



2020

SOLID WASTE DIVISION

ANNUAL REPORT



King County

Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

Per King County Code Sections 10.14.080 and 10.24.020

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Message from the Director

Welcome to the 2020 King County Solid Waste Division Annual Report. As someone who is seldom at a loss of words, I must say that I find it difficult to reflect on 2020. There are moments when I would rather leave it on the garbage pile of history instead of revisiting a year where every day felt, and often was, unprecedented. At the same time, there is so much we were able to accomplish despite a global pandemic that literally shut down our region and forced us to change the way we work, operate and even stand beside one another. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the remarkable work of our employees.

When people ask me what it is like leading a 400-person strong organization, I tell them I am always amazed but never surprised. Amazed because just when I think employees couldn't possibly top our customer service, professionalism, or sheer dedication, they go above and beyond and exceed expectations. While some may be surprised at employees' devotion to providing responsible and efficient solid waste management to King County's more than 2 million residents, I never am because it's so consistent.

This devotion was on full display when our facilities began receiving more customers as a result of neighboring jurisdictions reducing their hours and services. Recycling and transfer station employees didn't flinch, with most volunteering to work extra hours or shifts to help with long lines and customers unfamiliar with our operations. This is on top of having to reconfigure facilities to ensure social distancing was in place and enforcing mask and other COVID-19 safety measures. At our King Street Center offices in downtown Seattle, employees immediately pivoted to working from home and were so effective the Department of Natural Resources and Parks decided to make telecommuting for those employees permanent. The combined efforts of our workforce meant that, unlike nearly every other neighboring solid waste utility, we did not miss a single day of regular service.

That would be incredible on its own, but factor in the other, "regular" work employees did and you'll understand my amazement. This includes initial phases for the construction of two new recycling and transfer stations; averting a rate increase for 2021 without reducing service levels; preparing for more landfill capacity; advancing Equity and Social Justice for customers and employees; educating the public on reducing contamination in recycling and composting; improving safety by eliminating overweight trailer loads; increasing recycling and reducing the amount of garbage going to the landfill; identifying new and innovative ways to enhance customer recycling at transfer stations; helping and honoring schools that go green; responsibly and safely collecting hazardous waste; and so much more.

The past year, though incredibly challenging, was yet another example of how every single day we are living up to our vision: *We bring the best people together to deliver value to our customers and stakeholders and continuously improve waste prevention, resource recovery, and waste disposal.*

It gives me immense honor to present the division's 2020 achievements. Last year's difficulties may be behind us, but there will undoubtedly be more that come our way. With such a talented and devoted workforce, along with the ongoing support of our customers, partnering cities, advisory committees, the King County Executive and the King County Council, I know we are completely prepared to respond to whatever challenges may come.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. McLaughlin". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large loop at the end.

About the Solid Waste Division

The Solid Waste Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) is guided by its vision to achieve Zero Waste of Resources by 2030, and to enhance the environment through collaboration and innovation. The division operates eight transfer stations, two rural drop boxes, and the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill – the only operational landfill in the county. Our stakeholders include residents and business owners in unincorporated King County and 37 cities throughout the county (all except the cities of Seattle and Milton, which are part of separate solid waste systems). Our mission is to deliver value to our customers and stakeholders, and to continuously improve waste prevention, resource recovery, and waste disposal.

Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic

With solid waste disposal and recycling services being an essential service, the Solid Waste Division put several measures in place to keep employees and customers safe, and to ensure vital operations remained accessible to service-area customers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following Governor Jay Inslee's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order, several neighboring solid waste

management jurisdictions either reduced their services or closed their facilities. This resulted in an increase of customers to King County solid waste facilities. Beginning in April, transactions increased by an average of 25 percent, or about 500 more self-haul customers each day, compared to 2019. To help slow this influx, the division deployed several strategies to manage the flow of customers, including issuing press releases, posting social media content, and installing electronic reader boards that all encouraged customers to delay visits when possible and only make essential trips. This increase in customers also meant the division had to take extra measures to protect workers.

