strategies[373]. This section identifies whether existing and planned facilities will meet projected solid waste handling needs over the six-year planning horizon, with consideration of the 20-year outlook, based on waste generation and characterization trends, service requirements, and facility capacities.

It is recommended to confer with SWAC, front-line facility operators, the local health jurisdiction, and collection companies to help inform facility decisions.

Required Planning Questions and Considerations to Address:
Planning should focus on wastes for which the jurisdiction has direct control and on wastes and management methods local governments must plan for under state law. Thus, address the same facilities as discussed in the Currently Operating Facilities section (the major ones handling landfill-bound materials, traditional recyclables, organics, and C&D). Plan for the orderly development of current and future facilities[374].

- **Waste generation predictions:**
  The amount and types of waste produced are the foundation for defining solid waste collection and infrastructure needs. What are the expected changes in population? Are there new laws that require certain materials to be managed in specific ways? How do these and recommendations from other Plan chapters affect predicted waste generation and composition?
- **Controlled waste streams:**
  For the materials collected by or through local government systems (route collection, self- haul to public facilities, contracted facilities) will there be adequate capacity to handle the amount and types of waste as projected over the six and twenty- year horizons? To which facilities does local government intend to send those materials, and has local government checked with those facilities to ensure capacity will be there? Will there be adequate traffic flow to serve the population? How will facilities be developed, maintained, or financed to meet these needs?
- **Other waste streams:**
  For other materials (e.g. commercially collected C&D, organics, recyclables) generated in the planning area, how can the jurisdiction support adequate facility capacity?
- **Required consistency with other plans:**

[372] RCW 70A.205.010(1)
[373] RCW 70A.205.005(6)(b)
[374] RCW 70A.205.045(3)

While planning for facility development, be consistent with plans for the entire county[375], and take into account the comprehensive land use plan of each jurisdiction[376]. What is the name of the county's comprehensive land use plan, and is the SW Plan consistent? What HW Plan is in use, and what other plans dovetail with the SW Plan? More information is in Appendix D: Other Related Plans.

Organics Specific Items to Address:

Organics are unique because they are a major focus of diversion efforts, can be processed and used locally, and facility construction and operation costs can be relatively low to compared to other solid waste facility types. Their management is also driven by evolving laws and ongoing requirements to divert these materials from disposal. The 2025 Compost Market Study[377] anticipates statewide organic material recovered for composting to almost triple between 2023 and 2035. With this in consideration, updated SW Plans should have emphasis on projecting organics facility needs and other diversion possibilities.

- **Priority areas to site organics facilities:**
  All counties must identify priority areas for siting organic materials management facilities. This is discussed in Priority Areas for Organic Materials Management Facilities.
- **Capacity needed to meet organics diversion goals:**
  All counties must identify the annual volume of organics needing to be managed to meet state diversion goals. This is discussed in Identifying the Required Volume to Meet the State Goal.
- **Capacity needed to manage collected organic materials:**
  The collection of organics to be managed at organic materials management facilities is rising quickly in some areas as ORCAs and BOMAs are implemented. Data from Ecology's 2025 Compost Market Study[378] shows projected increases by county. Use state-provided or locally obtained data and along with other factors (e.g. population projections) to project the needed capacity to manage collected materials for each year in the six-year planning period.
- **Comparison of organics capacity needs and available capacity:**
  First, compare the capacity figures from the two bullets above (the capacity needed to meet organics diversion goals and the anticipated capacity needed to manage collected organics). Using the larger of the two figures, inquire with the facilities to which local governments intend to send their organic materials to ask if that much capacity will be available during the six-year planning period. Remember to comply with Chapter 17.24 RCW to avoid spreading agricultural pests. If projected need outpaces capacity, a gap exists and planning to support increased infrastructure must take place[379]. Discuss this in

[375] RCW 70A.205.045(3)
[376] RCW 70A.205.045(3)(b)
[377] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2507062.html
[378] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2507062.html
[379] RCW 70A.205.040(2)(b) and RCW 70A.205.007

your six-year construction and capital acquisition program and 20-year long-range needs for SW handling facilities.

Recommended (for organics-specific items):
Most cities and counties plan for key infrastructure development through their Comprehensive Plans, such as those written under the Growth Management Act, in addition to SW Plans. Thus, it is important to communicate with partners writing such plans the results of the above calculation, the priority areas identified for siting organic materials management facilities, and how the gap is addressed in your SW Plan's six-year and twenty-year facility planning. When the Comprehensive Plan is developed, updated, or amended, the development regulations to implement it must allow for siting organic materials management facilities in the areas identified in your SW Plan, to the extent necessary to meet the volumetric capacity identified in your SW Plan[380]. This seems to apply whether or not a jurisdiction plans under the Growth Management Act.

Required for public facilities:

The six-year construction and capital acquisition program[381].
Identify key maintenance and expansion needs requiring construction or purchase of capital over the six-year planning period. This includes development, construction, expansion, or purchase of publicly-owned or operated SW management facilities. Any recommendation for development, construction, and/or purchase of solid waste management facilities or equipment from other chapters should be included in this discussion. Discuss how you will finance such projects, including both capital and operating costs[382] , either here or in the finances area. See the Finance chapter for detail.

The estimated long-range needs for SW handling facilities projected twenty years into the future[383].
This is similar to the six-year program, but not as detailed. What's on the horizon? What facility and financial planning should happen now to fulfill the needs?

Required for privately-owned facilities:

The six-year construction and capital acquisition outlook, and twenty-year projection.
For the private facilities discussed in the Currently Operating Facilities section or anticipated to open soon, provide the facility with the relevant waste generation and characterization projections and inquire about their capacity to handle waste from the planning area over the two planning horizons. Also inquire as to any predicted cost

[380] RCWs 36.70.330, 36.70A.142, 35.63.290, and 35A.63.310
[381] RCW 70A.205.045(3)(c)
[382] RCW 70A.205.045(3)(d)
[383] RCW 70A.205.045(2)

changes. Describe the results of this inquiry and lay out any recommended actions as a result.

Recommended for public and private facilities:
A table can help frame the construction and capital acquisition and facility needs. Examples are given in Appendix J: Sample 20-Year Generation and Facility Needs Tables.

Facility Siting Criteria

RCW 70A.205.045(9)[384] requires, "A review of potential areas that meet the criteria as outlined in RCW 70A.205.110[385]." Ecology has determined a review of those areas is only required if a planning jurisdiction is actively looking to site a publicly-owned landfill during their six-year planning period. Siting of all SW facilities will undergo their own SEPA and similar review processes outside of a SW Plan.

Required
If no such siting is anticipated to occur, you may use this Ecology-provided language in your Plan to fulfill this requirement:

> RCW 70A.205.045(9) requires a Solid Waste Management Plan to have, "A review of potential areas that meet the criteria as outlined in RCW 70A.205.110." No city or county in the planning area plans to site a solid waste disposal facility as defined by Ecology for RCW 70A.205.110 during the six-year planning period. Thus, this Plan's review of areas is satisfied by this paragraph.

If siting a publicly-owned landfill will occur during the six-year planning period, discuss the potential areas that meet the criteria described in RCW 70A.205.110.

Miscellaneous Wastes (Hard-to-Handle Wastes)

Shift From "Special Waste" to "Miscellaneous Waste"

Many jurisdictions have traditionally used the term "special waste" in SW Plans to refer to items requiring unusual handling, such as asbestos, tires, or biomedical waste. However, Ecology now requests SW Plans to use "miscellaneous waste" when referring to such materials. This is because the term "special waste" is defined in WAC 173-303-040[386] as any state-only dangerous waste that has certain characteristics.

[384] https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.205.045
[385] https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70a.205.110
[386] https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-303-040

Miscellaneous Waste Types

What is considered miscellaneous waste? Local governments have generally used Miscellaneous Waste chapters to categorize waste that can create handling or management problems as well as material that may be unique to a particular planning area's waste stream. Some of the miscellaneous waste materials that Planning Authorities have listed in previous Plans are as follows.

- ☐ Agricultural waste
- ☐ Ammunition
- ☐ Animals/carcasses
- ☐ Appliances/white goods
- ☐ Asbestos/asbestos-containing material
- ☐ Ash
- ☐ Biomedical/infectious waste
- ☐ Bulky wastes
- ☐ C&D/gypsum
- ☐ Contaminated soils
- ☐ Disaster debris (fire, natural, etc.)
- ☐ Dredged material
- ☐ Electronic wastes
- ☐ Food-related non-petroleum grease
- ☐ Industrial process waste or sludge
- ☐ Mobile homes
- ☐ Paper and mill wastes
- ☐ Petroleum contaminated soils
- ☐ Pharmaceuticals
- ☐ Refrigerants/chlorofluorocarbons
- ☐ Sharps
- ☐ Solar panels
- ☐ Street sweepings/vector waste
- ☐ Tires
- ☐ Vehicle wastes: hulks and auto fluff
- ☐ Wood waste/wood debris

Tonnage information on some kinds of miscellaneous wastes disposed from your county is reported to Ecology annually by landfills and energy recovery and incineration facilities. Look within the "Solid waste disposal data by county (1994-20xx)[387]" workbook posted on Ecology's solid waste & recycling data webpage[388]. This is the same data source discussed in the MSW Disposed section.

Why Discuss Miscellaneous Waste, and What to Discuss

A SW Plan's basic job is to plan for coordinated solid waste and materials management, designed to meet unique local needs and function legally[389]. To leave out discussion of how some of the most challenging wastes are managed would be to have an incomplete plan for managing solid waste. The definition of solid waste[390] encompasses basically everything, and a

[387] https://ecology.wa.gov/disposal-by-county
[388] https://ecology.wa.gov/research-data/data-resources/solid-waste-recycling-data
[389] RCW 70A.205.040(1)
[390] RCW 70A.205.015(24)

SW Plan must ensure all such wastes are managed safely and well. However, there is some limitation on the scope:

- The Hazardous Waste Management Act of 1985 that required local governments to have a local HW Plan also specified a SW Plan is not required to have a hazardous waste element[391].
  - This timing underscores the relationship between solid waste and the materials covered by a local hazardous waste plan. Hazardous waste is a subset of solid waste. The intent of the law is not for locals to no longer plan for hazardous waste, but to give it even greater focus. Local governments who combine their SW and HW Plans into one comprehensive Combined Plan have the advantage of ensuring all materials are covered while not duplicating discussion or risking omission of materials that straddle the line between categorization as traditional MRW or MSW.
- Ecology has determined biosolids are not under the scope of solid waste and do not need to be discussed in a SW Plan.

Where to Discuss Miscellaneous Waste in a Plan

Organize your Plan in a way that works for you and your local partners. A Miscellaneous Waste chapter is not needed if the wastes are addressed in other sections. Here is a brief example of such distribution, with potential sections at the top:

Disaster	EPR	MSW	Organics	Recycling	May be covered by Hazardous Waste Plan
Fire or Flood Debris	Electronic Waste	Mobile Homes, Bulky Waste	Agricultural Waste, Animals/ Carcasses	Appliances/ White Goods Electronic Waste	Ammunition Contaminated Soils

There are some materials such as biomedical waste, sharps, and pharmaceuticals that may not easily fit within a material chapter. Some Planning Authorities group discussion of these into a management method chapter, such as the SW Collection chapter or SW Facilities chapter. Others put them in a Miscellaneous Waste chapter.

Required

A SW Plan must discuss existing and/or needed services for wastes in the planning area that are hard to handle or manage due to their uniquely challenging characteristics yet fall under the jurisdiction or management of the planning partners or their jurisdictional health department[392]. The Miscellaneous Waste Types list above gives common examples. This does

[391] RCW 70A.205.040(7)
[392] RCW 70A.205.040

not have to include hazardous waste (mainly MRW), as that is covered by your local hazardous waste management plan, nor biosolids, as those are outside of the scope of a SW Plan.

Recommended

Do not use the term "special waste" when referring to these materials. Use "miscellaneous waste" instead.

If you have large industrial facilities or agricultural processing facilities within your planning area, touch on the unique wastes generated by those facilities and how they are managed.

Local Hazardous and Moderate Risk Waste Management Plan

This section serves as the Guidelines for Local Hazardous Waste Management Plans, and replaces the 2010 Guidelines for Developing and Updating Local Hazardous Waste Plans (Publication Number 10-07-006). The 2010 guidelines will no longer be available starting in 2027.

Why are local governments required to have a Hazardous Waste Management Plan

The Hazardous Waste Management Act, Chapter 70A.300[d] Revised Code of Washington (RCW), directed local governments to prepare and implement Hazardous Waste Management Plans by 1991. These Plans primarily focus on the collection and proper handling of moderate risk waste (MRW). MRW exhibits hazardous properties and is produced either by small quantity generators, or by households. Federal[393] and state[394] regulations allow MRW to go to municipal solid waste landfills. However, Washington State recognizes that without proper education and opportunities for responsible handling of these toxic, corrosive, flammable, and reactive wastes, harm is much more likely for humans and the environment. Additionally, the legislature recognizes that local conditions vary regarding quantities, risks, and management options for these wastes. Therefore, local governments are the most appropriate to plan and implement programs for managing MRW.

A jurisdiction's hazardous waste plan is the "roadmap" for managing a comprehensive MRW system. The more accurate your roadmap, the more likely you are to reach your destination. Implementation of waste reduction and prevention programs, and the anticipated need for new facilities and other infrastructure should be well thought out into the future. Population growth, changing waste types, and increasing waste generation are important factors to consider when preparing a plan to manage MRW.

---

[d] https://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=70A.300

[393] 40 CFR 262.14 and 40 CFR 261.4(b)(1)

[394] WAC 173-303-171(1)(e)(v) and WAC 173-350-100

Prioritizing Health

The state Hazardous Waste Management Act, as amended, establishes priorities to address hazardous waste, with waste prevention being the top choice. RCW 70A.300.260(1))[395] declares that:

The health and welfare of the people of the state depend on clean and pure environmental resources unaffected by hazardous waste contamination. Management and regulation of hazardous waste disposal should encourage practices which result in the least amount of waste being produced. Towards that end, the legislature finds that the following priorities in the management of hazardous waste are necessary and should be followed in order of descending priority as applicable:

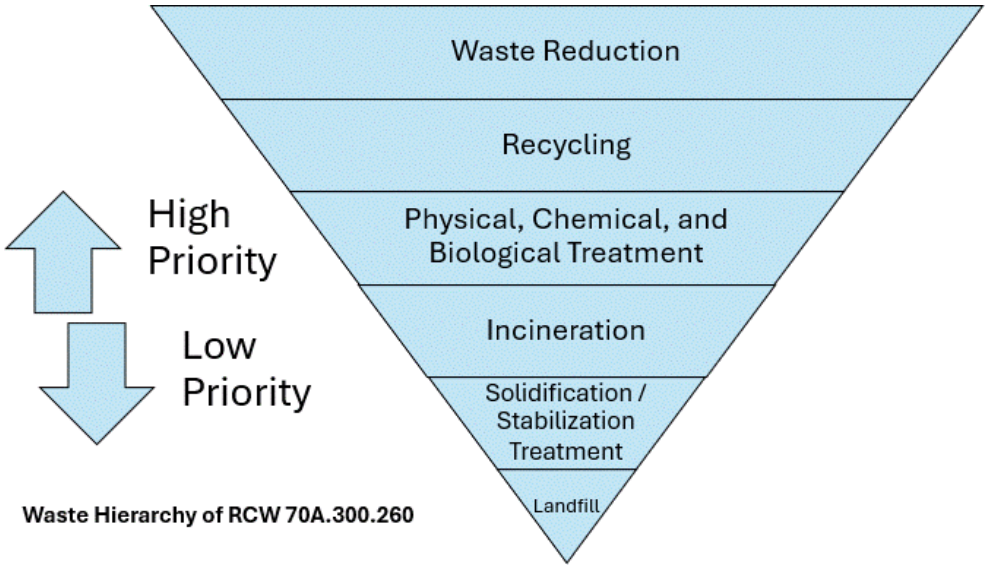


Figure 17 - Waste Hierarchy of RCW 70A.300.260.

Hazardous Waste Plans and Planning Overview

The process of reviewing and updating a local hazardous waste plan is intended to allow all jurisdictions, including Ecology, to work together to improve the quality of MRW efforts in Washington. Many jurisdictions have combined their Plan into a Combined Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan, called a "Combined Plan". However, there are a few that have chosen to keep the Plans separate.

[395] https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.300.260

Stand-alone Hazardous Waste Plans

RCW 70A.300.350(6)[e] states "Local hazardous waste plans shall be completed and submitted to the department no later than June 30, 1990. Local governments may from time to time amend the local plan." Ecology recommends updating your Plan regularly to ensure it stays current.

Combined Plans

Most jurisdictions have combined their Solid and Hazardous Waste Plans. This option is highly recommended because it allows jurisdictions to review and update both plans at the same time. Other benefits include:

- The ability to reference the Solid Waste portion of the Combined Plan to fulfill crossover topics. This may include, but is not limited to, description of:
  - Participating jurisdictions/planning area
  - The public involvement process
  - The local amendment process
  - Financing
  - Coordination with other plans
- Public and state agency input during the Preliminary Draft review process
- One adoption process for essentially two Plans

Updating Plans allows local governments to:

- Identify current MRW systems and needs. The Plan update will reflect how local programs are operating today and will give local governments the opportunity to incorporate statewide MRW goals and priorities (preventing, reducing, and recycling small volume wastes) in areas feasible for each local jurisdiction's needs.

- Adjust programs to changing conditions. For example, if 90% of the paint in an area is now recycled, it may be time to focus efforts on a different waste stream, such as pesticides.

- Brief participating jurisdictions on what the program has accomplished and get their renewed buy-in and support for future programs. This may help with obtaining funding from tipping fees and other sources, as well as in passing annual budgets.

- Work collaboratively with Ecology, local governments, and other organizations to support the State Solid and/or Hazardous Waste Plan's goals to the maximum extent feasible. This could include developing programs and educational materials focused more on prevention and reduction.

- Improve eligibility and competitive standing for new legislative and Ecology

[e] https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.300.350

grant-funded programs (such as the legislative provisions to fund programs that implement the State Solid and/or Hazardous Waste Management Plan).

- Budget transparently and proactively to ensure continued or enhanced compliance with MRW management obligations.

Required Elements

State law directs each local government to develop a hazardous waste management plan based on state guidelines and specifies required elements[396]. In addition to these statutory requirements, Ecology has included additional elements within these guidelines to strengthen local plans and ensure they align with the overall intent of the law.

Unless otherwise noted as 'recommended,' ALL elements listed in the following numbered sections are required.

One: Introduction & Background

- List the participating jurisdictions and define the planning area if different from the jurisdictions' borders.
- Public involvement[397] in the planning process including partners, stakeholders, Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) members, SEPA, and any public comment periods should be described.
- Legal authority for the program
  - Provide local government implementation and enforcement structure.
  - Provide all local ordinances applicable to MRW.
  - Provide Local Board of Health codes and ordinances.
- Define moderate risk waste

  Define that moderate risk waste[398] means "(a) any waste that exhibits any of the properties of hazardous waste but is exempt from regulation under Chapter 70A.300 RCW solely because the waste is generated in quantities below the threshold for regulation, and (b) any household wastes which are generated from the disposal of substances identified by the department as hazardous household substances."[f]

[396] RCW 70A.300.350
[397] RCW 70A.300.350(1)(d)
[398] RCW 70A.300.010(13)
[f] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2607007.html

- List the high-level RCW & WACs that are associated with hazardous waste planning. The list as follows may be used:

Main RCW & WACs Associated with Local Hazardous Waste Management Plans	
RCW	**RCW Description** (related information or WAC)
70A.300.350 and 70A.300.360	Local governments to prepare local hazardous waste plans—Basis—Elements required. (WAC 173-303-171 explains conditions and requirements an SQG must meet. Knowledge of this is needed to conduct the education required via HW Plans.)
70A.224.020 through 70A.224.040	Used oil recycling element. (2014 update relates to PCB management)
70A.205.080	Financial aid to counties and cities. (LSWFA; Chapter 173-312 WAC)
70A.205	SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT -- REDUCTION AND RECYCLING. (MRW facilities are permitted under Chapter 173-350 WAC (SW Handling Standards))
The following are related to product stewardship. Ecology's webpage for product stewardship programs has links to detailed information for most.	
70A.500	ELECTRONIC PRODUCT RECYCLING (Ecyclewa.org; Chapter 173-900 WAC)
70A.505	MERCURY-CONTAINING LIGHTS -- PROPER DISPOSAL. (LightRecycle; Chapter 173-910 WAC)
70A.515	ARCHITECTURAL PAINT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM. (PaintCare.org)
70A.555	BATTERIES—ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP (Chapter 173-905 WAC)
69.48	DRUG TAKE-BACK PROGRAM (overseen by the WA Dept. of Health; medtakebackwashington.org)

- Discuss coordination & planning

  Discuss any other hazardous waste related plans and policies in the jurisdiction, and the coordination efforts that have taken place[399]. Examples of plans you may want to discuss include the local Solid Waste Management Plan, local Disaster Debris Management Plan, as well as the state Solid and/or Hazardous Waste Management Plan.

