



Washington State Recycling Survey

Who should fill out the recycling survey form?

Everyone who collected recyclable material from the state of Washington anytime during the last calendar year should fill out this form. This includes curbside collectors, buy-back centers, county and city utilities, scrap metal collectors, brokers, commercial and industrial collectors, oil collectors and processors, tire retreaders, energy recovery facilities, and others. The survey is for materials handled at the initial collection point, and in some cases, beyond the initial collection point.

If you **did not** handle material intended for recycling or diversion from disposal in the last year, please write a note saying that you didn't handle these materials on the survey form and return it to Ecology. If you have questions about whether this applies to your business, contact Dan Weston at 360-407-6409, or e-mail daniel.weston@ecy.wa.gov.

Instructions for completing the forms

- 1) Review the **Handler Identification Information**. Add information that is incomplete. Change information that is outdated or incorrect
- 2) Review the **Material Type Definitions (page 3)** for materials you will be reporting.
- 3) Use either the **Materials Form** (listing 32 material types) **OR** the **County/City Form** (listing all Washington counties and the City of Seattle). You don't need to use both the Materials Form and the County/City Form. Choose the form that best fits your information. If more space is needed, use a separate sheet or photocopy the form.
 - When using the **Materials Form** to report materials for more than one county, ***copy the form*** so you can list tonnage for different counties ***on separate sheets***. For the **Materials Form**, list materials coming from the City of Seattle on a separate sheet.
 - When using the **County/City Form**, ***copy the form*** so you can report different materials. Include information for the City of Seattle separately.
- 4) Complete the **Destination and Final Use of Materials Form**, listing what the material was used for and the name of the company that bought or received the materials collected.
- 5) **General Information about the Recycling Survey (pages 9 and 10)** answers some general questions about the history of recycling measurement in Washington.
- 6) **Report all quantities in short tons.** **General Measurement Standards and Reporting Guidelines** (<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/publications/1507004.pdf>) can help you convert volume to weight.
- 7) Return the completed forms to Ecology by **April 1**. Call or e-mail Dan Weston at (360) 407-6409, daniel.weston@ecy.wa.gov if you need help filling out your recycling survey.
- 8) Insert form into the business reply mailer, then send to:

Dan Weston
Solid Waste Management Program
Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98599-7600

[You may also fax the forms to 360-407-6102.](tel:3604076102)

If you require this publication in an alternate format, please contact the Solid Waste Management Program at 360-407-6900. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech impairment can call 877-833-6341.



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Handler Identification

Company Name		Facility Name	Facility ID
Contact Person		Title	
Telephone	Fax	Email	
Mailing Address		Location Address	
City, State, Zip		City, State, Zip	

Did you operate in _____? **Yes** *If yes*, proceed with completing entire survey.
 No *If no*, answer the following questions, sign, date, and return this sheet only.

When did you stop operations? _____

Do you plan to restart? No Yes When? _____

Prepared by: _____ Date: _____



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Material Type Definitions

Please note some categories have two or more material definitions that apply.

1. Newspaper	Black and white newspaper, shredded newsprint, and including other paper normally distributed inside a newspaper such as colored advertisements, comics, and flyers.
2. Cardboard	Brown uncoated paper with a wavy core and uncontaminated (no plastic lining or wax coating); and brown paper bags.
3. High Grade Paper	Computer paper, white bond, copy paper, notebook paper, and some colored paper.
4. Mixed Waste Paper	All other potentially recyclable paper, such as envelopes, telephone books, paperback books, cereal boxes, laundry soap boxes, and magazines.
5. Cartons	Poly-coated beverage containers with plastic, foil, or wax lining, such as milk or juice cartons. This doesn't include individual foil packets such as Capri Sun containers.
6. Container Glass	Glass containers for food, beverage, and other material. Excludes refillable bottles.
7. PET Plastics (#1)	Polyethylene terephthalate—clear and colored beverage containers made from PET; coded (#1).
8. HDPE Plastics (#2)	High-density polyethylene—clear and colored containers made from HDPE; coded (#2).
9. LDPE Plastics (#4)	Low-density polyethylene—includes mustard and some other squeezable containers; coded (#4). Includes plastic bags and plastic film.
10. Other Recyclable Plastics	All other plastics; recyclable plastics not included above.
11. Aluminum Cans	Aluminum beverage cans.
12. Steel Cans	Tin-plated steel cans, usually food containers.
13. Ferrous Metals	Magnetic metal items such as steel clothes hangers, sheet metal products, pipes, some automobile parts, auto bodies, and other miscellaneous, magnetic metal scraps.
14. Non-Ferrous Metals	Copper tubing, brass fixtures, insulated wire, small auto parts such as generators, water pumps. Aluminum other than beverage cans.
15. Appliances (white goods)	Appliances, water heaters, or microwave ovens.
16. Electronics	Hard drives from computer towers and laptops; display screens such as Monitors, CRTs, or TVs; cell or mobile phones, keyboards, mice, printers, etc.
17. Fluorescent Lights	Mercury lamp. Specify if compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL), 4-foot tube, 8-foot tube, etc.
18. Antifreeze	Also called coolant, from vehicle engines.
19. Used Oil	Automotive oil. Please indicate if oil is re-refined/recycled, or burned for energy recovery or heat.
20. Tires	Automobile, truck, and bicycle tires. Please specify if the tires are re-treaded, reused, recycled, or burned for energy.
21. Vehicle Batteries	Automobile, truck, boat, motorcycle batteries. Excludes industrial batteries.
22. Household Batteries	Includes: flashlight (Alkaline, Ni-Cad), and button batteries (lithium).
23. Asphalt	Asphalt paving material and similar wastes.
24. Concrete	Cement, concrete blocks, and concrete pieces.
25. Construction or Demolition Debris	Mixed material generated as a result of a construction or demolition operation, including toilets, sinks, rock, brick, insulation, roofing, and combination materials. Exclude the following materials if possible: asphalt, concrete, metals, wood, carpet, and gypsum.