Division employees who interact with the public the most are its Scale Operators. These women and men are responsible for weighing customer vehicles in and out at recycling and transfer stations. They provide information about facility services, and process payments for self-haul and commercial customers. To protect our invaluable employees and the customers they serve, the division installed plexiglass barriers and air purifiers at Scale Houses and provided nets to collect payments, which helped keep an even greater distance between customers and employees.



To comply with social distancing measures, every other self-haul stall at transfer stations was closed.



Plexiglass barriers were installed at Scale Houses to add an extra layer of protection, and Scale Operators use nets to collect payment and keep their distance from customers.

In addition to encouraging customers to postpone visits to transfer stations unless necessary, the division enacted a staggered entry system and closed every other self-haul stall to keep as much distance as possible between customers while they disposed of their waste on the tipping floor. Though this occasionally caused longer lines, the division used its social media and other communication channels to inform customers about this change and encouraged

customers to “Check the Line” before heading to a transfer station. “Check the Line” is a website where customers can see how long a line is at any of the division’s transfer stations and drop boxes.

Other COVID-19-related safety measures included enforcing Governor Jay Inslee’s statewide mask order and providing masks for customers who may have forgotten to wear one. The division also encouraged customers to pay with a credit or debit card instead of using cash and gave customers tips on pre-sorting garbage from recycling before arriving at a transfer station to make a trip even more efficient.

Employees working at King Street Center Offices in downtown Seattle were also affected by COVID-19 and had to quickly transition to remote work. In late June 2020, DNRP management announced that about 850 employees working at the King Street Center, including the division’s entire downtown workforce of 121 employees, would transition to permanent remote work. Though employee health and safety were at the forefront of this decision, the department also saw an opportunity to reduce its carbon footprint. Transitioning these employees to remote work – called GreenWhereWeWork – will also save public money and help sustain county services and employment during a regional economic downturn.

Division employees transitioned to GreenWhereWeWork seamlessly by moving public meetings and other outreach events to digital formats. The diligence of employees who worked to safely empty cubicles, file records, and put items into storage meant the Solid Waste Division was the first division in DNRP to completely move out of its office space.



Waste Prevention and Recycling

Whether it's fostering the next generation of environmental stewards, encouraging customers to recycle more and recycle right, or working to divert recyclable materials away from the landfill, the Solid Waste Division is committed to enhancing waste prevention and recycling in King County.

Recycling collection increases by 3 percent

In 2020, the division collected 34,804 tons of recyclable material at its transfer stations and drop boxes, a 3 percent increase compared to 2019. Yard waste continues to be the most recycled material with 20,163 tons collected, followed by scrap metal (5,148 tons), cardboard (3,733 tons) and clean wood (2,510 tons).

To further increase the amount of materials that are recycled, transfer station operators help customers “sort it out” by informing them of the requirement for self-haul customers who bring their waste to King County transfer stations and drop boxes to recycle cardboard, scrap metal, yard waste and clean wood at facilities where those materials can be recycled, and alerting customers to designated bins that make it convenient to recycle these three types of materials.

How to ‘Compost Right’

Moving on from its successful “Recycle Right” campaign, the Recycle Right Communications Consortium launched a “Compost Right” campaign focused on reducing contamination in curbside composting bins. The consortium is a subgroup of



Designated bins for readily recyclable materials, such as scrap metal, make it easy for customers to sort it out and recycling more.

the Responsible Recycling Task Force made up of communications professionals representing King County, regional haulers, city partners, stakeholders, and regulators. The group receives direction from the Task Force and works to harmonize messaging across the region to enhance the quality and quantity of recycled materials collected.

For its Compost Right campaign, the Consortium developed three animated videos and digital audio messages in both English and Spanish, a partner tool kit, and a website all centered around the key messages to keep plastic and other problematic materials out of the compost bins. The campaign consisted of paid social media, TV, and radio advertisements that received millions of impressions during the four-week



Compost Right, the newest campaign from the Recycle Right Communications Consortium, has just two simple rules: Food in, plastic out.