[399] RCW 70A.300.350(2)

Two: Analysis of Current MRW Conditions

Per RCW 70A.300.350(1)(a) the Plan: "… shall include an assessment of the quantities, types, generators, and fate of MRWs in the jurisdiction. The purpose of this element is to develop a system of managing moderate risk waste, appropriate to each local area, to ensure protection of the environment and public health."

- As you conduct your assessment, we encourage you to consider data found in waste characterization studies such as the 2020-2021 Statewide Waste Characterization Study[400], Ecology Annual Recycling Data, and all local data available.
    - Provide at least three years of the most recent data in a table or spreadsheet that shows the trends in the quantities, types, and fates of the MRW in your jurisdiction. Quantity and type refer to tons and whether it is HHW or SQG waste; it does not need broken out by material type such as oxidizers and pesticides, though that level of detail can be useful. Fate refers to the quantity of material whose fate was ultimately proper disposal versus the amount of material generated in your jurisdiction that was potentially disposed in the landfill.
    - Ecology provides data, such as the Recycling Data spreadsheet in your Jurisdiction's Box folder, but local data is often more thorough and may be the preferred data.

Recycling, Recovery & Waste Generation in Washington (2021)

Category	Materials Collected for Recycling	Washington State Total	Unspecified	County Specific
C&D	Ash, Sand & Dust	-	-	-
C&D	Asphalt & Concrete	2,791,859.54	174,418.00	9,447.50
C&D	Carpet & Pad	319.00	-	-
C&D	Construction & Demolition Debris	713,716.73	18,460.00	1,327.93
C&D	Gypsum	36,700.04	-	43.40
C&D	Landclearing Debris	283,714.71	84,328.52	4,830.64
C&D	Roofing Material	15,872.00	-	-
C&D	Wood Waste	205,447.61	800.00	11,329.00
Glass	Container Glass	76,889.77	148.40	3,512.17
Metal	Aluminum Cans	14,939.80	88.94	312.13
Metal	Appliances/White Goods	64,337.29	1,524.40	1,165.54
Metal	Other Ferrous Metal	1,359,813.20	617,374.74	23,983.99
Metal	Other Nonferrous Metal	107,708.65	26,579.18	723.80
Metal	Steel Cans	12,304.64	2.01	572.49
MRW	Antifreeze	5,134.78	10.65	86.84
MRW	Auto Lead Acid Batteries	16,406.35	66.52	614.21
MRW	Electronics	10,404.26	-	486.67
MRW	Household Batteries	1,130.04	-	12.34
MRW	Light Bulbs	894.11	-	21.80
MRW	Oil Filters	1,519.37	-	25.15
MRW	Other Batteries	492.97	-	0.17
MRW	Paint	5,837.51	2,449.32	144.43
MRW	Used Oil	32,162.69	5.55	622.10
Organics	Agricultural Organics	66,806.23	-	-
Organics	Food Processing Waste	116,853.67	45,515.59	8,010.00

Figure 18 – Example screenshot of recycling data spreadsheet found in your local folder on Box (numbers are in tons). Focus on items labeled as MRW in column B in the various tables of the spreadsheet.

[400] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2107026.html

- Hazardous Household Substance List (Recommended)

  Hazardous household substances are those which are hazardous in characteristic but derived from a household. Ecology is required[401] to provide a list of hazardous household substances[402] (more commonly called "household hazardous substances"). The list is not exhaustive but is meant as a starting point for local governments to identify household products which may pose public health or environmental risks. Items listed have at least one hazardous property such as flammable, toxic, corrosive, reactive, or radioactive. Once discarded, these materials are known as household hazardous waste (HHW).

  - The list is not required to be included in the plan but could be a useful tool to review for material acceptance at the local HHW facility.

- MRW Considerations (Recommended)
  - Assess the households in your planning area in relation to the MRW they could generate.
  - Approximately what percent are multifamily vs single-family? Rural or urban?
  - Assess the small businesses in your planning area in relation to the MRW they could generate.
  - Are there certain industries that stand out, for example marinas, agricultural farms, or orchards?

Three: Hazardous Waste Inventory

While the focus of a local Hazardous Waste Management Plan is truly MRW, the legislature requires information about aspects of larger hazardous waste generation and management within the jurisdiction. This helps provide a bigger and more complete picture of resources, risks, and material flows. Although hazardous waste is not managed at the local level, it is important for locals to have information about where and what is generated in the jurisdiction.

- Generators of hazardous waste[403]

  Ecology provides an annual list of generators in the Data for Plan Updates BOX folder[404], under Hazardous Waste Data. The annual report is available by September 1st each year and includes small, medium, and large quantity generators of hazardous waste. Use the filter to find the generators located in your jurisdiction.

  At a minimum, provide a summary of the number of large quantity generators (LQGs), medium quantity generators (MQGs), small quantity generators (SQGs), and no-waste generators (XQGs) in your jurisdiction. SQGs are not required to register

[401] RCW 70A.300.350(4)(a)
[402] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2607007.html
[403] RCW 70A.300.350(1)(c)
[404] https://app.box.com/s/twug0w9ozk1j98cx3n90e2coigjg6gdq

with the State of Washington, therefore this inventory will not list all SQGs found in your jurisdiction, it is recommended that you note this in your Plan

- Treatment, Storage, and Disposal (TSD) Facilities Managing Hazardous Waste[405]
  Ecology provides an annual list of TSD Facilities that are State regulated in the Data for Plan Updates BOX folder, under Hazardous Waste Data. The annual report is available September 1st each year. This is a list of facilities that recycle, treat, store, and/or dispose of hazardous waste generated in the jurisdiction. Many jurisdictions do not have any in this category, which should be noted, if that is the case.

- Zone Designation Descriptions[406] **(Recommended)**
  The requirement to designate eligible zones is not considered part of the local HW planning requirements. However, RCW 70A.300.350(1)(e) does require a description of the eligible zones in the jurisdiction in accordance with RCW 70A.300.370, and which meet the siting criteria, WAC 173-303-282, for a Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility (TSD) within Hazardous Waste Management Plan's (HWMPs). Initial descriptions were due back in the early 1990s, with the option to amend from time to time. Ecology sees this requirement's objective as having been met and therefore will no longer require updated descriptions of the zones or areas within a HWMP. 70A.300.350(9) allows Ecology to waive specific requirements on this basis. This does not waive the requirements of RCW 70A.300.370. Zone designation approval letters for your jurisdiction can be found in your local Box folder. Ecology also provides a list of TSD facilities for reference.

  You may use this Ecology provided language in your plan to explain this decision.
  The Washington State Hazardous Waste Management Act (HWMA) requires local governments to establish land use zones or geographic areas for siting "designated zone facilities," such as hazardous waste recycling, storage, and treatment facilities. Zone designations or requests for exemptions were required to be submitted to Ecology by June 30, 1988[2]. Zone designations are updated and documented within the jurisdiction's comprehensive management plan.

  RCW 70A.300.350(1)(e) requires a description of the eligible zones in the jurisdiction in accordance with RCW 70A.300.370, and that meet the siting criteria for a Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility (TSD). Ecology finds that this historical requirement was fulfilled in the early 1990s. Thus, Ecology waives the requirement to describe designated zones within local hazardous waste management plans per 70A.300.350(9). This does not waive the requirements of

[405] RCW 70A.300.350(1)(c)
[406] RCW 70A.300.350(1)(e)

RCW 70A.300.370[f]. For reference, Ecology provides a list of active TSD facilities[g] within the state.

- Transporters **(Recommended)**
  Describe the Hazardous waste transportation companies that your jurisdiction contracts with for the treatment and/or disposal of MRW collected in the County. Also provide information and a link to the statewide database of contractors[h]. This list is not exhaustive.

- Remedial Action Sites **(Recommended)**
  These are sites listed by Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program[i] in the What's In My Neighborhood Mapping Tool[j] (map directions[k]) as needing investigation or undergoing hazardous waste cleanup activity. All residents can benefit from knowing the toxics in the environment around them. Include a summary of how many sites are currently identified and a link to your jurisdiction's map directly.

Four: Program Elements & Services

This is the key part of your plan, as it describes how the jurisdiction will carry out its duties to protect human health and the environment by managing MRW in ways appropriate for its locality. Describe continuing and new programs for managing MRW from households and small businesses. This section should address the following required elements:

- A plan or program to manage MRW
  RCW 70A.300.350(1)(a)[l] directs each local government to have: "A plan or program to manage moderate risk wastes that are generated or otherwise present within the jurisdiction."

  RCW 70A.300.350(3)[m] requires that: "local governments shall coordinate with those persons involved in providing privately owned hazardous and moderate risk waste facilities and services as follows: If a local government determines that a moderate risk waste will be or is adequately managed by one or more privately owned facilities or services at a reasonable price, the local government shall take actions to encourage the use of that private facility or service. Actions taken by a local government under this subsection may include, but are not limited to, restricting or prohibiting the land disposal of a moderate risk waste at any transfer station or land

[f] RCW 70A.300.370
[g] https://app.box.com/s/xhsxqtnq68yqqdglx777l4qaw87vodc6
[h] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Dangerous-waste-guidance/Dispose-recycle-or-treat/Hiring-a-contractor
[i] https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Who-we-are/Our-Programs/Toxics-Cleanup
[j] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/neighborhood/?lat=47.500000&lon=-121.000000&zoom=7&radius=false
[k] https://app.box.com/s/8joy8xggx3w0vdsyp9gxe7mzi7s8qele
[l] RCW 70A.300.350(1)(a)
[m] RCW 70A.300.350(3)

disposal facility within its jurisdiction."

When combined with the coordination and action required by the statute, Ecology has determined that there are two acceptable approaches to meeting the statutory requirement for a plan or program to manage MRW: either a publicly-run program or a combination of a publicly-run and privately-run program.

- Publicly-Run Program to Manage MRW
  To meet the definition of a publicly-run program to manage MRW, a jurisdiction should offer collection opportunities for both HHW and SQG waste. These services could be provided through:
  - An annual, or more frequent, collection event
  - A permanent collection facility
  - An interlocal agreement (ILA) with another jurisdiction

  Provide program information on how HHW and SQG wastes are being managed in the jurisdiction including locations of fixed facilities, typical collection event times of year, or details of the ILA with a neighboring county.

  In addition, describe the coordination efforts the county has undertaken with private facilities and service providers, and detail any actions implemented to ensure MRW is diverted from landfill disposal and encourages use of private service providers.

- Privately-Run Program to Manage MRW (SQG focus)
  All jurisdictions currently have a publicly-run plan or program to manage their HHW portion of MRW, but many direct businesses to use private services for SQG waste management. If the jurisdiction is relying on the private sector to manage their SQG waste, then the jurisdiction must show a level of coordination and action that meets the intent of the statute. If through the coordination efforts the local government determines that MRW is being adequately managed by one or more private providers at a reasonable price, the statute requires the government to take action to encourage the use of that service.

  Provide details on the coordination efforts the county has undertaken, confirm whether the prices seem reasonable or unreasonable for your county SQGs, and detail any actions implemented.

Coordination

To meet the coordination requirement, take the following steps and describe the results:

- Contact service providers and confirm service availability across the planning area, confirm if they accept drop-off or only pickup services.
- Confirm pricing with the service providers to ensure the prices seem reasonable.To help with coordination, consider partnering with your local jurisdiction's health department, if they have a pollution prevention assistance grant.

Action

If pricing is determined to be reasonable, describe what action(s) the Planning Authority has taken or plans to take. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Banning MRW disposal at transfer stations and landfills
- Ordinance banning MRW from disposal at the local landfill
- Posting service provider information on the county webpage and outreach materials
- Working with SQGs to switch to less toxic materials, requiring less diversion, combined with one of the above

- Public Involvement & Public Education[407], including information on:

  Public education and involvement are important parts of planning for the management of the MRW. Your plan should discuss the following:

  - Potential hazards to human health and the environment from improper use and disposal.
  - Ways to properly reduce, recycle, or dispose of the waste.
  - How the above is conveyed to households and small businesses.
  - Technical assistance provided to small businesses.

- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) (also called Product Stewardship)

  This section should provide detailed information on all EPR programs and any new legislation coming that affects your jurisdiction. This section should also state if the jurisdiction is not participating in any of the EPR programs and why. These include but are not limited to programs such as PaintCare, LightRecycle, and battery stewardship. As new legislation continues to be passed it is important to address and plan for how the material will be managed.

Five: Used Oil Recycling

A resource that may help is the "Basics of Managing Used Oil in Washington State."[n] This section is the used oil recycling guidelines which have been developed as required by RCW

[407] RCW 70A.300.350(1)(b)

[n] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/summarypages/2504004.html

70A.224.030[o]. The Used Oil Recycling Act[408] requires that local hazardous waste management plans specifically address needs for collection and recycling (a.k.a. rerefining) of used motor oil produced by residents who change the oil in their own vehicles. The Used Oil Recycling Act requires that plans establish methods for improving collection and rerefining of used oil, for educating residents, and more. A resource that may help is the Basics of Managing Used Oil in Washington State.**

The effective management of used oil recycling requires clear planning and actionable steps to conserve resources and protect the environment. The state has also set a goal for 80% of household used oil to be collected and rerefined. To help achieve this goal, local governments should address the following elements in their plans:

- Define Used Oil

  Used Oil[409] is defined as: "(a) lubricating fluids that have been removed from an engine crankcase, transmission, gearbox, hydraulic device, or differential of an automobile, bus, truck, vessel, plane, heavy equipment, or machinery powered by an internal combustion engine; (b) any oil that has been refined from crude oil, used, and as a result of use, has been contaminated with physical or chemical impurities; and (c) any oil that has been refined from crude oil and, as a consequence of extended storage, spillage, or contamination, is no longer useful to the original purchaser. Used oil does not include used oil to which hazardous wastes have been added." For the purpose of the Used Oil Recycling element, this refers to used oil generated by households.

- Collection Facility Convenience

  Collection facilities must be conveniently located to ensure that 80% of used oil generated by households is rerefined.[410]

  - Provide a recommended number of used oil collection sites needed to meet this goal.[411]

- Facility Expansion Plan

  If the current number or locations of collection facilities is insufficient to achieve the 80% rerefining goal, jurisdictions must develop and implement a plan to increase collection capacity.

  - This plan should include recommendations for suitable locations for additional sites[412], if necessary, as well as the intended timeline to meet this goal.

- Oil Disposal Rerefining Goal

  Identify the company(ies) responsible for transporting and properly disposing of the

o RCW 70A.224.030
408 RCW 70A.224.020
409 RCW 70A.224.010
410 RCW 70A.224.030(4)
411 RCW 70A.224.030(1)(a)(ii)
412 RCW 70A.224.030(1)(a)(iii)

** https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/summarypages/2504004.html

used oil and specify which disposal method they use. If the oil is being burned rather than rerefined, explain why the county selected this option and whether it can be reconsidered to align with the state's 80% rerefining goal[413].

- Private Business Agreements

  Describe any voluntary agreements with private businesses for the collection of used oil from the public, including terms and conditions that support the jurisdiction's used oil recycling objectives[414]. Consider providing a list of all used oil collection facilities (public and private) on the local government's MRW web page.

- Ordinance Implementation

  Retailers annually selling 1,000+ gallons of oil or 500+ oil filters to residential customers must follow certain signage and container protocol to support customers' ability to recycle their used oil. Ecology has created signs to fulfill this requirement, which are available online.[415] The retailers must post such signs at or near the point of sale.[416] The retailers must also conveniently provide containers for sale that residents could use for capturing the used oil directly from vehicles and transporting to a recycling facility.[417]

  - Detail the local ordinances enacted to regulate used oil signage and container requirements.[418]
  - Describe the plan for enforcing the sign ordinance and container ordinance[419].

- Public Education

  Provide a comprehensive plan to educate the public about proper used oil management and recycling[420]. This may include informational pamphlets, public workshops, mailing campaigns, curbside hang tags, informative webpages, or other outreach efforts.

- Used Oil Contamination Mitigation

  Describe how used oil will be managed to keep it separate from other hazardous wastes. This may include questioning whether other wastes have been mixed in when customers drop off used oil, signage indicating what is acceptable to add to

[413] RCW 70A.224.030(4)
[414] RCW 70A.224.020(1)(a)
[415] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2407038.html
[416] RCW 70A.224.040(1)(a)
[417] RCW 70A.224.040(1)(b)
[418] RCW 70A.224.040(5)
[419] RCW 70A.224.020(1)(b)
[420] RCW 70A.224.020(1)(c)

used oil, convenient location of containers or tanks for used oil contaminated with other wastes, etc.

Outline how the best management practices[p], to reduce the likelihood of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) contamination in used oil, have been addressed. While following the practices is recommended, it is not required. Only discussion on your approach to these BMPs is required. Jurisdictions that adopt these practices may be eligible for reimbursement of extraordinary costs incurred due to contamination events.

- If your jurisdiction intends to implement all the BMPs and potentially seek reimbursement if a contamination event occurs, describe the decision-making criteria to apply for reimbursement and how the jurisdiction will submit an application to Ecology for approval.
- Once approved, Ecology will forward the application to the state legislature for consideration during the legislative session.
- Upon legislative approval, reimbursement will be provided for costs associated with the contamination event.

- Funding and Budget Planning
  Specific funding aspects are required by statute. These are best included with other financial information in section 7, Funding the Program. The used oil recycling element should include what revenue is utilized to meet the requirements. Include a budget reserve to address potential PCB contamination costs[q]. We recommend having a schedule to reevaluate this reserve account at regular intervals to account for changes in costs and inflation. It is recommended that this reserve cover the cost of managing contamination for either 50% of the maximum oil storage capacity or the largest tank/ container at each facility under the plan, whichever is greater.

Six: Program Alternatives (Recommended)

This component should address programs the jurisdiction will consider if priorities change, or funding becomes available during the planning.period. This element is optional, but highly recommended to give jurisdictions flexibility in starting new programs, especially if applicable grant funding may be sought for the program.

[p] https:/apps.ecology.wa.gov/SummaryPages/2507010.html

[q] RCW 70A.224.020(1)(e)

Seven: Funding the Program

To have a successful system there must be adequate funding for the operation.

- Describe how your jurisdiction is funding the system and programs recommended.
    - Describe all costs associated with the collection, processing, and disposal of MRW in the County, including but not limited to labor, transportation, facility operations, used oil, and any other related expenses. This section should include, at a minimum:
        - Overall costs per year (and describe in text the basic costs covered. Specify whether or not the costs for specific costs are included in this overall cost)
        - Additional specific costs:
            - Capital Improvement Plans, as applicable
            - Estimated cost to implement the used oil element
            - Budget reserve for contaminated oil, see section 5 above
- Describe the current revenue structures (e.g. percent of tip fees to fund programs and applicable grant funding).
    - If tip fees are used to help fund the program, provide the percent of the tip fee used, or refer to the Cost Assessment Questionnaire.
    - Explain any plans to explore other options or rate structures.

Eight: Process for Updates, Adoption, and Approval

The amendment or revision, adoption, and approval process for your HW Plan will depend on whether you have a stand-alone HW plan or a combined SW and HW plan.