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Material Type Definitions cont.

26. Wood Waste	Pallets, scrap lumber, wood toys, fencing, and crates. Please specify if wood is recycled or burned for energy recovery.
27. Landclearing Debris	Stumps, brush, and limbs from non-residential locations. Please specify use of the material (chipped for mulch, burned for energy, etc.).
28. Yard Debris	Grass clippings, leaves, tree prunings, and weeds for composting.
29. Food and/or Food Scraps	Food preparation wastes, food scraps, spoiled food, or donated edible food.
30. Textiles	Clothing and apparel, shop rags, and blankets.
31. Comingled Recyclables	Specify material types collected.
32. Other Recyclables:	Specify and describe material. Can include, but is not limited to: carpet and padding, gypsum drywall, mercury compounds, oil filters, rendering, other organics, photographic film, rubber materials, mattresses, and toner or ink cartridges.



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Materials Form

Material Source (county): _____ Copy this form for multiple counties (and Seattle) OR use the County Form on next page.			Reporting Year:	Facility ID:
Material (see definitions)	Material Description (if needed)	Tons or percent Commercial	Tons or percent Residential	Total Tons from County
1. Newspaper				
2. Cardboard				
3. High-Grade Paper				
4. Mixed Waste Paper				
5. Cartons				
6. Container Glass				
7. PET Plastics				
8. HDPE Plastics				
9. LDPE Plastics				
10. Other Recyclable Plastics				
11. Aluminum Cans				
12. Steel Cans				
13. Ferrous Metals (iron, steel)				
14. Nonferrous Metals (excluding aluminum cans)				
15. Appliances (white goods)				
16. Electronics (specify type)				
17. Fluorescents (CFL, 4ft, 8ft)				
18. Antifreeze				
19. Used Oil				
20. Tires				
21. Vehicle Batteries				
22. Household Batteries				
23. Asphalt				
24. Concrete				
25. Construction/Demolition				
26. Wood Waste				
27. Landclearing Debris				
28. Yard Debris				
29. Food and/or Food Scraps				
30. Textiles (rags, clothing)				
31. Commingled Recyclables <input type="checkbox"/> Glass <input type="checkbox"/> No Glass				
32. Other Recyclables (specify)				

Required Amount of Material Disposed (not recycled):	tons
If you do not know the amount disposed or there was no disposal, estimate the percentage of non-recyclable materials in loads accepted:	%

Total Tons Collected for Recycling: (include all incoming materials)			tons
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County/City Form

Type of Material: _____ Copy this form for each different material type OR use the Materials Form on the previous page.			Reporting Year:	Facility ID:
County	Material Description (if needed)	Tons or Percent Commercial	Tons or Percent Residential	Total Tons or Percent from County
Adams				
Asotin				
Benton				
Chelan				
Clallam				
Clark				
Columbia				
Cowlitz				
Douglas				
Ferry				
Franklin				
Garfield				
Grant				
Grays Harbor				
Island				
Jefferson				
King*				
City of Seattle				
Kitsap				
Kittitas				
Klickitat				
Lewis				
Lincoln				
Mason				
Okanogan				
Pacific				
Pend Oreille				
Pierce				
San Juan				
Skagit				
Skamania				
Snohomish				
Spokane				
Stevens				
Thurston				
Wahkiakum				
Walla Walla				
Whatcom				
Whitman				
Yakima				
Out of State				
Total Tons Collected for Recycling: (include all incoming materials)				tons

Required Tons or estimated percent disposed: _____

**If materials were collected from the city of Seattle, list them separately from the King County total.*



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Destination and Final Use of Materials Form

For multiple destinations of same material, use blank lines at the end of the form.