When placed in curbside recycling bins, plastic bags become tangled at recycling facilities. The better options are to bring them to a takeback location or put them in the garbage.

media campaign in September and October. Similar to “Recycle Right” messaging, “Compost Right” and “food in, plastic out,” will be the primary messaging related to composting now and in the future.

Removing plastic bags and wrap to reduce recycling contamination

Based on recommendations by the Responsible Recycling Task Force, beginning January 1, 2020, garbage and recycling collection programs in King County stopped accepting plastic bags and wrap in curbside recycling bins. Plastic bags and wrap are often wet or have food waste on them when placed in curbside recycling bins and contaminate other materials. Additionally, at recycling facilities, these plastics can jam sorting and processing equipment, leading to

frequent shutdowns so workers can remove the tangled materials. Instead of putting plastic bags and wrap in curbside bins, customers are asked to bring these materials to designated drop-off locations at grocery stores and other retail outlets for recycling or put them in the garbage.

In 2020 the division worked with the Wrap Recycling Action Program (WRAP) to conduct an education campaign that highlighted what types of plastic bags and film were accepted for recycling, how to find a takeback location, the importance of using reusable bags, and why these materials should never go in curbside recycling bins. The campaign was adjusted after many retail locations, such as grocery stores, stopped allowing customers to bring their own reusable bags. In response to the change, the division communicated how the public could reuse bags they already have and stressed the importance of checking with takeback locations before bringing in their plastic bags and wrap for recycling.

Lightbulb and battery recycling project recognized for leading in sustainability

In 2020, the national organization Call2Recycle presented the division with a “2019 Leader in Sustainability” award for coordinating the first-ever pilot project to collect and recycle light bulbs and batteries from multi-family residences. In partnership with YWCA and King County Housing Authority, the division collected nearly 500 pounds of batteries for recycling in South King County, keeping these hazardous materials out of the landfill.



Nearly 500 pounds of batteries were recycled in the first year of a pilot project to collect these, and other difficult to recycle materials.

Schools continued to “go green” in virtual classrooms

The King County Green Schools Program assists King County schools and school districts (not including Seattle Public Schools) to engage students and employees in conservation practices, including waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and energy and water conservation.

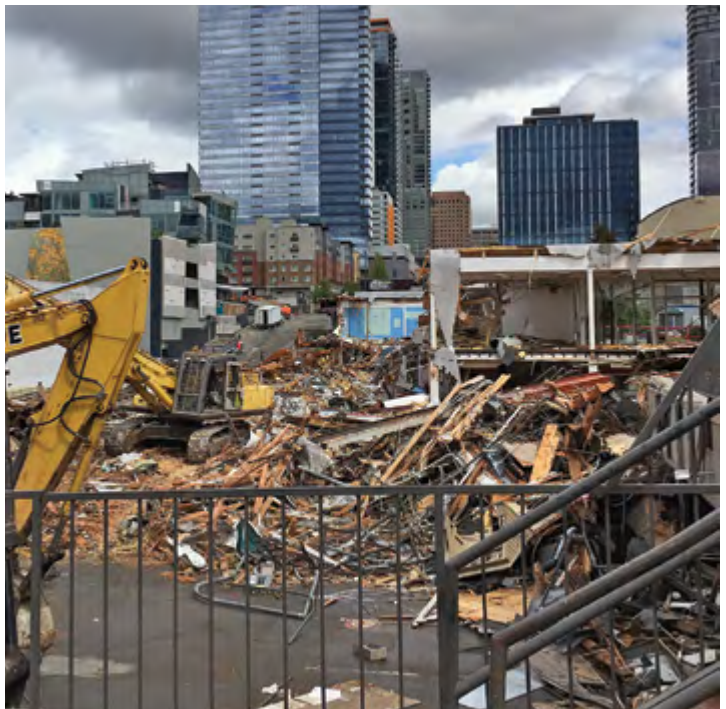
During the 2019-20 school year, 320 K-12 schools in King County participated in the program, with 40 new schools earning recognition for reducing waste, increasing recycling, conserving energy and water, and cutting costs. Prior to school closures related to COVID-19, student Green Teams monitored classroom energy, encouraged reusable water bottle use, and promoted walking and biking to school. Students tested water quality in streams, mentored teams in other schools, and helped create rain gardens and pollinator gardens on their campuses. Schools taught students about food systems and why food is a valuable resource and set up food donation programs to reduce food waste.