- Stand-Alone Hazardous Waste Management Plans
    - Amendment Process **(Recommended)**
      An amendment is a formal process to make changes or updates to the hazardous waste plan and differs from a revision in that it does not update the entire plan and may have a simpler process. RCW 70A.300.350(6)[r] states that "local governments may from time to time amend the local plan". We recommend that each plan includes a description of the amendment process at your local level.
      Guidance on what the amendment process can look like can be found in the "Amending a Plan" section of these guidelines.
      A Plan may contain a locally-defined amendment process, including local approval or adoption. Follow that process for amendments, or a process agreed upon with Ecology.

[r] RCW 70A.300.350(6)

- Revision Process
  A plan revision is a plan update that involves a review and update of all parts of the Plan. Although revising a HW Plan is not required by statute, jurisdictions may find that a revision is the best option to update their Plan completely. A revision does require a new adoption of the Plan by all signatories, and completion of the SEPA process.

- Adoption Process.
  There is no required preliminary plan review before a stand-alone HW Plan is adopted or submitted for Ecology review and approval. However, to help ensure alignment with all requirements, Ecology offers a courtesy review. Ecology recommends that you coordinate with your local planner on a timeline that works for all parties involved, but at a minimum Ecology requires 45 days for their courtesy review. If the Plan has deficiencies, the jurisdiction should address them prior to local adoption. A summary of Ecology comments and the jurisdictions responses should be included as an appendix in the Plan.

- A revised Plan must be adopted by the Planning Authority and all plan participants before sending to Ecology for approval. All resolutions of adoption must be included as an appendix in the Plan.

- Approval of Plan
  Ecology will follow the approval timeline in RCW 70A.300.350(7)[s] for both amendments and revisions of stand-alone HW Plans. All amendments or revisions to the HW Plan are required to be submitted to Ecology within 45 days of completion. Ecology will then have 90 days to approve the amendment or revision[422].

- Combined Plans:
  Combined solid and hazardous waste management plans must follow the same amendment, revision, review, and adoption process as stand-alone solid waste plans. Information on these processes can be found in the Revising a SW or Combined Plan: Processes & Timelines portion of these guidelines.

Table: Amendment and Revision Details for the Three Kinds of Plans (SW, Combined, HW).

	Amendment: SW or Combined Plan	Amendment: HW Plan	Revision: SW or Combined Plan	Revision: HW Plan
How much of the plan is updated?	Part or parts	Part or parts	Whole Plan	Whole Plan

[s] RCW 70A.300.350(7)

Does it reset the 6-year Revision clock?	No	N/A	Yes	N/A
Does it need local adoption by all signatories?	Likely not, but depends on locally-defined process/process agreed upon with Ecology	Likely not, but depends on locally-defined process/process agreed upon with Ecology	Yes	Yes

Nine: Recommendations

List recommendations to maintain or improve your MRW program. Your jurisdiction will work towards these recommendations during the planning period. Provide the six-year implementation cost for each recommendation in the implementation chapter of the plan.

Ten: Implementation

Local governments are responsible for implementing their hazardous waste plan. Ecology also has responsibilities, which include providing information for the plan, and monitoring and assisting local jurisdictions in implementing programs. State and local coordination is essential in implementing local hazardous waste plans. The implementation timeline will be located in the implementation chapter which shows your recommendations alongside the times and costs to implement each recommendation.

As you implement your plan, you can refer to the Washington State Department of Ecology - MRW Webpage[s] for resources and contacts that will be helpful.

[422] RCW 70A.300.350(7)

[s] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/community-waste-toxics/household-hazardous-waste-mrw

Administration and Enforcement

Introduction: Many Facets of Surveillance and Control

A SW Plan must have a program for surveillance and control[423].

Broadly, Ecology interprets surveillance and control as being aware of proper materials management practices and legal/policy framework followed by setting in place responsible parties, structures, and control mechanisms to ensure materials are managed well. That broad view may be termed "administration."

More precisely, Ecology interprets surveillance and control as watching for and then enforcing against illegal activity. Surveillance is the effort to inspect, identify, and investigate illegal SW accumulation and SW facility operations. Control involves educating citizens and facility operators, and keeping them or bringing them into compliance. This may be termed "enforcement." It may take place at known SW facilities or sites monitored by the jurisdictional health department, or enforcement may be necessary at miscellaneous locations such as private residences or small businesses.

Administration with Implementation Partners (Recommended)

Your key partners are your participating jurisdictions and your jurisdictional health department (JHD), but other entities such as Ecology, non-profits, the local Clean Air Agency, and even traditional law enforcement may implement programs or enforce laws and regulations relating to waste materials. Following are brief descriptions of how key partners may help administer the Plan.

Jurisdictional Health Departments

The jurisdictional health department is the main enforcement entity. The JHD helps ensure solid waste facilities conform with all applicable laws and regulations, and are not in conflict with the approved SW or HW Plan[424]. It has the authority and responsibility to conduct regular facility inspections, review plans of operations and issue permits, variances, deferrals and exemptions, respond to complaints, and issue citations for mismanagement of solid waste. As the permitting authority, its governing body must adopt local regulations or ordinances to ensure handling and disposal facilities are located, maintained, and operated in a way that protects human health and the environment and avoids creation of nuisances. In some jurisdictions, the JHD is tasked with some educational efforts in the community, such as business outreach programs like

[423] RCW 70A.205.045(4)
[424] WAC 173-350-040 and -710

EnviroStars[425]. Because they are the "boots on the ground" visiting facilities and conversing about movement of materials, consulting the JHD as you make solid waste decisions is highly advised. One way to do this is to have a standing ex-officio member of the JHD on SWAC.

Ecology provides funds dedicated to enforcement work via Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance. Ecology provides oversight and technical assistance to JHDs, including via the new authorities granted via HB 1154[t] during the 2025 legislative session. Ecology is also offering a new format for the Designated Recyclables Lists, featuring Ecology's recommendations as required by law. This may be helpful to JHDs, as discussed in Designated Recyclables Lists (Beyond the Bin).

Local SWAC

The local SWAC monitors progress on SW Plan implementation and provides advice as programs progress and evolve. It should continue to meet regularly; at least quarterly is recommended. SWAC should use the recommendations and implementation schedule outlined in the Plan to prioritize its discussion.

Planning Authority

The Planning Authority is responsible to implement many programs recommended in the Plan, and for the general operation of the solid (and/or hazardous) waste system. In some cases, activities described in the Plan are delegated to participating jurisdictions, but the Planning Authority should remain up-to-date on the status of all Plan implementation, adjusting efforts and alerting Ecology to changes as necessary.

Participating jurisdictions

Participating cities or other jurisdictions may be responsible for solid waste collection, and perhaps recycling and waste reduction programs within their boundaries. City systems must be in substantial compliance with the SW Plan[426]. Some cities pay into the overall county system, or fulfill duties delegated by the Plan, such as educational efforts.

Private haulers and facilities

While local government has the primary responsibility for solid waste management in Washington, in almost all cases, the government coordinates with the private sector to get it done. When service levels are set in an ordinance or contract, the solid waste industry responds.

[425] https://envirostars.org
[r] HB 1154
[426] RCW 35.21.156

Required

Outline which main departments, boards, local government, or other entities implement and enforce the Plan, and describe their relationships, roles and responsibilities. Specifically discuss the JHD and its permitting system.

For example, each county, city or jurisdictional board of health must adopt regulations or ordinances governing SW handling implementing the SW Plan. The regulations or ordinances shall be filed with Ecology[427]. This includes service level ordinances where necessary. The ordinances must be at least as stringent as the state rules for solid waste handling.

The Planning Authority must monitor general compliance with the SW Plan as part of overall administration, surveillance, and control[428]. The Planning Authority also works cooperatively with partners to implement the SW Plan, and alert Ecology to unexpected shifts.

Review of Pertinent Laws and Regulations

State Level

Washington state law (also known as statute) is written in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW). Some laws have associated rules (also known as regulations), which are written by State agencies with stakeholder input. Rules are written in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). The State hosts a searchable website of all RCW and WAC[429].

RCW Recodification in 2020

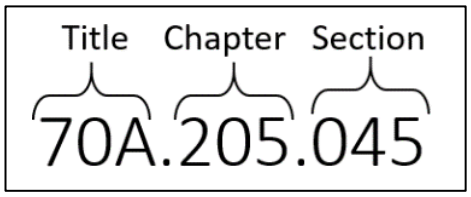


Figure 19 - Components of RCW

Title 70 RCW was reorganized by the legislature in the 2020 session to create the new Title 70A RCW. It places all environmental health and safety laws in one place. As part of this, the RCWs that require local solid waste and hazardous waste planning shifted from Title 70 RCW to Title 70A RCW. This fact sheet[430] discusses the change, and this shows old and recodified RCWs[431].

[427] RCW 70A.205.100
[428] RCW 70A.205.045(4)
[429] https://leg.wa.gov/state-laws-and-rules/
[430] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2007030.html
[431] https://app.box.com/s/s6i4qng48cf2ceqc648chqujzf2pnsxw

Main State Laws and Rules

Appendix C: State Laws and Rules Related to Solid and Hazardous Waste Planning lists both main and ancillary laws that may intersect with your planning work and provides RCWs prior to the 2020 recodification where applicable. The MRSC has a helpful solid waste webpage[432] outlining local government responsibilities and legal authorities.

There is no WAC specific to SW nor HW Plans. Jurisdictions work most frequently with the following WACs

- Chapter 173-350[433] WAC, SOLID WASTE HANDLING STANDARDS
- Chapter 173-351[434], WAC, CRITERIA FOR MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE LANDFILLS, though other WAC may apply to older landfills.
- Chapter 173-303[435] WAC, DANGEROUS WASTE REGULATIONS

Other Controls

Laws, rules, and permits not specifically aimed at solid waste, such as those related to water and air pollution, noise, safety, fire protection, and general public health may also intersect with your work, particularly in facility siting and operation. Your jurisdictional health department or Ecology Facilities Specialists can help keep you in compliance.

Other Controls Example: Outdoor Burning

2002 legislation set a state goal to eliminate yard waste in landfills where reasonable[436]. Some folks think of burning as an alternative to landfilling. However, landfilling is preferable to outdoor burning[437].

Residential yard waste and non-residential land clearing debris are among the materials that have legal restrictions on their burning, especially in urban growth areas. Burning of organic refuse in general is not allowed in areas with reasonable alternatives to burning. Chapter 173-425 WAC, Outdoor Burning, contains more information, as may your local air agency or Ecology's outdoor burning webpage[438].

Many jurisdictions have taken actions to support alternatives to burning, such as purchasing a chipper and hosting days for residents to bring woody material for processing into mulch.

---

[432] https://mrsc.org/explore-topics/utilities/other-topics/solid-waste
[433] https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-350
[434] https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-351
[435] https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-303
[436] RCW 70A.205.005(10)
[437] WAC 173-425-040
[438] https://ecology.wa.gov/air-climate/air-quality/smoke-fire/outdoor-residential-burning

Local Level

As mentioned, implementation partners may have local laws. Some state laws or rules must be adopted locally. Local ordinances may be more stringent than state and federal laws or rules.

Required

Cite and describe local laws and regulations that directly affect Plan elements or implement them. Describe both current and planned laws and regulations. Description of local actions reveals the coordinated solid waste system and its control[439] mechanisms. Examples include:

- Service level ordinances (examples on Box[440])
- Flow control ordinances (examples on Box[441])
    - Also answer the question, "Does your county have a flow control ordinance?" in the UTC Cost Assessment Questionnaire found on tab 1 of the CAQ-DRLs Workbook[442]. If the answer is yes, clearly identify in Plan text the designated disposal facilities.)
- Jurisdictional health department ordinances to implement Chapter 173-350 WAC[443].
- Disposal bans
- Product bans (i.e. plastic bag bans)
- Secured load and litter ordinances
- Disposal Districts
- Collection Districts

Recommended

A listing of state and federal laws and regulations intersecting with solid or hazardous waste management is not required in a SW or HW Plan. However, many Plans provide a description of key state or federal laws, often with discussion of how they're applied locally, as a reference tool for elected officials, SWAC, solid waste industry, the public, and new government staff. Appendix C: State Laws and Rules Related to Solid and Hazardous Waste Planning and Appendix B: Legislative Changes 2010-2025 offer state-related text for that purpose.

---

[439] RCW 70A.205.045(4)
[440] https://app.box.com/s/nstvcvsmynjcxnitlep9g3emjsreak7f
[441] https://app.box.com/s/8fq44cijkpkz5s4en0kncbj71435k47g
[442] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx
[443] WAC 173-350-700(2)

Surveillance and Enforcement for Litter and Illegal Dumping

Part of the SW Plan's program for surveillance and control[444] should cover spontaneous locations where illegal activity has occurred, such as litter and illegal dumping. Local governments are vital partners with the state in the effort to keep Washington litter free.

Required

- Document if all staffed transfer stations and landfills in the planning area are enforcing the local secured load law[445], including public and private facilities.
- Cite at least the Planning Authority's local ordinances regulating secured loads, litter, and illegal dumping, and describe how you are combating litter in coordination with the state[446].
- Discuss methods to address tires and other state-sponsored prevention campaigns, including funding and implementing agencies (these items may also be discussed in your Miscellaneous Waste chapter).
- Identify program areas in need of improvement.

Recommended

Describe local ordinances or anti-litter mechanisms beyond those of just the Planning Authority. Examples include:

- County or city contracts may require the hauler to conduct litter patrols (route vehicles often accidentally shed litter and roads leading to solid waste facilities are always more heavily littered) or neighborhood cleanup events.
- Partnership with Ecology to promote the We Keep WA Litter Free campaign[447].
- Partnership with the Sheriff's office to run litter crews and/or assist with education and outreach, especially for enforcement against unsecured loads.
- A lower disposal fee for litter collected by not-for-profits or charitable community organizations.
- Discussion of methods to address homeless encampment cleanup, which may include working with the Washington State Department of Transportation, use of the Department of Enterprise Service's master contract, or use of grant funds such as those that follow.

Discuss local government use of these funding programs offered by Ecology:

[444] RCW 70A.205.045(4)
[445] RCW 70A.200.120
[446] RCW 70A.200.020(2)
[447] LitterFreeWA.org

- Community Litter Cleanup Program[448] (CLCP) grants
- Ramp Litter Cleanup Program[449] (RLCP) grants
- Waste Tires Program[450]
- Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance[451] (LSWFA) grants (limited to homeless encampments)

More information on litter programs is available on Ecology's litter webpage[452].

Funding the System (Financing)

Costs to include

Local government uses a SW Plan to ensure adequate or enhanced programs in the future. Examining and projecting costs and how to meet them is necessary to implement the Plan.

Collection and Facility Needs

State law requires SW Plans to project the solid waste collection and facility needs for the next six[453] and twenty[454] years, respectively. The purpose is to ensure the collection systems and facilities receiving solid waste for transfer or ultimate disposal or recovery will be prepared to meet the needs of coming years. It also plays into financing. For example, a county that relies heavily on garbage tip fees may need to diversify its revenue streams as more wastes are recovered and garbage tonnage decreases. If the solid waste system or financing thereof is found to be insufficient to meet the coming needs, local government and its private partners must plan new strategies.

Required

Outline the construction and capital acquisitions needed in the next six years[455]. This may have been discussed in the Projected Facility Needs section of the Plan. Then apply the expected costs to run the **publicly-financed** solid waste system (and/or hazardous, depending on which

[448] https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/payments-contracts-grants/grants-loans/find-a-grant-or-loan/community-litter-cleanup-grants
[449] https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/payments-contracts-grants/grants-loans/find-a-grant-or-loan/ramp-litter-cleanup-program
[450] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/solid-waste-litter/waste-tires
[451] https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/payments-contracts-grants/grants-loans/find-a-grant-or-loan/local-solid-waste-financial-assistance
[452] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/solid-waste-litter/litter
[453] RCW 70A.205.045(5)(d)
[454] RCW 70A.205.045(2)
[455] RCW 70A.205.045(3)(c)

type of Plan you're authoring) over the six-year planning period. Specifically include anticipated expenses year by year, to fund:

- Capital costs and operational expenditures of the proposed system[456]
    - Examples include:
        - Construction of facilities
        - Significant facility upgrades
        - Purchase of land, major machinery, drop boxes, or other capital
        - Costs to fund contracts with private entities running part of the disposal system.
        - Major equipment replacement and repair
        - Ongoing maintenance
        - Education programs, including education required under CPOs
        - Staffing
        - Jurisdictional health department staffing and enforcement costs
        - Debt service
        - Building up of savings to help fund an anticipated future expense
        - Landfill post-closure monitoring and care
- Moderate risk waste costs as discussed in Funding the Program (if applicable)

Then describe the revenue streams and structures both in place and planned to fulfill the above expenditure needs. Again, show the dollar amounts year by year.

Identify creative funding structures such as:

- Programs to subsidize costs or incentivize behaviors, such as acceptance of litter collected by service groups, or variable rates for certain waste streams or container sizes
- Self-haul or curbside low-income discounts
- Disposal Districts
- Revenue Sharing Agreements
- A fee on g-certificated or contracted haulers to support planning[457]

The UTC will be particularly interested in costs that affect the ratepayers they serve, including tip fees. See tab 1-CAQ of the CAQ-DRLs Workbook[458] and the following section of these guidelines.

[456] RCW 70A.205.045(3)(d)
[457] RCW 36.58.045
[458] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx

Also project out major expenses anticipated over the twenty-year planning horizon, and how those costs will be met. This projection may be more generalized. An example table to accompany Plan text is given in Appendix J: Sample 20-year Projection Table.

A note on cities and kinds of plans:
When the county plans on behalf of the city under RCW 70A.205.040(4)(c), details on the city-level finances are not required, even if that city has solid waste staff or runs its own collection services. Do include information about how the cities financially support the overall solid waste system.

Cities planning independently should provide the full information outlined above. Joint city-county partners may fall in between, with full information from the primary Planning Authority, but a similar level of detail from the secondary partner.

Recommended
Check the Planning and Waste Reduction Resource Library[459] for helpful resources such as the Funding folder of the Examples of Plan Sections[460] area, or the Tip Fee Map[461].

When checking in with key private facility partners on capacity and needs over the six-and twenty-year planning horizons, ask them about anticipated cost or capital changes. Discuss the results of the conversations in the Plan, including any potential effects on your solid waste management strategies or funding.

[459] https://app.box.com/s/r6jdrsznwbchuo9kme3qa4gdf2uawhfk
[460] https://app.box.com/s/6i6g432kj19zeikvajzsspuedok20mxd
[461] https://app.box.com/s/z680rj2jtyaqzczlqmrms4tdbw2ns2xd

UTC Cost Assessment

The UTC must review SW Plans to assess impacts on solid waste collection rates (costs) charged by g-certificated haulers. The UTC has 45 days after receipt of the Preliminary Draft SW Plan to conduct its review and advise the county and Ecology on the probable effects of the Plan's recommendations on solid waste collection rates.

Required

If there are no g-certificated haulers in the planning area such as an Independent City Plan, the cost assessment may be skipped.

Although the UTC conducts its own review, the SW Plan itself must contain an assessment of the impact of the Plan on the cost of collection by g-certificated haulers[462]. Plan impacts include but are not limited to various pass-through rates as described in RCW 81.77.160[u].

The assessment must contain the information requested by the UTC. That information is referred to as the Cost Assessment Questionnaire and is found on the tab 1-CAQ of the CAQ-DRLs Workbook[463]. Additional information the UTC will look at in the CAQ-DRLs Workbook are the 2-Res. Curbside DRL for which items the g-certificated hauler(s) must collect, and 3-Prog Info for additional info such as discounted rates. The UTC will also browse SW Plan text, especially regarding service levels.

The UTC provides guidelines to assist with the cost assessment process[464]. At the time of this writing, the UTC Cost Assessment Guidelines[465] available on the UTC webpage regarding solid waste carriers[466] is outdated. Local government is encouraged to fill out the new CAQ-DRLs Workbook[467] to fulfill the cost assessment requirements.

---

[462] RCW 70A.205.045(8)

[u] RCW 81.77.160

[463] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx

[464] RCW 70A.205.045(8)

[465] https://www.utc.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-02/Cost%20Assessment%20Guidelines%20v4.pdf

[466] https://www.utc.wa.gov/regulated-industries/transportation/regulated-transportation-industries/solid-waste-carriers

[467] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx

Discounted Rates

In 2010, RCW 81.77.195[468] was added. It allows a county to request a g-certificated solid waste company provide discounted rates, charges or services to low-income customers, as adopted in the local Plan. This relates to curb/roadside collection. Cities that do not default to the g-certificated hauler are not affected.