Facility ID:

Material	Outgoing Tons	To Which Company	Destination Location (City, State)	Final Use *** (See below)
1. Newspaper				
2. Cardboard				
3. High-Grade Paper				
4. Mixed Waste Paper				
5. Cartons				
6. Container Glass				
7. PET Plastics				
8. HDPE Plastics				
9. LDPE Plastics				
10. Other Recyclable Plastics				
11. Aluminum Cans				
12. Steel Cans				
13. Ferrous Metals (iron, steel)				
14. Nonferrous Metals (excluding aluminum cans)				
15. Appliances (white goods)				
16. Electronics (specify type)				
17. Fluorescents (CFL, 4ft, 8ft)				
18. Antifreeze				
19. Used Oil				
20. Tires				
21. Vehicle Batteries				
22. Household Batteries				
23. Asphalt				
24. Concrete				
25. Construction/Demolition				
26. Wood Waste				
27. Landclearing Debris				
28. Yard Debris				
29. Food and/or Food Scraps				
30. Textiles (rags, clothing)				
31. Commingled Recyclables (specify materials in mix)				
32. Other Recyclables (specify)				
Outgoing Tons for Disposal:				Disposal

Outgoing Tons for Recycling:	
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Total Outgoing Tons: (including disposal)	
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Washington State Recycling Survey

General Information about the Recycling Survey

Background

The Washington State Department of Ecology's (Ecology's) Solid Waste Management Program has conducted a state recycling survey every year since 1986. A consulting firm conducted the first survey and developed a methodology for collecting data on the quantities of materials people were recycling in the state. The survey focused on the residential waste stream and selected commercial categories. In 1987, a consulting firm completed the second survey in conjunction with a legislative mandate to determine the best management of residential, commercial, manufacturing, and self-hauled waste. The third annual recycling survey, in 1988, was also the work of an outside firm. In 1989, Ecology decided to conduct the recycling survey with its own staff. Ecology's Solid Waste Management Program has managed the survey since 1986.

Purpose and Objectives

The Solid Waste Management–Reduction and Recycling Act, Chapter 70.95 RCW, set a state goal to achieve a 50 percent recycling rate by 1995. In 2002, the Legislature reaffirmed this 50 percent goal. The Act also established that county and city governments would assume primary responsibility for solid waste management and carry out aggressive and effective waste reduction and source separation strategies. Each county in the state, in cooperation with its various cities, must prepare a coordinated, comprehensive, solid waste management plan.

RCW 70.95.280 requires Ecology to monitor the waste stream and the changes in the amount of waste generated. Each year, people who collect solid waste report to Ecology the types and quantities of solid waste that they collect and where they deliver it.

Ecology uses the state recycling survey to write a report each year describing how we manage waste in Washington. The report details the volumes of waste disposed, generated, recycled, and diverted. It analyzes the results and provides the state recycling and diversion rate and other information on measuring the waste stream. This measurement helps state and local government administrators evaluate source reduction and recycling programs and monitor progress toward achieving their own individual goals and their contribution toward the statewide goal.

Specific research objectives are:

- 1) To fulfill the requirements of Chapter 70.95 RCW, Solid Waste Management, Reduction and Recycling Act.
- 2) To determine the types and amounts of recyclable materials received by handlers from within the state of Washington.
- 3) To determine the state's total recycling and diversion rates.
- 4) To determine which county and which city (Seattle only) the materials came from in order to obtain county/city recycling and diversion totals.
- 5) To determine whether the collection source was residential or commercial/industrial.
- 6) To determine if there was any double-counting of materials and correct for it.
- 7) To determine changes in the recycling rate on a per capita basis from 1986 to present.
- 8) To update and revise the state's list of handlers of recycled/recyclable materials.
- 9) To determine the final uses of the material collected.



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How does the state define recycling?

The “Waste Not Washington” Act of 1989 (Chapter 70.95 RCW) clarifies several terms useful in describing recycling.

“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.”

“Recycling” in general (according to the Act) “means transforming or remanufacturing waste materials into usable or marketable materials for use other than landfill disposal or incineration.”

“Energy recovery means a process operating under federal and state environmental laws and regulations for converting solid waste into usable energy and for reducing the volume of solid waste.”

“Incineration means a process of reducing the volume of solid waste operating under federal and state environmental laws and regulations by use of an enclosed device using controlled flame combustion.”

What is material recovery and how do I report other recovered materials?

In calculating Washington’s “recycling rate”, the state only counts materials recovered within the scope of traditional municipal solid waste (MSW). It doesn’t count recovered materials that are outside the scope of traditional MSW or materials managed in a manner that does not meet the state’s definition of recycling. However, materials not included in the recycling rate may be included in the “material recovery rate”.

People recover many non-MSW materials for use instead of sending them to the landfill or incinerator for disposal. Examples of these materials include construction and demolition materials, land-clearing debris, and reused materials (such as tires that are recapped and resold). People also recover materials in ways that do not meet the definition of recycling, for example, burning for energy, recapping [tires], reuse, or stockpiling for future use. These “recovered” materials should be reported on the recycling survey as well as “recycled” tonnages. Indicate the end use of the recovered materials as accurately as possible.

Materials collected and processed for energy recovery. Ecology doesn’t classify materials collected and processed for energy recovery as recycled, but they should also be reported. The most notable materials are tires shredded for fuel and used oil burned as bunker fuel. Report these tonnages and indicate their use for energy recovery. These materials will be counted as recovered.