Despite COVID-19 school closures last spring, teachers and other Green Team leaders guided by the program continued to provide students with opportunities to learn about the environment and to take action to conserve

natural resources and protect our environment. In August, the program made a transition to the virtual realm with a new podcast, webinars, online gatherings for Green Team leaders and teachers to connect with each other, a Sustainability Scavenger Hunt Challenge on a mobile app, and additional internet resources. Green Schools Program participants have enjoyed the program's online transition, and participation has been good with nearly 200 joining the virtual gatherings.

Construction and demolition waste recycling

One in three truckloads of solid waste generated in King County consists of construction and demolition debris (C&D). King County requires that readily recyclable C&D materials (metal, cardboard, wood, concrete, asphalt paving, brick, and drywall) be recycled, which furthers the division's zero waste of resources goal and carbon emissions reduction efforts. Since the C&D ordinance was passed in 2015, the number of designated recycling facilities that handle C&D has increased from one to eight. The Solid Waste Division's C&D management program is funded by a fee of \$4.25 per ton that applies only to C&D that is landfilled, which further incentivizes recycling. The collected fees go into a dedicated fund that covers expenses related to C&D management. Approximately 200,000 tons of C&D waste was landfilled by companies participating in the King County



About 200,000 tons of C&D waste was disposed in 2020, generating \$850,000 in fees.

Designated recyclables in King County

As specified in the *Final 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan*, King County's list of designated recyclables is defined and updated by the Washington State Department of Ecology's annual statewide survey of materials that have been recycled in Washington. Designated recyclables in King County include:

- Carpet and pads
- Clean wood
- Construction and demolition debris
- Electronics
- Furniture
- Glass
- Metal
- Moderate risk waste (all-purpose cleaners, batteries, pesticides, used motor oil)
- Organics
- Other materials (latex paint, toner and ink cartridges, photographic film, tires)
- Paper
- Plastic
- Gypsum



While paper, plastic, metal cans and glass are the most well-known recyclables, many items can be recycled in King County.

designated C&D facilities program in 2020, generating \$850,000 in fees. Due to a delay in reporting by the Washington State Department of Ecology the most recent year's C&D recycling data for King County are not yet available.

A C&D grant program was launched in 2020, awarding \$470,000 in funding to four projects that focus on developing new technologies for recycling C&D materials and maximizing the recovery of C&D during demolition and processing. Grant recipients include Washington State University's Civil and Environmental Engineering Department for developing improved methods to recycle asphalt paving and concrete. Additionally, funds were

allocated to private companies for applying improved metal and wood extraction technologies.

Prior to 2020, the Solid Waste Division contracted with the King County Sheriff's Office to assist in enforcing the C&D recycling and disposal regulations. In 2020, the Solid Waste Division transitioned away from using the Sheriff's office and created a temporary position for a C&D enforcement lead to ensure C&D waste is properly sorted and sent to approved disposal facilities for recycling. A full time position was approved for 2021. Finally, the Solid Waste Division continues to hold regular stakeholder meetings to discuss markets for C&D materials, enforcement efforts, and other issues impacting C&D recycling and disposal.

Transfer Stations

Providing customers with safe, efficient and responsible waste disposal and transfer is a key service of the Solid Waste Division. In 2020, the division continued its work to modernize its transfer system.

Progress continues on updating the transfer system in south and northeast King County

In 2020, the Solid Waste Division made progress on design of its South County Recycling and Transfer Station Project to replace the aging Algona Transfer Station by 2024, and began the siting process for the Northeast County Recycling and Transfer Station Project to replace the 60-year old Houghton Transfer Station in Kirkland by 2027. Both facilities will be designed to meet modern standards and offer better access to improved waste disposal and comprehensive recycling services.