Required

If you do not wish to pursue discounted rates in the county, you may simply not discuss them.

If you do wish to pursue discounted rates, Plan text must clearly state:

1. An intention to implement discounted rates
2. The targeted month and year for implementation
3. Which collected stream(s) are targeted for discounted rates (garbage, recycle, or organics).

Additionally, the UTC requires the above basic information when the county provides an assessment of the Plan's impact on the costs of solid waste collection [469]. This assessment is normally provided via the Cost Assessment Questionnaire in the CAQ-DRLs Workbook[470] (see the bottom of tab 1, CAQ and also fill out the discounted rate info at the right-hand side of tab 3, Prog Info.)

If such information is not currently in a Plan, and a county wishes Ecology to consider it adopted within the Plan, the county would need to add this Plan text via an amendment or revision. No further details beyond the three bullet points above are required in the Plan, though additional details are of course welcome. Counties may work with their g-certificated hauler(s) and the UTC to work out the details.

Recommended

If the county has a percentage discount in mind (by waste stream), state it in the Plan. While the final number may differ, this informs the UTC as a starting point.

[468] https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=81.77.195
[469] RCW 70A.205.045(8)
[470] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/swm/planning/Current_CAQ-DRLs_Workbook.xlsx

Financial Assistance (LSWFA)

Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance (LSWFA) is Ecology's grant program for supporting local Plan maintenance and Plan implementation. It also supports jurisdictional health departments (JHDs) to enforce solid waste rules and regulations.

Planning intersects with LSWFA in a few ways, including the following:

- Programs must be identified in a SW or HW Plan to qualify for LSWFA. (Note: Not all programs in a Plan are eligible for LSWFA funding.)
- LSWFA may support the maintenance of SW or HW Plans and the implementation of eligible projects identified in them.
- LSWFA may support work to develop and enforce ordinances through the jurisdictional health department.
- A SW Plan that is no longer in current condition[471] may result in prioritization of LSWFA funds to update the SW Plan.
- The planning area may affect the amount of LSWFA funds allocated, as population is part of the calculation.
- Sharing funds among planning partners is possible.
- Cities with an Ecology-approved Independent City SW Plan and that meet all required criteria may receive LSWFA funds in proportion to their city population.
- Cities choosing to author an Independent City SW Plan may qualify for funds under strict conditions. See Appendix G: Independent Cities.

Consult these resources for the most current and detailed information on LSWFA: your Ecology planner (who is likely also your LSWFA grant manager), the LSWFA webpage[472] and LSWFA Guidelines therein, or Chapter 173-312[473] WAC. Go here to explore additional Ecology grants and loans[474].

[471] RCW 70A.205.075(1)

[472] https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/payments-contracts-grants/grants-loans/find-a-grant-or-loan/local-solid-waste-financial-assistance

[473] https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-312

[474] https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/payments-contracts-grants/grants-loans/find-a-grant-or-loan

Maintaining the Plan

The Planning Authority and SWAC should regularly (recommended annually) revisit the Plan to ensure the current status of the system aligns with its expected direction. At times, unplanned changes to the system will need to be incorporated into the Plan before the next scheduled revision. Although a full Plan revision could be completed before the end of the six-year planning period, an amendment is usually the simpler option. See Amending a Plan.

SW and Combined Plans must be maintained in current condition[475]. See current condition. Stand-alone HW Plans are not required to be maintained but may be amended from time to time[476]. Advantages of keeping a HW Plan up to date are discussed in the HW Plan section.

[475] RCW 70A.205.075(1)
[476] RCW 70A.300.350(6)

Appendix A: Glossary

Anaerobic Digestion (AD) - The process of using bacteria to break down organic wastes in a low oxygen environment, resulting in a biogas rich in methane as well as liquid and solid residues.

Amendment - An amendment is a formal process to make changes or updates to the solid waste or hazardous waste (or combined solid waste and hazardous waste) plan, and differs from a revision in that it does not update the entire plan and has a simpler process.

"Approved" Plan - An Ecology approved plan is a solid or hazardous waste management plan (or combined plan) that has been approved by Ecology. A plan retains its "approved" status until a new plan replaces it either by revision or amendment.

Biochar - A charcoal-like substance produced by the thermal conversion (pyrolysis) of organic matter (including woody debris, agricultural by-products, and manure/bedding) in an oxygen-starved chamber. Biochar serves many purposes including sequestering carbon, improving soil quality and moisture retention, and effectively treating water through filtration.

Collection District - An area established by a county legislative authority wherein solid waste collection becomes mandatory. See Chapter 36.58A RCW.

Combined Plan - A Solid Waste Management Plan and Hazardous Waste Management Plan combined into one document.

Commercial Solid Waste - All types of solid waste generated by stores, offices, restaurants, warehouses and other non-manufacturing activities, excluding residential and industrial wastes.

Commingled Recycling - Mixing recyclable materials for the purposes of efficient collection. Commingled recycling collection systems usually involve a wheeled cart with a lid that ranges from 32–96 gallons in capacity. Single-stream recycling is one type of a commingled collection system in which all recyclable materials go in one container at the curb.

Composting - The biological degradation and transformation of organic solid waste under controlled conditions designed to promote aerobic decomposition. Natural decay of organic solid waste under uncontrolled conditions is not composting.

Construction and Demolition Waste - The waste material that results from construction and demolition, largely comprised of inert and organic material. Consists of, but is not limited to the following materials: wood waste, concrete, asphalt, gypsum wallboard, glass, and scrap metal.

Consumption - The use of a resource, product, or material. In the life cycle of a product, consumption typically refers to the stage where something is acquired and used, following the production stage and prior to end of life.

Plan in "Current Condition" - To be considered in "current condition", time must not have elapsed beyond December 31 of the last year of the Plan's six-year planning period, and the Plan must not be out of compliance with an Ecology petition to amend the Plan due to necessary content changes.

Dangerous Waste - Washington state law uses the term dangerous waste while federal law uses the term hazardous waste. Washington's definition of dangerous waste includes some wastes that are not included in the federal definition (for example, solid corrosive dangerous waste or listed PCB waste).

Dangerous Waste Regulations - These regulate dangerous waste in Washington state under WAC 173 - 303. They are based on the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The Department of Ecology implements and enforces these regulations.

Designated Recyclables List(s) (DRL) - List(s) within a local comprehensive solid waste plan that identify materials as recyclable. The list(s) may reflect collection methods needed for various materials. It may list materials to be collected by the UTC-regulated haulers collecting residential recycling in tariffed areas of the jurisdiction.

Discard - For the purposes of these guidelines, a discard is an item that has been discarded as waste by a generator, regardless of whether the material goes to recycling or disposal.

Disposal District - An independent "taxing district" which may be formed by the county legislative authority for disposal of solid waste. Disposal districts only include unincorporated areas of the county in which they are formed, unless a city passes a resolution to be included into the district. Disposal districts may only be formed in counties with a population of less than 1 million. For more information on disposal districts, see RCW 36.58.100-150.

Diversion - Waste diverted from landfills, which includes materials reused and burned for energy in addition to those that are recycled.

Drop Box Facility - A facility used for the placement of a detachable container including the area adjacent for necessary entrance and exit roads, unloading and turn-around areas. Drop box facilities receive waste from off-site, require waste placement directly into a container and not a tip floor, and serve the general public.

E-Cycle Washington - Washington's extended producer responsibility program for computers, monitors, laptops, tablet computers, televisions, portable DVD players, and e-readers.

Electronic Waste (E-Waste) - Waste products produced as a result of spent, unusable or unwanted electronics. Examples of these products include computer monitors, televisions, and

desktop or laptop computers.

End-of-Life - The point at which a product or material is no longer useful to the person possessing it and is discarded for disposal or recycling.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - A detailed statement of the environmental impacts that are a result of the project in question. The EIS is a result of the SEPA review process yielding a determination of significance. For more information on the SEPA review process. See Chapter 197-11 WAC.

Environmental Justice (EJ) - The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, rules, and policies. Environmental justice includes addressing disproportionate environmental and health impacts in all laws, rules, and policies with environmental impacts by prioritizing vulnerable populations and overburdened communities, the equitable distribution of resources and benefits, and eliminating harm.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - The federal agency that leads the nation's environmental science, research, education, and assessment efforts. Created in 1970, EPA's mission is to protect human health and the environment.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) - Also known as green or sustainable purchasing, this is the procurement of products or services that have lesser or reduced negative effect or increased positive to human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose. The comparison may consider raw materials acquisition, production, manufacturing, packaging, distribution, durability, operation, maintenance, or disposal. This term includes low or non-toxic, durable, reusable, recyclable, and recycled (including compost) products or services, as well as those that conserve energy or natural resources.

Equity - Equity has a focus on eliminating barriers that have prevented the full participation of historically and currently oppressed groups. Equity is distinct from equality.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) - Also used interchangeably with the term Product Stewardship. EPR is a mandatory type of product stewardship that includes, at a minimum, the requirement that the manufacturer's responsibility for its product extends to post-consumer management of that product and its packaging

Ex-Officio - In the context of the SWAC, a member that is part of the committee by virtue of their position or status. The ex-officio status is most commonly defined as a non-voting member. This position is usually designated to jurisdictional health department representatives, county

solid waste department representatives and Ecology planners.

Feedstock - Materials needed to produce a product in a manufacturing or other process, including recycling, composting, and other waste-processing activities. Feedstocks can be virgin raw (new) materials or secondary (recovered or recycled) materials from the same or another process.

Final Draft Solid Waste Plan (Final Draft Plan) - A Plan becomes a final draft once comments from the preliminary draft plan are addressed and the Plan is adopted by the county and participating municipalities. The final draft is the Plan submitted to Ecology for final approval. Once Ecology approves the plan or 45 days elapse from the time it was submitted to Ecology for final approval, the final draft plan becomes the final SW Plan. The same process applies to Combined Plan.

Flow Control - A requirement that waste generated in the Planning Authority be disposed only at sites within the Planning Authority. This helps ensure that materials are properly handled and disposed of within the disposal system.

Food Waste - Organic waste derived from food products. Full definition is in RCW 70A.205.715(5)(a).

G-Certificate - A certificate of public convenience and necessity issued by the Utilities and Transportation Commission under the provisions of Chapter 81.77 RCW for the operation of solid waste collection. This certificate defines the territory and level of service required for solid waste collection in unincorporated areas of Washington State.

Growth Management Act (GMA) - Common reference to Chapter 36.70A RCW. The GMA requires state and local governments to manage Washington's growth by identifying and protecting critical areas and natural resource lands, designating urban growth areas, preparing comprehensive plans and implementing them through capital investments and development regulations.

Hazardous Substance - Hazardous waste and materials, including toxic chemicals.

Hazardous Waste - A waste with any of the following properties that make it dangerous or potentially harmful to human health or the environment: ignitable, corrosive, reactive, or toxic. Hazardous waste takes many physical forms and may be solid, semi-solid, liquid, or even contained gases. Washington state uses the term dangerous waste to include some wastes that are not in the federal definition of hazardous waste (for example, solid corrosive dangerous waste or listed PCB waste).

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) - Household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable, or reactive ingredients. This includes any waste that exhibits the properties of dangerous waste, but is exempt from the Washington State Dangerous Waste Regulations because it is generated by households.

Industrial Solid Waste - Solid waste generated from manufacturing operations, food processing or other industrial processes.

Interlocal Agreement (ILA) - An interlocal agreement is a formal agreement between any two or more public agencies to work cooperatively. In the world of solid waste planning, this usually refers to an agreement where the county and participating cities enter into an interlocal agreement to plan jointly (required for joint plans) or to designate the county as the solid waste Planning Authority (recommended and traditional). For more information, see RCW 70A.205.040 and RCW 39.34.030.

Jurisdictional Health Department (JHD) - City, county, city-county or district public health department. In most cases, the JHD is the responsible agency for the enforcement of solid waste regulations.

Landfill - A disposal facility or part of a facility at which solid waste is permanently placed in or on land including facilities that use solid waste as a component of fill.

Large Quantity Generator (LQG) - A site that generates 2,200 pounds or more (or more than 2.2 pounds of certain types of wastes) of dangerous waste per month.

Life Cycle Assessment (or Analysis) (LCA) - A systematic process to assess the environmental aspects and potential environmental impacts associated with products, processes, or services, through production, usage, and disposal.

Local Hazardous Waste Management Plan (HW Plan) - Pursuant to RCW 70A.300.350, each local government is required to implement a Local Hazardous Waste Management Plan that meets the requirements listed in the law. While the focus of these Plans is largely moderate risk waste, these guidelines usually refer to them as Hazardous Waste Plans due to the naming in the RCW, or HW Plans in shorthand.

Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance (LSWFA) - Ecology grants that help local governments develop and implement their hazardous and solid waste management plans and provide solid waste enforcement. These grants are awarded once each biennium. Previously known as Coordinated Prevention Grants (CPG).

Long-haul System - A system composed of one or more intermediate solid waste handling facilities where MSW is collected, consolidated and then transported by means of truck, train or barge to a permanent disposal site outside the system coverage area.

Material Recovery Facility (MRF) - A facility that collects, compacts, repackages, sorts, or processes for transport recyclable materials collected from curbside and other programs, for marketing to secondary processors, recyclers, or end-users.

Medium Quantity Generator (MQG) - A site that generates between 220 pounds and 2,200 pounds of dangerous waste per month.

Miscellaneous Waste - Miscellaneous Waste are those wastes that require special handling different from traditional waste. Ecology has been requesting all newly updated Plans make the change from “Special Waste” to “Miscellaneous Waste”. See WAC 173-303-040 for definition of "Special Waste."

Moderate Risk Waste (MRW) - The combined hazardous waste stream made up of small quantity generator (SQG) waste and household hazardous waste (HHW). This term is unique to Washington state.

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) - A subset of solid waste that includes unsegregated garbage, refuse and similar solid waste material discarded from residential, commercial, institutional and industrial sources and community activities, including residue after recyclables have been separated. Solid waste that has been segregated by source and characteristic may qualify for management as a non-MSW solid waste at a facility designed and operated to address the waste's characteristics and potential environmental impacts. The term MSW does not include: Dangerous wastes other than wastes excluded from the requirements of Chapter 173-303 WAC, Dangerous waste regulations, in WAC 173-303-071 such as household hazardous wastes; Any solid waste, including contaminated soil and debris, resulting from response action taken under Section 104 or 106 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601), Chapter 70.105D RCW, Hazardous waste cleanup - - Model Toxics Control Act, Chapter 173-340 WAC, the Model Toxics Control Act cleanup regulation or a remedial action taken under those rules; nor Mixed or segregated recyclable material that has been source-separated from garbage, refuse and similar solid waste. The residual from source-separated recyclables is MSW.

Organics (Organic Materials) - Any solid waste that is a biological substance of plant or animal origin capable of microbial degradation. Organic materials include, but are not limited to, manure, yard debris, food waste, food processing wastes, wood waste, and garden wastes.

Overburdened - Used to describe communities and populations that experience disproportionate environmental harms and risks due to exposures, greater vulnerability to environmental hazards, or cumulative impacts from multiple stressors.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) - Widely used, long-lasting chemicals of which there are thousands of varieties found in many different consumer, commercial, and industrial products. Scientific studies have identified probable links between PFAS and negative health effects, with the full impact not yet completely understood.

Planning Area - The geographical boundaries in which a Solid Waste, Hazardous Waste, or Combined Plan will be implemented.

Planning Authority - In solid waste planning, the Planning Authority is generally the county solid waste authority or other county government program responsible for the management of solid waste. The Planning Authority has the primary responsibility for maintaining the SW Plan and the general day-to-day operations of the solid waste system. In the case of Joint City-County SW Plans, a city may share the Planning Authority responsibilities according to an interlocal agreement. In the case of an Independent City SW Plan, the city takes the role of Planning Authority for itself.

Planning Period - The six-year planning period is the six years for which a Solid Waste or Combined Plan primarily plans. Elements such as the six-year construction and capital acquisition program, the years discussed in the UTC Cost Assessment, and implementation plans should align to these six years. This is also the timeframe during which the Plan is in current condition in terms of time, and is the timeframe that should be noted as part of the Plan's title. Plan discussion beyond the six years is allowed, and even required for the 20-year projected solid waste handling needs.

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) - PCBs are a group of 209 manmade compounds. Historically, PCBs were mostly used in electrical equipment, but there were other uses of PCBs such as plasticizers, wax and pesticide extenders, and lubricants. PCBs build up in the environment and are known to cause cancer in animals. Although federal law has banned the manufacture of PCBs since 1977 and restricted some uses of PCBs, there is still inadvertent production of PCBs during manufacturing or, in certain cases, they may be intentionally added below regulated levels.

Preliminary Draft Solid Waste Plan (Preliminary Draft Plan) - The draft Solid Waste Plan initially submitted to Ecology for the 120-day review prior to local adoption. This draft should be put through review by the public. Ecology shares it with the UTC and Department of Agriculture for review. Feedback on this draft should be incorporated into the subsequent draft, called the Final origin capable of microbial degradation. Organic materials include, but are not limited to, manure, yard debris, food waste, food processing wastes, wood waste, and garden wastes.

Product Stewardship - A system where those who produce, sell, use, or dispose of a product assume responsibility for the product's environmental, health, social, and economic costs throughout the product's life cycle. The producer has the greatest ability to minimize adverse impacts, but other stakeholders share responsibility. Product stewardship can be either voluntary or required by law. Extended producer responsibility is a form of mandatory product stewardship.

Recovery - Material that is diverted from the solid waste stream for the intended purpose of recycling, composting, burning source-separated materials for energy, anaerobic digestion, land application, and other beneficial uses.

Recyclable Material - Solid wastes that are separated for recycling or reuse, including, but not limited to papers, metals and glass that are identified as recyclable material pursuant to a local comprehensive solid waste plan**.**

Recycling - Transforming or remanufacturing waste materials into usable or marketable materials for use other than landfill disposal or incineration. Recycling includes processing waste materials to produce tangible commodities.

Resolution of Adoption - In solid waste planning, a resolution passed by the local executive or legislative authority to adopt the local Solid Waste, Combined, or Hazardous Waste Management Plan.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) - The federal law passed in 1976 that set standards for managing hazardous wastes and encouraging recycling over disposal. RCRA also includes the federal standards for solid waste landfills.

Reuse - The use of a product or component of municipal solid waste in its original form more than once.

Revised Codes of Washington (RCW) - A compilation of all Washington State laws now in force, created and modified through bills passed by the Legislature.

Revision - A plan revision is a plan update that reviews and updates all parts of the plan. For solid waste management plans and combined solid and hazardous waste management plans, the requirement is to complete a plan revision every 6 years, preferably starting in year 5 of the current plan. For standalone local hazardous waste management plans, a revision is not required.

Sham Recycling - The collection of materials under false or illegal claims for the perceived purpose of recycling where the materials are instead disposed or indefinitely stockpiled rather than legitimately recycled.

Single-Stream Recycling - A type of a commingled recycling system in which all recyclable materials go in one container at the curb for the purposes of efficient collection. Recyclable materials are typically collected in a wheeled cart with a lid that ranges from 32–90 gallons in capacity.

Small Quantity Generator (SQG) - A business, organization, industrial facility, or other type of establishment that creates 220 pounds or less of dangerous waste per month. The term very small quantity generator (VSQG) can also be used. Dangerous waste generated by an SQG is exempt from the dangerous waste regulations if certain conditions are met.

Solid Waste (SW) - As written in statute, solid waste means "all putrescible and nonputrescible solid and semisolid wastes including, but not limited to, garbage, rubbish, ashes, industrial wastes, swill, sewage sludge, demolition and construction wastes, abandoned vehicles or parts thereof, and recyclable materials."

Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) - An advisory committee established by county government to review and comment upon proposed rules, policies, ordinances prior to their adoption, including SW Plans.

Solid Waste Management (SWM) - The Solid Waste Management program of the Washington State Department of Ecology. Formerly known as the Waste 2 Resources Program and the Solid Waste & Financial Assistance Program.

Solid Waste Management Plan (SW Plan) - A plan that outlines the operations, finances and future needs of a solid waste system. RCW 70A.205.040 requires that all counties and cities must have an Ecology-approved comprehensive solid waste management plan. In these guidelines, that term is shortened to solid waste management plan or SW Plan.

Source Separation - The separation of different kinds of solid waste at the place where the waste originates.

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) - A way to identify possible environmental impacts that may result from governmental decisions. These decisions may be related to issuing permits for private projects, constructing public facilities, or adopting regulations, policies or plans. For more information on SEPA, visit the Ecology SEPA webpage.

Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) - The use and reuse of materials in the most productive and sustainable way across their entire life cycle. SMM conserves resources, reduces waste, reduces toxic chemicals, slows climate change, minimizes the environmental impacts of the materials we use throughout the material life cycle, and assures we have sufficient resources to meet today's needs and those of the future.

Sustainability - Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Traditional Recyclables - For the purposes of these guidelines and the State Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plan, these are the materials typically seen in residential and drop box recycling collection programs such as printing paper, paper packaging, cardboard, metal cans, plastic bottles and jugs, and possibly glass bottles and jars.

Transfer Station - A permanent, fixed, supplemental collection and transportation facility used by persons and route collection vehicles to deposit collected solid waste from offsite into a larger transfer vehicle for transport to a solid waste handling facility.

Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility (TSD) - A facility that has authorization from Ecology to conduct dangerous waste management treatment, storage, or disposal activities.

Underserved - Communities or areas that receive limited solid or hazardous waste services. This often includes rural areas, multifamily housing, small businesses, public spaces, as well as communities of color, low-income populations, and places with other environmental justice considerations.

Update - A plan update is a broad term that includes two different strategies for updating your solid waste management or hazardous waste plan. An update can be an amendment which should be defined within your plan, or a full plan revision.

Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) - Previously known as the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, this state agency serves to protect the people of Washington by ensuring that investor-owned utility and transportation services are safe, equitable, available, reliable, and fairly priced. Regulates SW hauling under Chapter 81.77 RCW and Chapter 81.80 RCW.

Washington Administrative Code (WAC) - The compilation of rules (regulations) established by state agencies per authority from statute (legislation). Like legislation and the Constitution, regulations are a source of primary law in Washington State.

Waste Characterization - The composition and ratio of materials in the total waste stream. Also sometimes referred to as a "waste audit."

Waste Prevention - To reduce the amount of solid waste generated or resources used, without increasing toxicity, in the design, manufacture, purchase, or use of products or packaging. "Pure" waste prevention does not include recycling or composting. Often used similarly to source reduction and waste reduction.

Waste Reduction - Reducing the amount or toxicity of waste generated or reusing materials. Often used similarly to source reduction and waste prevention.

Wood Waste - Wood pieces or particles determined to be solid waste per WAC 173-350-021 generated from construction, demolition, handling and storage of raw materials, trees, stumps, and manufacturing of wood products. This may include, but is not limited to, sawdust, chips, shavings, bark, pulp, and log sort yard waste, but does not include wood pieces or particles containing paint, laminates, bonding agents, or chemical preservatives such as creosote, pentachlorophenol, or copper-chrome-arsenate.

XQG - An XQG/no-waste generator is a site that does not currently generate any dangerous waste, but if it did could be an SQG, MQG, or LQG. Businesses that transport or transfer waste may also be an XQG.

Yard Waste/Debris - Plant material commonly created in the course of maintaining yards and gardens and through horticulture, gardening, landscaping or similar activities. Yard debris includes, but is not limited to, grass clippings, leaves, branches, brush, weeds, flowers, roots, windfall fruit, and vegetable garden debris.

Appendix B – Legislative Changes 2010-2025

2010; RCW 70A.205.040: More waste methods to consider

E2SHB 2539 added a number of requirements for updating local Solid Waste Plans after June 2010. Local Plans must now consider and plan for the following handling methods or services:

- Source separation of recyclable materials and products, organic materials, and wastes by generators
- Collection of source-separated materials
- Handling and proper preparation of materials for reuse or recycling
- Handling and proper preparation of organic materials for composting or anaerobic digestion
- Handling and proper disposal of nonrecyclable wastes

In addition, methods to address the following must also be considered when updating your Plan:

- Construction and demolition waste for reuse or recycling
- Organic material including yard debris, food waste, and food contaminated paper products for composting or anaerobic digestion
- Recoverable paper products for recycling
- Metals, glass, and plastics for recycling
- Waste reduction strategies

See the updates for this RCW under the year 2024, pertaining to the Organics Management Laws.

2010; RCW 81.77.185: Revenue sharing increase for haulers

E2SHB 2539 also updated Chapter 81.77 RCW Solid Waste Collection Companies with two changes. RCW 81.77.185[48] was amended to change the allowed revenue-sharing percentage for recycling collection from 30% to 50%. Revenue-sharing agreements are made in partnership between regulated solid waste collection companies and counties, and must be in accordance with local Solid Waste Plans. The retained funds must be used to increase recycling. (See the Hauler Educational Partnerships section of these guidelines for more information.)

2010; RCW 81.77.195: Discounted rates

Section RCW 81.77.195 was added and allows the county to request a regulated solid waste company provide discounted rates, charges or services to low-income seniors and other customers, as adopted in the local Plan.

2010; Chapter 70A.505 RCW: Mercury-containing lights product stewardship

See the updates for this law under the year 2024.

2011; RCW 70A.205.195: Illegal dumping

Substitute Senate Bill 5350 altered how jurisdictional health departments use any litter restitution payments they receive through prosecution of illegal dumping under this statute. They are now required to use one-half the restitution payment to assist property owners with clean-up when the responsible person for illegal dumping cannot be determined.

2011; Chapter 70A.445 RCW: Recreational Water Vessels- Antifouling Paint

This legislation aims to protect aquatic organisms such as salmon from toxic paints and encourage safer alternatives. It has undergone some amendments. Paint containing irgarol (also known as cybutryne) became prohibited in 2023. Paint containing copper would have been prohibited starting in 2026 if Ecology's 2024 determination had been that safer and effective alternatives are feasible, reasonable, and readily available. More information may be found on Ecology's antifouling boat paint laws webpage.

2014; Chapters 70A.224 and 43.21A RCW: Used oil and PCB BMPs

In response to several incidents regarding polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination of used oil, Engrossed Senate Bill 6501 directed Ecology to develop these best management practices (BMPs) to prevent further contamination, and to incorporate the BMPs into hazardous waste planning guidelines. It further directed Ecology to develop a process to petition the legislature, on behalf of impacted local governments, for relief of extraordinary costs incurred with the management and disposal of PCB-contaminated used oil. The bill also requires local governments to address the BMPs when updating local hazardous waste plans.

2017; 70A.510 RCW: Photovoltaic module product stewardship program

In 2017, Senate Bill 5939 passed, and one portion of the bill created what is now Chapter 70A.510 RCW (Photovoltaic Module Stewardship and Takeback Program). This requires manufacturers of solar panels, also known as photovoltaic or "PV" modules, to provide the public with a convenient and environmentally sound way to recycle all modules purchased after July 1, 2017.

[477] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2507010.html

2016; RCW 70A.205.110: Agricultural participation on SWAC

Originally sparked by apple maggot concerns and the intent to restrict the spread of disease, pathogens, and pests, this change affects planning in two ways. First, all Solid Waste Advisory Committees (SWACs) must now have agricultural representation, which is encouraged to be a representative of a conservation district, a representative of Washington State or Federal Department of Agriculture, a representative of Washington State Extension, an agriculturalist, or an aquaculturalist. Second, upon receipt of your Preliminary Draft Plan, Ecology is now required to provide a copy to the Department of Agriculture, which will review it for compliance with Chapter 17.24 RCW within 45 days of receipt.

2018; Chapter 69.48 RCW: Safe Medication Return Program

Safe Medication Return is a unified, statewide program that gives Washington residents free, convenient, and environmentally responsible options to dispose of unwanted medication/pharmaceuticals. Drug manufacturers fund the program at no cost to taxpayers. The State Department of Health oversees the establishment of the program, monitors on-going operations, manages enforcement when compliance issues arise, and evaluates program effectiveness. Local Moderate Risk Waste Facilities may participate in the program. More information may be found at medtakebackwashington.org.

2019; RCW 70A.205.070, 70A.205.045: Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plan

Long-discussed contamination in recyclables jarred much of the state and country when China stopped accepting it. House Bill 1543 was passed in response, and directed Ecology to create a Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plan (CROP), with local CROPs for high population areas to be authored by July 1, 2021 and implemented shortly thereafter. Funding methods were also included in the legislation.

2019; RCW 70A.305.180: Model Toxics Control Act adjustments

In 2019, the legislature made changes to update the model toxics control program and its primary funding mechanism. A goal was more stability for programs such as LSWFA. Part of the act repealed RCW 70.105D.070 Toxics Control Accounts, which traditionally funded LSWFA. Another part created the Model Toxics Control Operating Account, and deemed it the funding source for LSWFA. Changes may be seen in ESSB 5993.

2019; Chapter 70A.455 RCW: Plastic product degradability

Bioplastics have a tendency to not live up to their claims of biodegradability, or, separately,

compostability. House Bill 1569 attempted to mitigate this by mandating that any green and brown tinted film packaging/bags sold in the state meet certain compostability standards, and laying out certification and labeling needs for other plastic products marketed as being compostable. Enforcement may be done at the city, county, and/or state level. See the updates for this law under the year 2024.

2019; Chapter 70A.520 RCW: Plastic packaging study

This law directed Ecology to evaluate and assess the amount and types of plastic packaging sold into Washington, as well as their management and disposal. The evaluation, assessment, and recommendations report was complete by the end of 2020. More info: Plastics Study webpage.

2019; Chapter 70A.240 RCW: Recycling Development Center

The Recycling Market Development Center (RMDC) is an Ecology program in partnership with the Department of Commerce. The RMDC was formed to provide or facilitate marketing, policy analysis, and research and development to strengthen recycling markets and processing in Washington. Commerce provides business, marketing, and technical assistance to support the public and private sectors. The RMDC works with an advisory board representing public agencies, private industry, universities, and nonprofits. The RMDC's goal is to improve domestic recycling markets.

2019; RCW 70A.205.715: Use Food Well Washington

This law sets a 2030 goal to reduce food waste by 50%. The Use Food Well Washington Plan is a multi-stakeholder Plan that lists recommendations on how to prevent the wasting of food, how to rescue a greater amount of edible food for delivery to hunger relief organizations, and how to divert more true food waste to beneficial end uses – such as energy and soil amendment production.

2019; Chapter 70A.515 RCW: Architectural Paint Stewardship Program

This law requires all producers of architectural paint, selling in or into Washington, to participate in an approved paint stewardship plan through membership in and funding of a stewardship organization. The program became operational in spring of 2021.

2020; Chapter 70A.530 RCW: Carryout bag ban

This statewide ban on single-use plastic bags is an effort to reduce plastic pollution, litter, and waste. It became effective October 1, 2021. It requires an eight-cent (and rising) fee on paper and plastic carryout bags provided to a customer of entities like retailers, grocers, and restaurants. It also puts in place recycled content and thickness specifications, the latter meant to increase reusability of the bags.

2020; RCW 70A.525: Disposable wipes labeling standards

While not intended to address flushability, this RCW took strides to protect the environment with "do not flush" labeling for many wipes.

2021; RCW 70A.200.190(3): Ramp Litter Cleanup Program

SB 5040 aimed to enhance litter control along state highways and created the Ramp Litter Cleanup Program (RLCP) as part of that effort.

2021; Chapter 70A.530 RCW edits: Paper carryout bags-Nonwood Renewable Fiber

Edits made by Substitute House Bill 1145 allow plant-based fiber derived from North American wheat straw to be part of the recycled content portion of paper bags compliant with the 2019 carryout bag law.

2021; ESSSB 5022: Plastics laws

Ecology's webpage on the 2021 plastics laws contains further details on the following:

- RCW 70A.220.020: Removal of chasing arrows logo requirement on plastics
  The law removes the requirement to have the chasing arrows logo on plastic containers. The plastics industry had lobbied for this requirement in many states long ago, regardless of recyclability. The resin number and letters continue to be required.

- RCW 70A.245.020: Postconsumer recycled content
  2023-2028: Requires minimum recycled content in several types of single-use plastics, starting with trash bags and beverage bottles. In 2025, a minimum amount of recycled content will be required in plastic bottles used for household cleaners and personal care products. These requirements will be extended to plastic milk bottles and small plastic wine bottles in 2028.

- RCW 70A.245.070: Expanded polystyrene prohibitions
  2023-2024: Prohibits the sale of expanded polystyrene products for certain applications, phased in over the next few years. Targeted items include coolers, food containers, trays, plates, clam shells, and beverage cups, as well as void filling packaging.

- RCW 70A.245.080: Optional serviceware
  Effective January 1, 2022, food businesses may not automatically provide "single-use" utensils, straws, condiment packets, or beverage cup lids in most situations.

- Other requirements of the law include a stakeholder committee that worked to make recycled content recommendations for plastic items not covered by the 2021 plastic law. Further, starting in 2024, State agencies may only buy plastic trash bags that meet the post-consumer recycled content requirements (in Chapter 39.26 RCW). Finally, in 2028, the state will conduct a study of plastic resin market conditions, if funding is available (RCW 70A.245.120).

2022; Chapter 70A.540 RCW: Landfill methane emissions

This law requires monitoring, reporting, and collection/control of methane from all municipal solid waste landfills receiving waste after January 1, 1992 (with some exceptions). It is modeled after a law in California and intends to reduce emissions of this potent greenhouse gas. Rules developed under this law are in Chapter 173-408 WAC, Landfill Methane Emissions.

2022; ES2HB 1799 is now known as the Organics Management Laws 1.0

See the updates for this law under the year 2024.

2022; RCW 43.19A.140: Use of biochar in public works projects

Requires state and local governments to consider the use of biochar when planning public works projects. If biochar may be used, the government must use it, with some exceptions. SSB5961 also outlines a pilot project by the Department of Natural Resources.

2023; RCW 70A.205.720: Stakeholder group, report developing standards for the management of compostable products

Requires a third-party facilitator convene a diverse stakeholder group and submit a report to the legislature by September 15, 2024. They are to make recommendations on the development of standards for the management of compostable products, especially food service products, by composting and other organic materials management facilities. The law notes that at present, organic materials management facilities in Washington vary in the types of feedstocks that are accepted, and contamination is a hinderance.

2023; SHB 1085: Reducing plastic pollution

This law seeks to reduce unnecessary plastic waste and sources of plastic pollution to the environment. It does so in the following ways:

- RCW 19.27.590: Drinking fountain/bottle filling stations
  Any construction that requires a drinking fountain must now include a water bottle refill station (either separately or as a combo unit).

- RCW 70A.245.130: Foam docks prohibition
  Beginning January 1, 2024, overwater structures containing plastic foam that are not fully enclosed in a certain way are prohibited to be installed or sold. The law also requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to study docks.

- RCW 70A.245.140: Single-use plastic packaging restrictions at lodging establishments
  Restricts lodging establishments from automatically providing single-use health or beauty products in plastic packaging.

2023; Chapter 70A.555 RCW: Battery product stewardship

Requires battery producers to create a statewide collection system for portable used batteries by January 1, 2027. Portable batteries are those found in things such as your phone, laptop, flashlight, and some power tools. Other battery types will be phased in at later dates. A study on electric vehicle batteries is also required.

2024; ES2HB 2301 built upon ES2HB 1799 that passed in 2022. The bills affect numerous RCWs and are now known sequentially as the Organics Management Laws 1.0 and 2.0. (See also 2025 legislation for "OML 3.0".)

These broad laws support the Washington Legislature's 2021 Climate Commitment Act by helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Specifically, these laws require state and local governments, businesses, and other organizations to reduce the amount of organic materials disposed in landfills and increase the demand for processed organic materials like compost. This legislation creates opportunities for food waste prevention and edible food waste recovery. Much inspiration came from California's SB 1383. See the 2024 Organics Management Laws focus sheet[478] for a summary of changes from OML 1.0 to OML 2.0. The Ecology Organics Management Law webpage and the Organics Management Resources folder on Box contain more information, including this handy Workbook of Local Government Requirements.

Key aspects of the 2022 and 2024 laws include:

- Setting vigorous new goals:
  - By 2025, 20% of previously disposed edible food must be recovered for human consumption, relative to 2015 levels.
  - By 2030, 75% of previously disposed organic materials must be diverted from landfills, relative to 2015 levels.

[478] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2407025.html

- RCW 70A.205.545: Business Organics Management Areas (BOMAs)
  Businesses in areas meeting certain criteria must arrange for non-landfill management methods for their organics discards. The first tier that must comply are businesses generating at least eight cubic yards of organics weekly starting January 1, 2024, then businesses generating at least four cubic yards of organics weekly starting January 1, 2025, and then businesses generating 96 gallons weekly of any organics starting January 1, 2026. A local government may request an exclusion from the BOMA.

- RCW 43.19A.150: Compost procurement ordinances
  Certain local governments must pass an ordinance to support or encourage the purchase and use of compost by government and residents. Reporting of organics generated and finished compost used is another component, with the first report due March 31, 2025.

- RCW 70A.205.540: Organics Recovery Collection Areas (ORCAs)
  In areas meeting criteria based mostly on population and waste generation, collection requirements phase in over 2027 and 2030. While these areas are different from BOMAs, Ecology will also annually publish an ORCA map[479] to help local jurisdictions understand where the requirements apply.

  April 1, 2027: Services Offered
  Requires source-separated organics collection to be available in ORCAs for:
  - All residential customers except multifamily residences
  - Nonresidential customers that generate more than 0.25 cubic yards of organic waste per week

  Frequency of service needs to be at least 26 weeks per year, unless a frequency waiver is granted. Information on the frequency waiver or a service waiver is available on Ecology's ORCA webpage[480].

  April 1, 2030: Non-Elective Collection Service, and Food Must Be Included
  Requires all potential customers outlined above to receive and use the organics and food waste collection service. Allows for a jurisdiction to grant exemptions to customers proving their own organics management in line with the law.

[479] https://gis.ecology.wa.gov/portal/apps/instant/basic/index.html?appid=ad4be8d8358c4e89bd4f3c8f3b8fb1 35

[480] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/organics-and-food-waste/2022-organics-management-law/organics-management-for-local-governments

- RCW 70A.205.040: Organic materials management facility siting and volumetric need in SW Plans developed, updated, or amended after July 1, 2024:
    - Must consider transition to collection requirements in RCW 70A.205.540 (see previous bullet)
    - Must identify priority areas for siting new organics management facilities and the volumetric capacity needed to meet the 75% landfill diversion goal.

  Part 6 of ES2HB 1799 (codified in various areas of Titles 35, 35A, and 36 RCW) requires *comprehensive* plans (not Solid Waste Management Plans) developed, updated, or amended after January 1, 2025 of both counties and cities allow for the siting of organics management facilities as identified in the SW Plans, to the extent needed to meet volumetric need to process organic materials generated in the jurisdiction.

- RCW 70A.207.020: Washington Center for Sustainable Food Management
  Recommended by the Use Food Well Washington Plan, the law created this Center in 2022, which will work to meet statewide food waste and recovery goals.

  In 2024, OML 2.0 (RCW 70A.207.040) established five grant programs to help implement the Use Food Well Washington Plan and meet state organics diversion goals. Funded activities include support for stakeholders implementing the organics management laws, with a large focus on food-related work. The Waste Not Washington Awards program for schools also doubled its maximum award amount. See the Organics Management Funding Opportunities[481] document on Box or the Organics Management Law webpage for more information.

- RCWs 69.80.040 and 70A.205.550: Food donation info and voluntary donation tracking
  Department of Agriculture is to inform those wishing to donate food. Also encourages consistent, voluntary reporting of food waste, wasted food, and/or recovered food.

- RCW 70A.207.030: Model ordinances to disincentivize organic material disposal
  Model ordinances must be drafted by Ecology by January 1, 2025 that a city or county could use to disincentivize disposal of organics from commercial sources.