Designed with the environment in mind, the new South County station will offer a full array of recycling services currently not available at the Algona station. These include convenient hazardous waste disposal for households and qualifying businesses, green building features, and improvements to nearby creeks and wetlands, as well as public art and other community benefits. King County will keep the existing Algona Transfer Station open throughout construction of the new facility. In 2020, the Solid Waste Division conducted a Value Engineering Study to analyze noise, geotechnical, traffic and environmental issues. Construction is expected to begin in 2021.

In October, the Solid Waste Division kicked-off the Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station Project by hosting the first of 10 siting advisory group meetings. The group is comprised of 28 members that represent local businesses, community groups, schools, nonprofits, and environmental interests, as well as the cities of Woodinville, Redmond, Kirkland, and



The aging Algona Transfer Station lacks room for important services, such as comprehensive recycling and hazardous waste collection. This station, along with the Houghton Transfer Station in Kirkland, will soon be replaced by more modern facilities, similar to the Factoria Recycling and Transfer Station seen here.



The Wastemobile makes dropping off your hazardous easy, and in 2020 more than 1.6 million pounds of hazardous waste was safely collected.

Sammamish, and unincorporated King County. The group's purpose is to make sure community interests and values are considered by the technical team working to identify a feasible location for the station. Committee members will assist in developing criteria that will be used to evaluate sites and help inform which sites should be further studied in an environmental impact statement set to be published in 2022. Construction is expected to begin in late 2025.

More than 1.6 million pounds of hazardous waste safely collected

The Hazardous Waste Management Program provides hazardous waste collection, education, and prevention resources for residents and businesses in King County. Properly disposing of hazardous materials such as cleaning supplies, varnish, motor oil, oil-based paints, pesticides, and other materials that contain toxic, corrosive, flammable, or reactive ingredients can be challenging for residents and programs. In 2020, the

program revamped its website to enhance accessibility and maximize outreach efforts in its work toward making the Puget Sound region the cleanest in the country, meaning free from hazardous chemical exposure.

The Hazardous Waste Management Program makes disposal easy with collection sites at the Factoria Recycling and Transfer Station in Bellevue, as well as with a roving collection service – the Wastemobile. Despite mandatory safety measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Factoria Recycling and Transfer Station and Wastemobile hazardous waste collection sites were able to safely continue operations and collect hazardous waste from 42,103 residents and 314 small businesses. More than 1.6 million pounds of hazardous materials were kept out of regional waste systems and the environment. Most notably, the Sammamish Wastemobile collection event on August 7-9 served 1,115 residents and collected nearly 40,000 pounds of hazardous waste. This was the most customers served by the Wastemobile since it began operating in 1989.

Cedar Hills Regional Landfill

The Cedar Hills Regional Landfill has been in operation since the 1960s and is the last operating landfill in King County. Every day, more than 100 trucks deliver tons of garbage to the landfill for final disposal. The newly opened Area 8 is the current active area of the landfill, with the rest of the 920 acres devoted to administrative facilities and reclaimed landfill areas. An onsite gas processing facility operated by Bio Energy Washington (BEW) collects landfill gas and purifies it so it can be sold as a renewable energy source.