- Chapter 70A.455 RCW: Degradable products labeling requirements
  The 2022 and 2024 laws built on the 2019 law (HB 1569). By **January 1, 2024,** producers of compostable products must meet specific requirements for degradability and labeling.

[481] https://ecy.app.box.com/file/1022131133660?s=bgt7ily5eu4s0ywx2z8jisn73dp1azha

- Studies: The 2024 law directs studying of alternatives to plastic produce stickers and ways to prevent food waste. Reports on each topic are due to the legislature September 1, 2025.

2024; Chapter 70A.505 RCW: Mercury-Containing Lights

In 2010, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5543 resulted in the LightRecycle Washington Program that became operational on January 1, 2015, and became codified as Chapter 70A.505 RCW. Chapter 173-910 WAC was developed, requiring a producer-financed product stewardship program be established for the collection, transportation and recycling of mercury-containing lights. It is funded by a 95-cent environmental handling charge added to the purchase price of every mercury-containing light sold at retail in or into Washington State. This program provides convenient services to residents and small businesses for safe recycling of mercury-containing lights. Some of these collection sites are located at local government hazardous waste collection facilities. For more information, see Ecology's mercury lights webpage[482].

Various amendments have been made to the law, including:

- (2014) created an environmental handling charge as the funding mechanism
- (2017) changed the financial audit cycle as well as funding parameters to Ecology for administrative and enforcement costs
- (2024) E2SHB 1185 brought major changes, including:
    - Removed the sunset provision and extends the program until 2035 (unless a cost-benefit analysis points to ending the program earlier)
    - Increased the per-day bulb-limits that a person could deliver to a collection site (RCW 70A.505.020(3) has details)
    - Removed the environmental handling charge in 2029
    - Banned the sale of mercury-containing lights in 2029

[482] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/our-recycling-programs/mercury-lights

2024; ESHB 2207[483]: Littering penalty and payment tiers

Mostly editing RCW 70A.200.060[484], this bill changed some littering infractions from criminal to civil and adjusted fine amounts. Illegal dumping can now be a natural resource infraction with a higher fine. Allows for more agencies to initiate enforcement, helps bypass challenges with pursuing misdemeanors, and reduces the burden on local criminal justice systems.

2025; 2SHB 1154; Solid Waste Handling Facilities (Landfill Bill)

HB 1154 amended chapter 70A.205 RCW to grant new enforcement authority to jurisdictional health departments and Ecology over solid waste facilities. It also requires Ecology approval of all landfill permits issued after August 1, 2027.

Ecology will conduct rulemaking to update chapter 173-350 WAC and chapter 173-351 WAC for the purpose of implementing this law.

2025; ESHB 1293; Litter penalty and Plastic Bag Adjustments

This law increased the penalty for littering in an amount less than or equal to one cubic foot from a class three to a class two civil infraction. This bill also amended the single-use plastic bag ban[485] (chapter 70A.530 RCW) by delaying the increase in minimum thickness for reusable plastic film bags until January 1, 2028, and adding a 4-cent penalty, on top of the 12-cent pass-through charge, for any 4 mil plastic film carryout bag sold between January 1, 2026, and December 31, 2027.

2025; ES2HB 1497 known as the Organics Management Law 3.0 (building on 1.0 and 2.0)

HB 1497 establishes collection bin, lid, and label requirements for jurisdictions and solid waste companies[486], requires local jurisdictions with ORCAs to plan a program for multifamily residential organic collection services in solid waste management plans, and outlines fines, penalties, and processes for enforcement action. HB 1497 also requires jurisdictions to grant waivers to residents and businesses who manage organics with equal or better environmental outcomes than placing organics in a curbside collection bin.

[483] https://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2023-24/Pdf/Bills/House%20Passed%20Legislature/2207-S.PL.pdf?q=20240903155755
[484] https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.200.060
[485] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/plastics/plastic-bag-ban
[486] RCW 70A.205.750

2025; Chapter 70A.510 RCW[487]; Solar Panel Product Stewardship Adjustments

SB 5175[488] amended the photovoltaic module stewardship and takeback program to delay certain plan submittal and reporting dates. It also changed the date by which solar panel manufacturers must have an approved stewardship plan in order to sell their panels in or into Washington, from July 1, 2025, to January 31, 2031. See Ecology's solar panels webpage[489].

2025; Chapter 70A.208 RCW[490]; Recycling Reform Act

SB 5284[491] established an extended producer responsibility (EPR) program for consumer packaging and paper products in Washington. Producers of consumer-packaged goods must join and fund a producer responsibility organization (PRO), which will fund collection and processing of residential packaging and paper products, starting in 2030.

The law established an advisory council responsible for reviewing PRO activities and advising on implementation. The law requires Ecology to submit several reports to the Legislature. See Ecology's Recycling Reform Act webpage[492] or subscribe for email updates[493].

To view a working document of legislative changes 2026 through the next iteration of these guidelines, visit Legislative Changes 2026 onward[494] in Box.

[487] https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70a.510
[488] https://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2025-26/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/Senate/5175-S2.SL.pdf?q=20251222081924
[489] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/our-recycling-programs/solar-panels
[490] https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70a.208
[491] https://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2025-26/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/Senate/5284-S2.SL.pdf?q=20251222081829
[492] https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/our-recycling-programs/recycling-reform-act
[493] https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic_id=WAECY_366
[494] https://app.box.com/s/ex7o0u1schtacqtezd0k2despufphqag

Appendix C: State Laws and Rules Related to Solid and Hazardous Waste Planning

This Appendix is not exhaustive, but covers much of the RCW related to planning. Some rules are noted on the same row as their authorizing RCW. (Hint: RCWs have periods; WACs (rules) have dashes.) Chapter titles are given in all capitals, similar to how they're presented on the legislature's website. RCWs with an asterisk have been changed by legislation since 2009. Those changes are discussed in greater detail in Appendix B: Legislative Changes 2010-2025.

Directly related to Planning

Old RCW (before 2020)	New RCW (2020 recodification)	**Name of law** (related information or WAC)
Solid Waste Management Plans		
70.93	70A.200	WASTE REDUCTION, RECYCLING, AND MODEL LITTER CONTROL ACT (Key litter chapter. Also event recycling (.100) and marina/airport recycling (.110))
70.93.020	70A.200.020	Declaration of purpose. (Local government must help enforce the litter chapter)
70.95	*70A.205	SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT -- REDUCTION AND RECYCLING. (Key SW Plan chapter) (Main related rules include 173-350 (SW Handling Standards) and 173-351 (Criteria for MSW Landfills))
70.95.080	*70A.205.040	County comprehensive solid waste management plan—Joint plans—Requirements when updating—Duties of cities. (What cities must do (signatory, independent plan, etc.), and added Plan content including identifying priority areas to site organics management facilities)
70.95.090	*70A.205.045	County and city comprehensive solid waste management plans-Contents. (Lots here, including the WR/R element and CROP)
70.95.092	70A.205.050	County and city comprehensive solid waste management plans—Levels of service, reduction and

		recycling. (Urban vs. rural designations and levels of service.)
70.95.110	70A.205.075	Maintenance of plans— Review, revisions—Implementation of source separation programs. (Maintain in current condition. Ecology interprets this as also applicable to all components of a combined SW+HW Plan.)
70.95.165	*70A.205.110	Solid waste disposal facility siting—Site review—Local solid waste advisory committees—Membership. (SWAC)
70.95.167	70A.205.115	Private businesses involvement in source separated materials—Local solid waste advisory committee to examine. (Involve private recycling businesses in curbside recycling discussion with SWAC.)
Inception 2022	*70A.205.540	Source separated organic solid waste collection services—Fees—Exceptions—Rule making. (ORCAs)
Inception 2025	*70A.205.750	Collection bins—Color coding requirements.
Inception 2025	*70A.208	SOLID WASTE—PACKAGING AND PAPER PRODUCTS—PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (Recycling Reform Act)
N/A	*43.19A.150	Cities and counties required to adopt a compost procurement ordinance—Report. (CPOs; Education of residents as part of SW Plan)
N/A	*81.77.195	Discounts for low-income customers. (Allows the UTC to approve discounted rates as adopted by the county in its SW Plan.)
N/A	*36.70.330, *36.70A.142, *35.63.290, *35A.63.310	These RCWs relate to comprehensive plans (not SW Plans) of various counties and cities and the edit pertains to the organic material facility areas identified in SW Plans per RCW 70A.205.040(3).
Hazardous Waste Management Plans		
70.105.220	70A.300.350	Local governments to prepare local hazardous waste plans—Basis—Elements required. (RCW 70A.300.360 adds the used oil element. WAC 173-303-171 explains

		conditions and requirements an SQG must meet. Knowledge of this is needed to conduct the education required via HW Plans.)
70.95I.020	*70A.224.020	Used oil recycling element. (RCWs 70A.224.030 and 70A.224.040 provide detail. 2014 update relates to PCB management.)

Less directly related to Planning

SW or HW related laws less directly related to Planning		
Old RCW (before 2020)	**New RCW (2020 recodification)**	**Name of law** (related information or WAC)
Topic: Powers of Cities and Counties		
N/A	35.21	MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS (City solid waste is tucked in here)
N/A	35A.21	PROVISIONS AFFECTING ALL CODE CITIES (Other city's solid waste is tucked in here)
N/A	36.58	SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL (Counties)
N/A	36.58A	SOLID WASTE COLLECTION DISTRICTS (Counties, but may affect cities)
Topic: UTC		
N/A	81.77	SOLID WASTE COLLECTION COMPANIES (UTC's chapter re: g-certificated haulers) (WAC 480-70)
N/A	81.80	MOTOR FREIGHT CARRIERS (UTC and recyclables from non-residential sources)
Topic: Food Waste		

70.95.815	*70A.205.715	Food waste reduction—Goal—Plan—Definitions. (Use Food Well WA Plan)
N/A	*70A.205.550	Data to support the goals of the Washington center for sustainable food management—Voluntary reporting protocols.
N/A	*70A.207.020	Washington center for sustainable food management—Established—Purpose—Authorized activities—Rules.
N/A	*69.80.040	Information and referral service for food donation program.
Topic: Organics Management (ORCA is in the table more directly related to planning)		
Inception 2022	*70A.205.545	Certain businesses must arrange for organic materials management services—Enforcement authority—Requirements—Limitations of this section—Penalties—Definitions. (BOMAs)
N/A	*70A.207.030	Model ordinances—Mechanisms for commercial solid waste collection and disposal.
N/A	*70A.207.040	Grant programs—Diversion of organic materials.
N/A	*70A.205.720	Development of standards for the management of compostable products—Process—Report to the legislature—Stakeholder advisory committee
70.360	*70A.455	Plastic product degradability. (Compostable product certification, labeling, and coloring (green and brown, etc.). Cities, counties, attorney general may enforce.)
N/A	*43.19A.140	Use of biochar in public works projects.
N/A	*70A.540	Landfills—methane emissions
Topic: Funding		

70.95.130	70A.205.080	Financial aid to counties and cities. (LSWFA; Chapter 173-312 WAC)
70.95.220	70A.205.180	Financial aid to jurisdictional health departments-Applications-Allocations. (LSWFA)
70.105D	*70A.305.180	Model toxics control operating account. (LSWFA funding source)
70.105D.070	*Repealed	Toxics control accounts. (LSWFA; see 70A.305.180)
N/A	82.21	HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE TAX—MODEL TOXICS CONTROL ACT (Department of Revenue tax that supports the model toxics control account, and thus LSWFA)
N/A	82.18	SOLID WASTE COLLECTION TAX (Department of Revenue)
70.95C	*70A.214.100	Waste reduction and recycling awards program in K-12 public schools—Encouraging waste reduction and recycling in private schools. (Waste Not WA School Awards)
N/A	See also	See also funding items in litter organics topics.
Topic: Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) (a.k.a. Product Stewardship)		
70.95N	70A.500	ELECTRONIC PRODUCT RECYCLING (Ecyclewa.org; Chapter 173-900 WAC))
70.275	*70A.505	MERCURY-CONTAINING LIGHTS -- PROPER DISPOSAL. (LightRecycle.org) (173-910)
70.355	*70A.510	PHOTOVOLTAIC MODULE STEWARDSHIP AND TAKEBACK PROGRAM.
70.375	*70A.515	ARCHITECTURAL PAINT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM. (PaintCare.org)
N/A	*70A.555	BATTERIES—ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP (173-905)
N/A	*69.48	DRUG TAKE-BACK PROGRAM (medtakebackwashington.org)

Topic: Waste Prevention		
N/A	*19.27.590	Drinking fountain/bottle filling station. *(see also 70A.245 for the single-use serviceware and lodging products prohibitions, and 70A.208's support of reuse/refill)*
Topic: Plastics and Markets		
70.370	*70A.240	RECYCLING DEVELOPMENT CENTER.
70.95F.020	*70A.220.020	Plastic bottle or rigid plastic container—Labeling requirements. (Requires resin numbers, but the chasing arrows are no longer required)
70.380	*70A.520	PLASTIC PACKAGING—EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT. (Study and recommendations)
Inception 2021	*70A.245	RECYCLING, WASTE, AND LITTER REDUCTION. (SB 5022 and SHB 1085 sweeping plastics laws edited/added many sections; recycled content, EPS ban, docks, and single-use serviceware or lodging items)
70.300	*70A.445	RECREATIONAL WATER VESSELS- ANTIFOULING PAINTS (Outlaws certain toxic components in favor of safer alternatives)
N/A	*70A.530	CARRYOUT BAGS (Bag ban)
N/A	*70A.525	DISPOSABLE WIPES PRODUCTS—LABELING STANDARDS
Topic: Litter and Miscellaneous Waste		
70.95.240	*70A.205.195	Unlawful to dump or deposit solid waste without permit—Penalties—Litter cleanup restitution payment.
N/A	82.19	LITTER TAX (Department of Revenue)
N/A	70A.200.190	Funding to local governments—Reports (Ramp litter cleanup program, etc.)
70.95K	70A.228	BIOMEDICAL WASTE (Sharps disposal, etc.)

Appendix D: Other Related Plans and Topics

While planning for facility development, be consistent with plans for the entire county[495], and take into account the comprehensive land use plan of each jurisdiction[496].

Examples of plans are given following, but could include plans for growth management, shoreline management, stormwater management, etc.. Coordinate where possible.

Ecology also recommends considering the state Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plans as you conduct your planning.

Comprehensive Plans

Comprehensive Plans[497] provide the overarching framework for long-term growth, land use, housing, transportation, and environmental protection. Within these plans, the Capital Facilities Plan often intersects with solid or hazardous waste facility planning, ensuring that waste facilities are consistent with zoning, growth management, and infrastructure priorities. In the SW Plan, referencing the Comprehensive Plan helps align facility siting and service expansion with population growth and land use projections.

Capital Improvement Plans

Capital Improvement Plans outline scheduled investments in infrastructure, facilities, and public services. For solid waste management, they provide a roadmap for funding and constructing facilities such as transfer stations and recycling centers. By referencing the Capital Improvement Plan, the SW Plan can identify solid waste projects that should be included in the county's capital investment schedule, ensuring coordinated development and funding.

Disaster Debris or Emergency Management Plans

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends preparing comprehensive Disaster Debris Management Plans (DDMP) before a natural disaster occurs. This DDMP can be accomplished in a few ways:

---

[495] RCW 70A.205.045(3)
[496] RCW 70A.205.045(3)(b)
[497] https://mrsc.org/explore-topics/planning/gma/comprehensive-planning

1) Include the DDMP in the local Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) as part of the response and recovery aspects as detailed in WAC 118-30-060 (2)(f)[498].
2) Include the DDMP in the local SW, Combined, or HW Management Plan.
3) Develop an independent DDMP that can be referenced in the other two Plans.

Although it is not required to include the DDMP within your SW, Combined, or HW Plan, Ecology recommends that, at a minimum, it be referenced in the Plan. If the Planning Authority does not have a DDMP, it could be added as a recommendation to develop during the planning period. There are many resources available to assist with the development of a DDMP that can be found in the disaster debris BOX folder[499].

Recommended SW or HW Plan Disaster Debris Language:

Natural and man-made disasters can result in a surge of unanticipated debris that can inhibit or obstruct emergency services and overwhelm normal operations. It is critical to clear debris immediately after a disaster to allow emergency vehicles to respond to life-threatening situations. Once the debris is cleared from the right-of-way and vehicle access is achieved, the removal and disposal of debris are important for the community's recovery. Being prepared with a plan to address the increased quantity and potential types of disaster debris can help to protect the health and safety of the community. Successful implementation of this plan can positively affect the speed and cost of recovery, as well as the ability to obtain financial assistance for recovery efforts.

(Include Disaster Debris Management Plan as part of the SW Plan, or if separate, include language such as the following.)

"The xx County Disaster Debris Management Plan was prepared in 20xx and accepted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on MM DD, 20xx. This Plan provides guidance and tools for removing and managing debris after a debris generating event. This Plan can be found at xxxx."

Climate Plans

Climate mitigation or preparedness plans such as Climate Action Plans[500] intersect with solid waste because materials management choices directly affect emissions, pollutants, and resource availability, making solid waste strategies a key component of climate planning. By referencing climate plans, the SW Plan can highlight how recycling, composting, and waste reduction programs support county climate goals. Some tools to provide data about materials management are offered in the Life Cycle Analysis folder[501] in the Planning and Waste Reduction

[498] https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=118-30-060
[499] https://app.box.com/s/u6klrwy9c0o76dhnof35tbij0ra2qp7f
[500] https://mrsc.org/explore-topics/environment/sustainability/climate-action-plans#plans
[501] https://app.box.com/s/857r4f9bg78ponhb52mz66d99o4x3dgz

Resource Library, including the Environmental Protection Agency's Waste Reduction Model[502] (WARM).

Equity Planning

Across Washington, many cities and counties have adopted equity, inclusion, or community well-being plans to help ensure all residents have fair access to services and opportunities. These plans typically set goals to reduce health and environmental disparities, strengthen community participation in decision-making, and improve access to programs and infrastructure for all communities.

Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plans should, to the extent practicable, be developed in accordance with or in consideration of other local and regional plans, including those addressing equity or social justice. For example, local equity or sustainability plans often identify priority populations, areas with limited access to recycling or waste services, or neighborhoods facing higher environmental or health risks. These plans may also highlight communities experiencing cumulative health impacts from multiple pollution sources or social stressors, underscoring the need to integrate equity considerations into planning.

Considering this information can help planners set goals that reduce service gaps, improve facility siting decisions, and design more inclusive engagement processes. Reviewing these plans early in the process can help planners align waste management strategies with broader community goals such as environmental justice, climate resilience, and public health.

Relationship to the HEAL Act

For state agencies, the Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act (RCW 70A.02)[503] establishes specific responsibilities to incorporate environmental justice into strategic planning and decision-making. When developing or updating state-level solid or hazardous waste plans, agencies must consider the Act's requirements for:

- Meaningful engagement with overburdened communities and vulnerable populations.
- Equitable distribution of environmental benefits and reduction of harms.
- Environmental justice assessment tools during planning and program development.

For counties, cities, and other local planning authorities, Ecology recommends applying the principles of the HEAL Act on a voluntary basis. This may include identifying and engaging communities historically underserved or disproportionately affected by waste facility siting, service access, or environmental exposures, and ensuring these communities have opportunities to inform goals and strategies in the plan.

[502] https://www.epa.gov/waste-reduction-model
[503] https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=70A.02&full=true

Recommended tools and resources

- Ecology's Environmental Justice Guidance and HEAL Act resources, including mapping tools and engagement best practices.
- Washington Tracking Network (WTN) for public health, environmental, and demographic indicators.
- Local or regional Equity Toolkits, such as King County's Equity Impact Review Tool or the City of Seattle's Racial Equity Toolkit, to evaluate how policies and programs may affect different populations.
- American Community Survey (United States Census Bureau) for robust data on communities.
- Internal resources and data vetted by staff.

Using these tools early in Plan development helps identify who may be most affected by solid and hazardous waste decisions, design inclusive engagement processes, and develop strategies that advance environmental justice alongside waste reduction and resource recovery goals. This approach ensures that waste management strategies contribute to healthier, more equitable, and sustainable communities by addressing both environmental and social impacts from the outset.

Accessibility Standards

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has new accessibility standards for online media coming into effect in 2026. This MRSC article[504] provides a good overview, including:

> "… States and local governments with a population of less than 50,000, and all special purpose districts (regardless of size) must comply with the new accessibility guidelines by April 26, 2027. All others (i.e., larger jurisdictions) must comply by April 26, 2026. Failure to comply could subject local agencies to DOJ enforcement actions under the ADA. …"

[504] https://mrsc.org/stay-informed/mrsc-insight/september/ada-web-app-standards

Appendix E: Stopping the Review Clock or Additional Review

While the material following pertains to SW and Combined Plans, if a similar need should arise for a stand-alone HW Plan, contact your Ecology planner to see what solutions might be possible.

"Stopping the Clock"

For various reasons, either Ecology or a local government has identified a need to suspend the 120-day review period after Ecology has already accepted the Preliminary Draft Plan as a complete submittal packet and prior to receiving formal comments. Generally, this is triggered by a necessary major change to the plan, problems with the UTC cost assessment, or other problems encountered with the Plan. The goal is to save the planning jurisdiction from having to go back to Ecology for a second preliminary draft review due to significant changes to the original preliminary draft.

To suspend the 120-day review period, the planning jurisdiction must submit a formal request in writing to the reviewing Ecology planner. Upon receipt, Ecology will respond formally. Proactive communication helps determine the best path forward. It may be that starting over at the start of the 120-day review period is better than a pause. A pause restarts the 120-day review period from the day it was suspended. For example, if the Plan was 65 days into review when the suspension request was made, Ecology will have 55 days to comment on the resubmitted Plan. However, if the Plan contains significant changes, the Ecology planner may request a new 120-day preliminary draft review.

Upon receipt of the resubmitted preliminary draft plan, Ecology will formally acknowledge resubmittal of the plan, submit the resubmittal to the UTC and/or Department of Agriculture (if necessary), and resume review.

Additional Review Periods

In the event significant changes are made to the Plan either by the local government for its own reasons or in response to public or state agency comments, an additional 120-day preliminary draft review period and additional public review may be necessary. Examples of items that may trigger an additional preliminary draft review include, but are not limited to:

- Major changes to the cost assessment
- Changes to recommended actions
- Major omissions in the previous draft

A local government may submit a written request for this additional 120-day review. Ecology may also initiate an additional review. Either way, an Ecology planner will contact the Planning Authority to determine the path that will work best for everyone and advise the Planning Authority in writing whether an additional preliminary draft review is necessary.

An *optional* review is also available. Ecology planners have committed to offer an unofficial informal review of the final draft plan if requested by the planning jurisdiction. This review is

conducted within 45 days, and comments limited to items previously commented on in the preliminary draft review and significant additional revisions made in the plan. It is important to note this comment period *is not* the same as the 45-day final draft review and approval process. It will simply provide the planning jurisdiction with advice on meeting the required planning elements and reduce chances the plan will be rejected.

Appendix F: State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)[505] is the process that identifies and analyzes environmental impacts associated with agency decisions. The adoption of a SW, HW, or Combined Plan is considered a non-project proposal[506] that requires an environmental review under SEPA. Ecology recommends the county or independent city government responsible for the Plan (the Planning Authority) contact the agency (local government) responsible official to discuss the non-project environmental review early in the planning stages of the update process to:

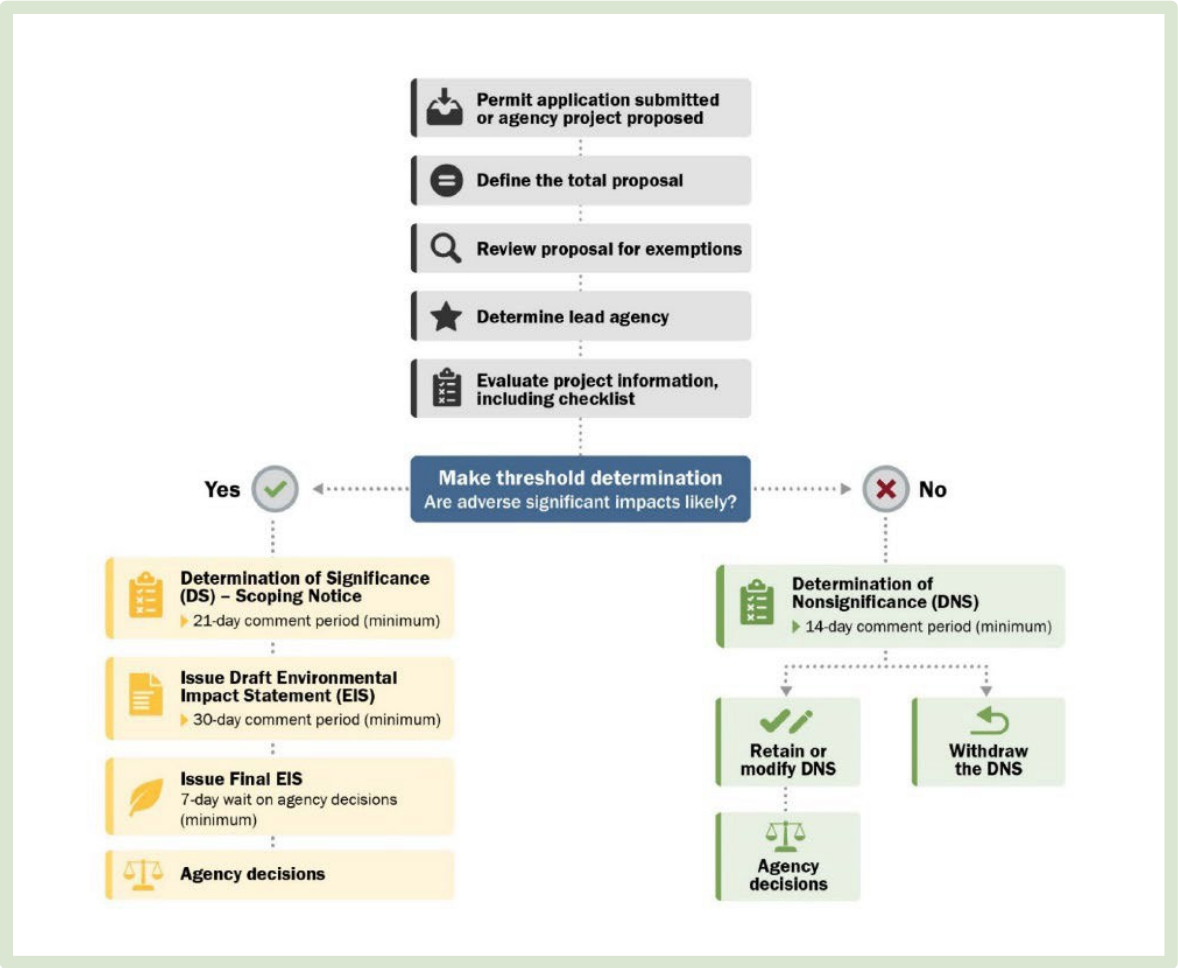
- Discuss the scope of changes for the Plan update to define the entire proposal[507]
- Identify the prior SEPA environmental review(s)[508] completed for the existing Plan and identify if all or part of the existing environmental review can be used for the update process
- Identify if any supporting documents[509] should be incorporated or prepared in support of the environmental review
- Identify the appropriate SEPA process[510] to use for the Plan adoption

Ecology also offers a SEPA guidance webpage[511] and SEPA handbook[512].

Required

Completing the SEPA process is a part of any revision of a SW, HW, or Combined Plan (Plan). SEPA is included in the basic steps of a Plan revision described in the SW and Combined Plan Revision Timeline section of these guidelines. The process is also outlined at a high level in the following diagram from page 11 of the SEPA Handbook[513]. Note that for a Plan, the "lead agency" or "agency" as stated in the following diagram is the local government itself.

[505] Chapter 43.21C RCW
[506] WAC 197-11-704(2)(b).
[507] WAC 197-11-060
[508] WAC 197-11-600
[509] WAC 197-11-090
[510] WAC 197-11-330
[511] https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance
[512] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2506009.html
[513] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2506009.html



Recommended

Ecology requests to see any public comments received and any responses to comments. Comments should be shared with Ecology quickly, to help inform Ecology's review. Ecology encourages their inclusion in the Plan as an appendix.

Appendix G: Independent Cities

Independent City Solid Waste Plans

For cities or towns wishing to adopt their own independent SW Plan instead of taking one of the partnership approaches described in the City Responsibilities section, a few items should be kept in mind. This appendix also provides guidance for how to deliver the Plan to the county.

Transitioning to an Independent Plan :
Any town or city (referred collectively as "city" here) may plan independently. The first step is to identify existing legal relationships between the city and county. For example, cities are often signatories to an existing Plan, an interlocal agreement, or perhaps a contract. The city may still be obligated to pay for costs incurred by the county on behalf of the city, such as shared solid waste handling facilities or post-closure care for a landfill once used by city residents. A city considering independence from a cooperative SW Plan should consult their city attorney early in the process to help navigate these complexities.

An Independent City Plan must meet all planning requirements. Simply referencing information in the county plan is insufficient.

An Independent City Plan does not have to be written at the same time as the county plan. However, if the city relies on the county to implement any portion of its plan -- e.g. sharing a transfer station, using the county's MRW facility, cooperating on joint education efforts, etc., the city should work closely with the county to develop its plan.

Eligibility for Ecology grant funding:
Local Solid Waste and Financial Assistance (LSWFA) is Ecology's grant program for supporting local Plans and their implementation. What follows outlines basic funding considerations for cities planning independently or considering planning independently. The guidelines posted on the LSWFA webpage[514] or your Ecology planner can provide the most up-to-date information, and take precedence over the guidance here.

Characteristics necessary to receive LSWFA funds from Ecology as an Independent City:

1. Have an Ecology-approved SW Plan that was created with the participation of a "SWAC-like entity[515]."
2. Provide for disposal site(s) wholly within city jurisdiction[516]. Ecology interprets this to mean any combination of landfill(s), waste to energy facility(ies), transfer station(s), or

[514] https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/payments-contracts-grants/grants-loans/find-a-grant-or-loan/local-solid-waste-financial-assistance
[515] RCW 70A.205.110(3) and WAC 173-312-040
[516] RCW 70A.205.080

drop box(es) with the combined capacity to handle all of the jurisdiction's municipal solid waste. The city must show they are fiscally responsible for these facilities, meaning they own, operate, or are in contract with the facilities.

The absence of one or both criteria above only affects funding; the city may still gain approval of its Independent City SW Plan.

Cities qualifying as an Independent City are allocated a per capita amount on the LSWFA allocation table. This may be quite small for lower population cities. The city may be able to adjust the final amount up or down based on coordination with their county.

Cities without an Ecology-approved SW Plan are not eligible to directly receive LSWFA as an Independent City. Alternatively, a city may apply in coordination with its home county as a partnering local government. The home county is not required to relinquish funds to the city for any activity, including authoring an independent plan.

Delivering the Plan to the County

After the city has adopted the SW Plan, the city must deliver its plan to the county auditor[517]. This also applies to amendments to the Plan. This can be an email to the county auditor such as the following with the Plan included via attachment or link. Copy your Ecology planner on the e-mail to show this requirement has been met and copy the county solid waste planning lead to keep them informed.

> [Salutation]
>
> In accordance with RCW 70A.205.040(4)(a), this email is intended to submit the "Example City Solid [and Hazardous] Waste Management Plan 2030-2035" (Plan) to the county auditor for integration into the solid waste management plan for Example County. The Plan has been adopted by Example City and approved by the Washington State Department of Ecology. Please confirm you have received this e-mail and were able to access the file.
>
> [Closing]

[517] RCW 70A.205.040(4)(a)

Independent City Hazardous Waste Plans

In rare circumstances, a city might choose not to participate in another jurisdiction's HW Plan. If the two following criteria are true, no individual city HW Plan is needed. If either or both are false, the city must author and implement its own HW Plan. The city's new HW Plan must follow the HW Guidelines within this document.

1. Residents and SQGs within the city have access to responsible disposal options that are equal to or better than those available in the rest of the county.
2. The city residents' or SQGs' use of their options does not violate official written rule, law, or policy of another entity.

Appendix H: Local Control Options

Flow Control

Flow control ordinances are an optional tool used by some local governments. Flow control intersects with SW Plans in terms of which facilities are designated in the Plan as part of the disposal system, and how to keep the revenue from the jurisdiction's waste within the county system. In 2007, the United States Supreme Court issued a ruling that upheld the authority for public solid waste authorities to direct SW collected in their jurisdiction to publicly owned facilities. This practice is necessary in some jurisdictions where hauling SW to facilities other than those that are publicly owned may compromise the viability of the public SW system. However, this decision does not permit local solid waste authorities to direct the flow of waste to a privately owned facility.

Additional information on flow control, including a spreadsheet of counties with flow control, is available in the WA Counties – Flow Control Ordinances[518] folder of the Planning and Waste Reduction Resource Library.

Disposal Districts and Collection Districts

County governments have the authority to create two kinds of solid waste districts: disposal districts and collection districts. A brief, non-legal summary of these districts follows. Specifics of solid waste systems, local ordinances, taxing authority, and other issues vary greatly between counties. They need to be explored with the aid of county legal counsel.

Both districts are for unincorporated areas or portions thereof, but cities have the option to allow them.

Disposal Districts (funding):

- Are a funding mechanism
- Are a way to make all named generators **pay** into the SW system regardless of waste generation levels
- Don't affect route collection requirements or service levels

Collection Districts (mandatory service):

- Are established for public health reasons
- Are a way to require all named generators to have route **collection** of named waste stream(s).
- Can open the door for mandatory payment methods, such as via a Service Level Ordinance or via liens.

[518] https://app.box.com/s/8fq44cijkpkz5s4en0kncbj71435k47g

Disposal Districts
The legislative authority of a county with a population of less than one million may create one or more disposal districts in the unincorporated portions of the county (RCW 36.58.100-160). After county commissioners decide to create a district, there is a specific legal process to create a disposal district, which is one form of a junior taxing district.

To create a disposal district, county commissioners typically identify the need, hold public hearings, and pass an ordinance to create the district.
Once created, the disposal district may:

- Charge fees for services
- Levy and collect an excise tax within the district
- Apply liens on property for nonpayment of taxes
- Establish an annual levy with voter approval
- Issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes
- Issue revenue bonds to fund activities

Incorporated cities within the county can choose to join or work cooperatively with the county's taxing district to create an equitable system. This is accomplished through interlocal agreements. Disposal districts have a district board comprised of elected officials to manage the system.

Once revenue is generated, it may be used to support any reasonable solid waste system costs except direct solid waste collection services.

There are restrictions regarding taxing limits that apply to potential revenue streams. For instance, annual property taxes can only be increased by a certain percentage of all taxes assessed in a county. Counties can incur only a limited amount of aggregate debt. A solid waste disposal district is potentially in competition for the taxing authority with other junior taxing districts such as ports, fire, utility, and others.

Collection Districts
If it is found to be in the public interest and necessary for the preservation of public health, a county legislative authority may establish a solid waste collection district[519].

When this occurs, a notice is sent to UTC. Note: The county, not UTC, determines the need. UTC must determine whether existing haulers are willing and able to provide the required services. If existing collection companies are unwilling or unable to provide service, UTC may issue a certificate of need. The private sector is then solicited to provide the required levels of collection service. If no qualified hauler(s) are found, the county could provide the required services, but only in the area where the authorized hauler(s) are unable or unwilling to provide the required services.

[519] Chapter 36.58A RCW

Any company that receives approval from UTC becomes responsible for collecting waste in the defined district. UTC may establish the certificate area boundary without regard to the county boundaries. UTC must notify the county within 60 days after making its findings and taking actions.

Table comparing Disposal Districts and Collection Districts:

Mechanism	Population restriction?	Must cities participate ?	Intersects with UTC?	Must all entities pay in?	Does this mechanism create a *collection* service (i.e. curbside)?
Disposal District (DD) (RCWs 36.58.100 - 150): Primarily a funding source. Provides an area of a county some autonomy over fund use (example: Lopez Solid Waste Disposal District). Created by county ordinance if county says it's in the public interest to form the district. Zero UTC approval needed.	**Yes.** Only counties with less than 1M pop (.100).	**No.** Only if city/town adopts it (.100).	**No.**	**No.** Commercial entities hauling their own garbage regularly shall be exempt (.140).	**No.** Nothing permits DDs to engage in the collection of residential or commercial garbage (.130).
Collection Districts (CD) (Chapter 36.58A RCW)**:** A means to require both the provision and use of curbside collection. May apply to all waste generators and all waste streams, or any subset thereof. Created by county ordinance if county says it's in the public interest *and necessary for the preservation of public health.* Example (only one is known): Whatcom's Collection District is laid out in WCC 8.11 and requires SW [trash] and recycling collection to be mandatory for all "owners of developed property". However, it functions differently in different areas of the county: 1) The Pt. Roberts area requires collection of all trash and traditional bottle/can/paper recyclables from both residential and non-residential entities. A fee may be imposed for non-compliance. However, via the Service Level Ordinance, payment is via property taxes on properties with on-site sewage systems (WCC 8.10.040, Section D). 2) In the rest of the County, an exemption process exists and has rendered the Collection District practically impossible to enforce, and thus is ignored (as approved by the SWEC in 2017).	**No.**	**No.** Only if city/town consents to it (.010).	**Yes.** UTC finds whether a company is willing and able to provide the services as described in the county's CD ordinance. If neither the present g-cert hauler nor another hauler qualifies per UTC, the county may provide the service and charge accordingly (.030). Can dovetail with a Service Level Ordinance to create a funding mechanism, which would be spelled out in hauler's tariff. Or hauler may request county to collect fees (.040).	**Yes, as defined by CD.** Entities defined in the CD must use the services defined in the CD. The payment method might not be prescribed, but enforcement of non-payment can be. Liens on property allowed (.040). In Pt. Roberts, the Service Level Ordinance is what directs payment for the minimum services to be put on property tax bills, and prescribes the overages be billed directly.	**Yes.** See the column "Intersects with UTC?". Options for a county providing the service themselves includes contracting for the service or running their own trucks.

Appendix I: Material Selection Criteria for DRLs

Not all criteria carry equal weight, and a material performing poorly in one area may not automatically disqualify it from consideration.

Responsible End Markets

Stability and Maturity: Consider both historical performance and near-term future projections. Evaluate the presence of the market and the stability of prices. A market that depends on just one or a few buyers is generally less stable.

Accessibility: Assess location and distance factors, recognizing that the distance and methods of transport affect the cost, environmental impact from transportation, and overall feasibility.

Diversity and Viability: Determine whether there is access to multiple end markets, thereby reducing reliance on a single market and increasing overall stability.

Recycling Process and Technical Feasibility

Compatibility with Existing Infrastructure: Evaluate how well the material fits into existing commingled recycling systems, including whether it can be effectively sorted from other materials at the MRF. Consider if the material causes collection or sorting challenges, requires specialized equipment, or creates operational inefficiencies.

Anticipated Yield Loss: Analyze the unintentional loss of a material placed into the recycling system across all stages of recycling - collection, processing/sorting, and delivery to end markets. This evaluation should consider a material that has been properly separated and placed into the recycling system.

Amount of Material Available: Review projected quantities to ensure the material meets processing thresholds. This criterion may consider both individual material quantities and the potential for aggregating similar materials into commodity bales. If the amount of the material in the waste stream is small, consider whether the effort and potential negative impacts of collection outweigh the potential positive impacts of collection.

Practicalities of Storing: Think about how practical it is to store the material before it is sold, including whether it can be baled or densified, and whether it risks degrading during storage. Consider the costs and logistic challenges that may arise in the event of a temporary or long-term market disruption.

Contamination

Ride-alongs: Assess the potential for the material to bring along contaminants (such as adhesives, food residues, or foreign materials) and how difficult it is to remove contaminants during sorting.

Cross-contamination: Consider the likelihood that a targeted material may itself become a contaminant in another commodity bale, and the impact of that cross-contamination on end users.

Look-alikes: Assess whether materials can be easily identified and are simple to prepare correctly for recycling. Materials with non-recyclable “twins” are more likely to cause confusion and contamination.