Disposal Amounts

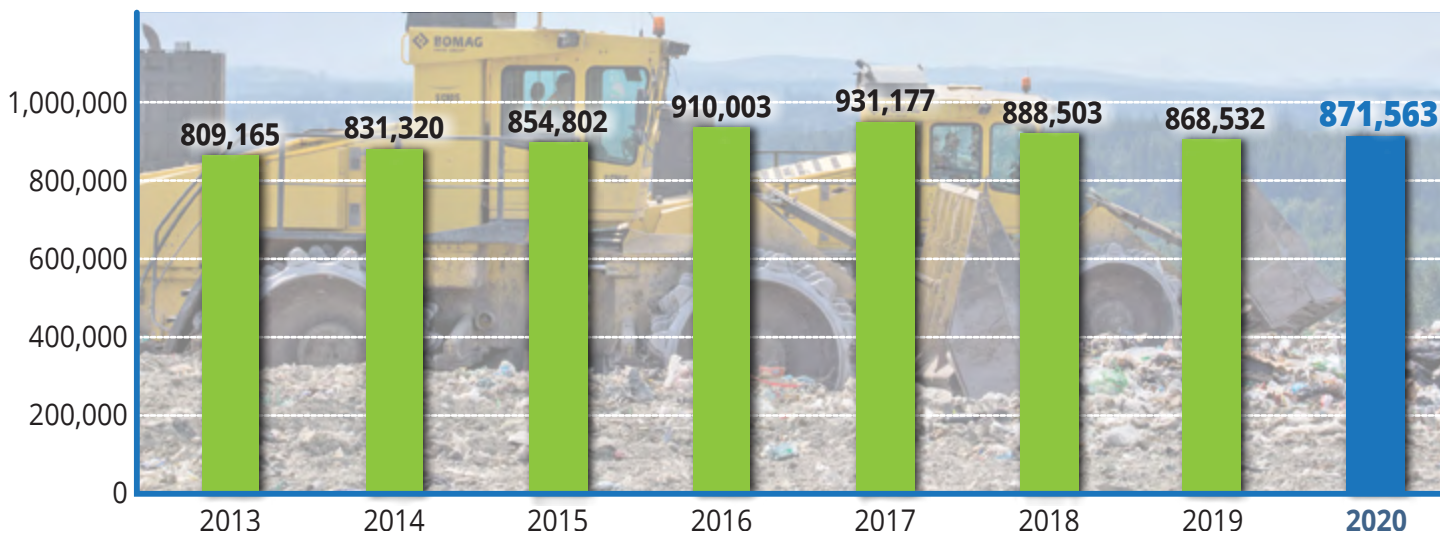
In 2020, 871,563 tons of garbage were disposed of at the landfill, representing a 0.3 percent increase, or about 3,000 more tons, compared to 2019. COVID-19 caused a slowdown in tons disposed during the early months of the pandemic, but the disposal rate recovered during the summer months. With businesses shifting their operations to remote work, commercially collected tons (mainly non-residential) decreased by about 31,000 tons, or 5 percent. This was balanced out by the increase in tonnage brought to facilities by self-haulers, which increased by 9,000 tons, or 5 percent.

The Bow Lake Recycling and Transfer Station continues to be the busiest facility with 257,113 tons disposed there, followed by the Algona Transfer Station (149,567 tons), the Houghton Transfer Station (134,003 tons) and the Factoria Recycling and Transfer Station (132,066 tons).



The 2020 Site Development Plan and Facilities Relocation Project seeks to ensure there is adequate disposal capacity at the landfill to continue accepting garbage beyond 2028.

Tons Disposed at Cedar Hills





The onsite Bio Energy Washington facility processes landfill gas into a renewable energy source

Maximizing landfill capacity

The Cedar Hills Regional Landfill 2020 Site Development Plan and Facilities Relocation Project seeks to ensure there is adequate disposal capacity at the landfill to continue accepting garbage beyond 2028 as outlined in the *Final 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan*. The project entails moving support facilities, such as office spaces and maintenance buildings, currently located at the landfill so these areas can be developed for garbage disposal. In June 2020, the division revised the options for relocating the landfill support facilities based on public input. These changes include removing the option to relocate the support facilities in the landfill's east buffer, adding a new option to relocate the support facilities away from the landfill, and evaluating three possible locations for the support facilities being evaluated in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The Draft EIS was published in September and was followed by a 45-day public comment period. To ensure

the public was notified about the ability to provide comments, the division held an online open house and sent a multi-lingual announcement to 20,000 households in the Maple Valley and Renton communities. A Final EIS is set for publication in June 2021.

Landfill gas-to-energy provides revenue

The Solid Waste Division contracts with the private entity BioEnergy Washington (BEW) to process landfill gas into pipeline-quality natural gas for sale to the marketplace. The purified landfill gas displaces fossil fuel-based natural gas and is used to power the facility and for vehicle transportation. The division also sells the renewable attributes – “green credits” that reflect the environmental benefit of putting the landfill gas to a productive use. From January through December, the division earned \$3.3 million from gas it delivered to BEW, plus \$2.2 million it made by selling renewable attributes.