Economic Considerations

Handling and Processing Costs: Look at how much it will cost to collect, transport, sort, and process the material, including any fuel, labor, and equipment expenses. While a single material may not significantly change these costs on its own (since these are shared across all materials), you should still evaluate whether the material has characteristics that could:

- Increase processing complexity (e.g., requiring additional sorting steps or specialized equipment).
- Disrupt existing operations (e.g., causing downtime, equipment wear, or contamination risks).
- Affect overall processing efficiency (e.g., by slowing down lines or creating bottlenecks).
- Additionally, consider any incremental costs for education, signage, or outreach if the material is confusing to residents.

Impact on Residential Rates: Consider how recycling costs might affect the rates paid by residents, ensuring that economic benefits and burdens are clearly understood. In communities where recycling costs are separate from garbage bills, it may be helpful to assess residents' willingness to pay for recycling services. Understanding the perceived value of recycling in your community can help inform program decisions and improve public support.

Commodity Prices: Consult your MRF or check the PNW Recycling Markets Commodity Prices[520] data to better understand the current and historical value of each material. Materials with consistently high value are more likely to be recycled and can generate revenue, while low or unstable prices may indicate weak or unreliable market demand.

Environmental Health Considerations

Worker Health and Safety: Consider whether handling and processing the material could create safety or health risks for drivers or recycling facility workers.

End Market Management: Look at whether the end market is likely to responsibly manage the materials and any contaminants. Avoid sending materials to end markets, especially in developing countries, where there is a risk of poor environmental or labor practices, including improper waste handling or unsafe working conditions.

Environmental Factors from a Life Cycle Perspective: Rely primarily on quantitative data (such as greenhouse gas emissions, depletion of nonrenewable resources, and levels of air and water toxics) to evaluate the full life cycle impact.

Further information regarding Ecology's recommendations and resources you may wish to consider as you designate your recyclables may be found in the in the Planning and Waste Reduction Resource Library[521] (examples: Suggested Accepted Materials Lists & Responsible Recycling Resources[522] or State Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plan[523] (CROP)) or by contacting your Ecology Local Planner or Ecology's Statewide Recycling Coordinator.

[520] https://ecy.app.box.com/folder/170402300474?s=4vhtm8xrkqzj2lnkj7as5sxspuo7szli
[521] https://app.box.com/s/r6jdrsznwbchuo9kme3qa4gdf2uawhfk
[522] https://app.box.com/s/f6sirgcr5cpvocj524zpre77p90ht6zu
[523] https://app.box.com/s/1ga3n9oyqsojuqgr941j78dj9z638igk

Appendix J: Sample 20-Year Generation and Facility Needs Tables

For the tables that follow, if you are doing a Combined SW and HW Plan, Ecology encourages inclusion of MRW as a material.

Below is one way to compile the projected generation estimates. As noted in Waste Generation Trends and Recycling Generation and Composition, a common way to project these tons is to multiply the per capita generation of each material type by the projected population. Other factors like ORCA or RRA may play in, too. Projected tons inform projected facility needs[524].

Example County 20-Year Waste Generation Estimates By Collected Material Type (including route vehicle and self-haul)			
Material	**Estimated annual tons generated in years 7-10**	**Estimated annual tons generated in years 11-15**	**Estimated annual tons generated in years 16-20**
MSW for disposal			
Traditional recyclables			
Organics			
C & D			
MRW (not required, but recommended)			

[524] RCW 70A.205.045(2)

Below are two ways to frame key information for the analysis required by RCW[525] and discussed in Projected Facility Needs.

These are partial examples. The full costs of the SW system are not addressed here. The purpose of this analysis is to help identify and plan for potential future challenges, such as facility capacity limitations and infrastructure upgrades, and the associated cost impacts for the jurisdiction.

This example's format features the year in the first column. This allows for a chronological list of needs and can satisfy a detailed six-year construction and capital acquisition plan[526], as well as outline 20-year needs[527].

Example County 20-Year Solid Waste Handling Facility Needs					
Year	**Facility**	**Material Streams Impacted**	**Need**	**Estimated Cost**	**Anticipated Funding Source**
2026	North Transfer Station	Organics and MSW	New Stationary Crane	$500,000	Tipping Fees
2028	Valley Transfer Station	HHW (Not required in a SW Plan, but recommended)	Replace sensors in ventilated lockers	$35,000	LSWFA
...					
2033	North Transfer Station	Organics and MSW	Expand Tipping Floor	$12,000,000	Public Works Assistance Account, Tipping Fees, grants
2035	North Transfer Station	Organics and MSW	replace scale	$200,000	Tipping Fees

[525] RCW 70A.205.045(2)
[526] RCW 70A.205.045(3)(c)
[527] RCW 70A.205.045(2)

This example's format prioritizes material type over year.

Example County 20-Year Solid Waste Handling Facility Needs

Publicly Owned or Managed Facilities

Material(s)	Publicly Owned or Managed Facility	Adequate capacity for next 20 years?	Improvements/ Maintenance anticipated during years 1 - 6 of the Plan.	Estimated costs of the six-year improvements ; fund source	Improvements/ Maintenance anticipated during years 7 - 20 of the Plan.	Estimated costs of the later improvements ; fund source
Trash, traditional recyclables	North County Recycling & Transfer Station	Yes	Fix roof	$200,000; SW Capital Improvement Fund	New Compactor expected in [year 15 of the Plan; fill in actual year]	$500,000; SW Capital Improvement Fund
Trash, traditional recyclables	Beaver Lake Recycling & Transfer Station	No	Construct new recycling and reuse area	$200,000; Fundraising, Disposal District funds, and SW Capital Improvement Fund	None	N/A
Traditional recyclables	The Recycling Park	Yes	Planned to close when RRA is running well. Potential closing costs.	$20,000, Tip Fees	None	N/A
Organics	Happy City Compost Facility	No; region does not have enough capacity to meet goals.	None here; no space to expand. See next row.	N/A	None	N/A
Organics	TBD- NEW	Conducting feasibility study regarding starting a new facility	Conduct study, possibly outreach	$100,000; LSWFA and SW Capital Improvement Fund		

C&D	Happy City Lumber Reclamation & Reuse Store	Already near full capacity.	De-nailer machine	$100,000; LSWFA with match from local builder's association.	Implement second phase of construction (additional shed and restrooms)	$700,000; Contingent on grant funds, sales revenue, local support
MRW (not required, but recom-mended)	Example County MRW Facility	Yes	None	N/A	None	N/A
Privately Owned Facilities						
Material(s)	**Privately Owned or Managed Facility**	**Adequate capacity for next 20 years?**	**Anticipated changes during years 1 - 6 of the Plan.**	**Estimated price shifts in years 1 - 6?**	**Anticipated changes during years 7 -20 of the Plan.**	**Estimated price shifts in years 14 -20?**
Trash	Roosevelt Regional Landfill	Yes	None stated	None stated	None stated	None stated
Traditional recyclables	WM Happy MRF	Yes	Planned shut-down for 3 months in 2025 to upgrade equipment; WM is partnering with nearby MRFs to absorb materials at that time.	None stated	RRA will come online; effects TBD, but facility anticipates continued operation.	Recycling costs may be reimbursed under RRA.
Organics	The Compost Company	No	Purchasing a new trommel screen, more staff	Increased pricing due to increased contamination	None stated	None stated
C&D	DTG (North County location)	Yes	None stated	None stated	None stated	None stated

Appendix K: Checklist of HW Plan Requirements and Recommendations

Topic and Link to Main Location in Guidelines	Required (by cited RCW or Guidelines) or Recommended	Location in Plan
Introduction/Background		
Participating Jurisdictions & Planning Area	Guidelines	
Public Involvement Process	70A.300.350(1)(d)	
Legal Authority	Guidelines	
Define Moderate Risk Waste	Guidelines	
MRW Legislation	Guidelines	
Coordination & Planning	70A.300.350(2)	
Analysis of Current MRW Conditions		
MRW Quantities, Types, and Fate	70A.300.350(1)(a)	
MRW Considerations	Recommended	
HW Inventory		
HW Generators	70A.300.350(1)(c)	
TSD Facilities	70A.300.350(1)(c)	
Transporters	Recommended	
Remedial Action Sites	Recommended	
Program Elements & Services		

Plan or Program for HHW	70A.300.350(1)(a)	
Plan or Program for SQG Waste Collection & Technical Assistance	70A.300.350(1)(a) & (3)	
Public Involvement & Public Education	70A.300.350(1)(b)(i) & (ii)	
EPR/Product Stewardship	Guidelines	
Used Oil Element		
Define Used Oil	Guidelines	
Collection Facility Convenience	70A.224.020(1)(a) & .030(1)(a)(ii)	
Facility Expansion Plan	70A.224.020(1)(a) & .030(1)(a)(iii)	
Oil Disposal Rerefining Goal	70A.224.020(1)(a) & .030 (4)	
Private Business Agreements	70A.224.020(1)(a)	
Ordinance Implementation	70A.224.020(1)(b)	
Public Education	70A.224.020(1)(c)	
Contamination Mitigation	70A.224.020 (1)(d) & .030 (1)(b)	
Funding and Budget Planning	70A.224.020(1)(e)	
Program Alternatives	Recommended	
Funding the Program		
MRW Program Costs	70A.300.350(1)(a) & (b)	
Revenue Structure	70A.300.350(1)(a) & (b)	
Process for Amendments, Adoption, & Approval		
Amendment/Revision Process Description	Recommended	

Adoption of Plan	Guidelines	
Approval of Plan	70A.300.350(7)	
Recommendations to Maintain or Improve Local Programs	Guidelines	
Implementation	70A.300.350(8)	

Appendix L: Checklist of SW Plan Requirements

This checklist is a high-level guide. For each topic, ensure the Plan is completed to the level of detail outlined in Guidelines. *Indicates requirements differ for Independent City Plans.			
Row ID	**Topic and Link to Main Location in Guidelines**	**RCW (or other support, such as WAC or acceptable process)**	**Location in Plan**
How the Plan Relates to Other Plans			
1	Development of SW handling facilities is Consistent with Plans for the entire county, Take into account the Comprehensive Lands Use Plan of each jurisdiction.	70A.205.045(3) and (3)(b)	
2	Integrate Plans of cities not signing onto the county Plan.	70A.205.040(1) and (4)(a)	
Population, Disposal, and Waste Characterization Trends			
3	Current population and projected population over six- and twenty-year planning horizons.	70A.205.045(2) and (5)(d)	
4	Define planning area and participants; Include any relevant interlocals, including ones for g-certificated haulers whose territory crosses county borders.	70A.205.040(1), 36.58.040(1)	
5	Population density of each city and each g-cert area.	70A.205.045(5)(c)	
6	Current and projected waste disposed through the SW system over six- and twenty-year planning horizons.	70A.205.045(2) and (7)(c)	
7	Describe the local composition of MSW disposed.	70A.205.045(7)(c)	
Waste Reduction and Education			
8	Describe how the amount of waste generated has been trending.	70A.205.045(7)(c)	

9	Outline ongoing and planned programs to reduce the amount of waste generated, and if they include strategies to reduce wasted food or food waste.	70A.205.045 (6), (6)(a), (7), and (7)(a), 70A.205.040(2)(e)	
10	Outline ongoing and planned educational programs to promote waste reduction, refill, reuse, and recycling, and incentives for source separation.	70A.205.045(6)(b) and (7)(b)(iv)	
11	Identify any Revenue Sharing Agreements and discuss the impact of RRA.	70A.205.045(7)(b)(iv)	
12	List planning partners with CPOs and what they're doing to inform residents about how local government is using compost and the value of compost.	43.19A.150(4)	
13	Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plan (in counties with more than 25,000 people or Independent City Plans therein)	70A.205.045(10)	
Recycling (Many themes in the Recycling area are repeated in Organics and Construction & Demolition)			
14	Describe the markets for organics, construction and demolition materials, and more traditional recyclables.	70A.205.045(7)(c)	
15	Current and projected collection amounts of organics, construction and demolition materials, and more traditional recyclables for recycling over the six- and twenty-year planning horizons.	70A.205.045(2) and (7)(c)	
16	Describe the composition trends of organics, construction and demolition materials, and more traditional recyclables.	70A.205.045(7)(c)	
17	Clearly define the urban and rural areas of the planning area, as related to solid waste planning.	70A.205.050	

18	Set the required service levels for urban and rural areas in accordance with applicable RCWs.	70A.205.050, 70A.205.045(7)(b)(i), (7)(b)(i)(A), (7)(b)(i)(B), and (7)(b)(i)(C), 70A.205.750	
19	Describe planning jurisdictions' current and planned programs to monitor nonresidential recycling. Identify jurisdictions that participate directly in commercial recyclables collection.	70A.205.045(7)(b)(ii)	
20	Describe existing public and private recycling programs. Discuss strategies for improvements.	70A.205.045(7)(c)	
21	Outline a timeline for implementation.	70A.205.045(7)(c)	
Designated Recyclables Lists			
22	Designate current and planned materials for recycling, both via residential curbside and via other methods. Ensure the residential list is discussed early at SWAC.	70A.205.045(7)(c), 70A.205.070(1)	
Organics			
23	Identify ORCAs in or anticipated for the planning area and create service levels and programs to fulfill ORCA requirements.	70A.205.040(3)(a) and (b)	
24	Identify BOMAs in the planning area and consider potential BOMAs. Adjust the Designated Recyclables List and descriptions of programs and waste flows as needed.	70A.205.045(7)(b)(ii)	
25	If the Planning Authority determines nearby markets could absorb most of the compost produced, ensure an organics program is or will be in place.	70A.205.045(7)(b)(iii)	
26	Identify the annual capacity of organic materials management facilities that would be needed to meet the state goal to reduce organics going to landfill by 75%.*	70A.205.040(3)(a)(ii)	
27	Identify priority areas for organic materials management facilities in accordance with applicable RCWs.*	70A.205.040(3)(a)(i)	

28	Current and projected collection amounts of organics over the six- and twenty-year planning horizons.	70A.205.045(2), (3)(c), (5)(d), and (7)(c)	
29	Describe the markets for organics, including projected finished compost generated in the planning area.	70A.205.045(7)(c)	
30	Discuss the composition of the organics stream.	70A.205.045(7)(c)	
31	Describe existing public and private organics programs and consider methods to address key organics outlined in RCW. Discuss strategies for improvements.	70A.205.045(7)(c)	
32	Outline a timeline for implementation.	70A.205.045(7)(c)	
Construction & Demolition (C&D)			
33	Describe the reuse and recycle markets for C&D, with attention to concrete, wood, and new gypsum scrap.	70A.205.045(7)(c)	
34	Current and projected generation amounts of C&D over the six- and twenty-year planning horizons, with attention to concrete, wood, and new gypsum scrap.	70A.205.045(2) and (7)(c)	
35	Describe the general composition trends of C&D, with attention to concrete, wood, and new gypsum scrap.	70A.205.045(7)(c)	
36	Discuss policies related to C&D, and planned programs for C&D reuse/recycling or other strategies for improvements. Outline a timeline for implementation.	70A.205.040(2)(a), 70A.205.045(7)(c), 70A.205.100	
Solid Waste Collection			
37	Provide clear levels of service for g-certificated haulers.	81.77.030(1)(e) through (g), 70A.205.045(7)(b)(i)	
38	Inventory of jurisdictions' bin colors, and plan for any needed adjustments	70A.205.045(5) and (5)(d), 70A.205.750	
39	Inventory and description of current curbside SW collection	70A.205.045(5)	
40	G-certificated hauler names, addresses, and areas served.	70A.205.045(5)(a)	
41	Boundaries of city operations	70A.205.045(5)(b)	
42	Population density of each city and each g-cert area. (Same as row 5 in this checklist.)	70A.205.045(5)(c)	
43	Identify county contracts for curbside collection services.	36.58.040(5)(a)	
44	Identify any Solid Waste Collection District.	70A.205.045(7)(b), 70A.205.040(3)	

45	Analysis of if minimum service levels meet RCW requirements.	70A.205.045(7)(b), 70A.205.040(3)	
46	Identify jurisdictions with government-directed commercial curbside solid waste collection.	70A.205.045(5) and (7)(b)(ii)	
47	Projected solid waste collection needs for each jurisdiction for the next six years.	70A.205.045(5)(d)	
Solid Waste Handling Facilities			
48	List known closed/abandoned landfills.	70A.205.045(1)	
49	Identify the flow of organic materials, and comply with laws to prevent spread of pests and diseases.	Chapter 17.24, 70A.205.060, 70A.205.045(3)	
50	List all permitted facilities in the planning area.	70A.205.045(1)	
51	List the major facilities handling key wastes from the planning area and deficiencies.	70A.205.045(1)	
52	Project facility needs over the six- and twenty-year horizons.	70A.205.045(2) and (3)	
53	Public facilities: Maintenance and expansion over the next six years (Six-year construction and capital acquisition program)	70A.205.045(3)(c)	
54	Public facilities: SW facility needs over the next 20 years.	70A.205.045(2)	
55	Private facilities: Check in about capacity and cost over the six- and twenty-year planning horizons.	70A.205.045(2) and (3)	
56	Use stock language in Guidelines unless siting a publicly-owned landfill. If the latter, do a full review.	70A.205.045(9)	
Miscellaneous Wastes (Hard-to-Handle Wastes)			
57	Ensure hard-to-handle wastes have a management plan. Excludes biosolids. Moderate risk waste may be addressed via the HW Plan.	70A.205.040	
Administration and Enforcement			
58	Outline roles and responsibilities of entities implementing and enforcing the Plan. Cities must implement in substantial compliance with the SW Plan.	70A.205.045(4), 35.21.156	

59	Cite and describe local laws and regulations that directly affect Plan elements or implement them.	70A.205.045(4)	
60	Document local laws and efforts to combat unsecured loads, litter, and illegal dumping.	70A.205.045(4), 70A.200.120, 70A.200.020(2)	
Funding the System (Financing)			
61	Capital costs and operational expenditures of the proposed system over the six-year planning period, and how to pay for them.	70A.205.045(3)(c) and (3)(d)	
62	Identify creative funding or subsidizing structures.	70A.205.045(3)(a) and (3)(d), 36.58.045	
63	Assessment of the impact of the Plan on ratepayers in UTC-served areas.	70A.205.045(8), 70A.205.065	
64	If discounted rates in UTC-served areas are planned, clearly state the intention and timing.	70A.205.045(8), 81.77.195	

Row ID	Process & Format Below is from SW and Combined Plan Revision Timeline except row H. *SWAC requirements differ for Independent City Plans.	RCW (or other support, such as WAC or acceptable process)	Location in Plan
A	Identify Plan participants, get written documentation from each	70A.205.040	
B	Involve the SWAC throughout the Plan update*	70A.205.110(3)	
C	Identify and use the appropriate SEPA process	WAC 197-11-030	
D	Host SWAC meeting to review residential curbside	70A.205.115(1)	
E	Draft the SEPA documents	chapter 43.21C	
F	Hold comment period(s)(SEPA and locally-required). (Complete the SEPA process before local adoption.)	chapter 43.21C	
G	Submit Preliminary Draft for Ecology's 120-day comments	70A.205.055(1)	
H	Ensure linked documents are handled appropriately.	Acceptable format.	

I	**Preliminary submittal packet:** 1. Cover letter formally requesting preliminary review 2. Electronic copy of the Plan (legible and searchable) 3. Interlocal Agreements or written authorizations 4. Evidence of SWAC participation, including the meeting regarding curbside recycling, if applicable 5. The UTC Cost Assessment	Acceptable format.	
J	Review comments with SWAC	70A.205.110(3)	
K	If desired, submit Final Draft to Ecology for optional 45-day courtesy review	Optional	
L	Obtain SWAC advice on Final Plan	70A.205.110(3)	
M	Adopt locally	70A.205.075(4)	
N	Submit Final Draft for Ecology's 45-day review/approval	70A.205.055(2)	
O	**Final submittal packet:** 1. Cover letter formally requesting final review 2. Electronic copy of the Plan (legible and searchable). Electronic copies of all linked required Plan content. 3. Documentation of the completed SEPA process 4. Resolutions of Adoption 5. Interlocal Agreements or written authorizations 6. Evidence of SWAC advice on the Final Draft Plan	Acceptable format.	