Equity and Social Justice

Following the lead of Executive Dow Constantine, the division is committed to advancing equity and social justice (ESJ) for both its employees and customers.

Cleanup LIFT continues to make services more equitable

The Cleanup LIFT program provides a \$12 discount to customers who bring garbage and recycling to a King County facility, and who show ProviderOne (Medicaid), Electronic Benefits Transfer or ORCA LIFT cards.

The program was developed to make services more equitable for low-income customers and to advance equity and social justice in King County. Compared to 2019, the program doubled the amount



of transactions in 2020 to 9,940, providing financial relief to King County's most financially vulnerable customers by saving them almost \$120,000.

Incorporating Equity and Social Justice into capital projects

To ensure capital projects are bid, designed, constructed, and operated equitably, the division developed templates for an ESJ Management Plan that closely follows the ESJ Sustainability Scorecard. This new approach, coupled with an Equity Impact Review (EIR), is now coordinated and monitored by division leadership, and is required going forward for all new capital projects. This development and implementation of the plans, and any EIR, are required for project milestone approval. With this framework in place, the division will be able to more quickly identify and resolve gaps in equity before they become embedded.

Making a more equitable work environment

In response to the national reckoning on race that began following the death of George Floyd, the Solid Waste Division sought to make a more equitable work

**STOP
RECYCLING
RACISM.**

**IT BELONGS IN
THE GARBAGE.**



environment for its Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) employees. In July, BIPOC employees shared their experience with workplace culture during a division-wide listening session. After hearing about these experiences, the division's management team identified more than 30 ESJ-focused actions it would pursue in 2020 and beyond to enhance the BIPOC employee experience, remove inequitable barriers and dismantle systemic racism. These include targeted, consistent outreach efforts to BIPOC employees, a zero-tolerance policy toward discrimination, harassment and bullying, and analyzing for discrepancies and inequities between similar positions and pay rates, among others.

Planning

The Solid Waste Division works with its 37 partnering cities, two advisory committees, the King County Council, and other stakeholders to ensure it is delivering value and the utmost best in waste prevention, resource recovery, and waste disposal.

Rate increase postponed after employees identify millions in cost savings

After hearing partner and customer concerns about raising solid waste disposal rates during the COVID-19 pandemic, the division revised its budget and found a way to temporarily maintain the rate set in 2018 without customer-facing service cuts in 2021. This was possible thanks to the work of the employee-led Rates Task Force. This task force reviewed ideas from more than 200 employees and, together with new economic data, an updated tonnage forecast and collaborating with city partners and stakeholders, identified \$40 million in savings. These savings came from a variety of creative places, such as using low-interest rate bond financing for capital projects, and reducing reliance on outside contractors. In addition to delaying the rate increase, these savings allowed the division to reinvest \$9 million toward climate and waste reduction goals.

Task Force created to develop the plan to achieve Zero Waste of Resources and create a new rate structure

A task force consisting of King County, partner cities, regional haulers, and community members was created to develop recommendations for two high priority projects – the Zero Waste of Resources plan and a new rate structure for the future. The division has a goal to achieve Zero Waste of Resources by 2030, which means finding a better use for the 70 percent of materials that have value that are sent to the landfill every year. This plan will define actions and strategies to advance the regional waste system toward this goal. Initial phases will focus primarily on diverting food, paper, and plastics.

This task force will also seek a more stable source of revenue by developing a new rate structure. About 90 percent of division revenue comes from the tipping fee based solely on the number of garbage tons arriving at transfer stations and the landfill. As the division advances toward its Zero Waste of Resources goal the number of tons will decrease significantly. A new rate structure is needed to mitigate large increases in future rates due to an outdated business model.



The division has a goal to achieve Zero Waste of Resources by 2030, which means finding a better use for the 70% of materials that have value that are sent to the landfill every year.

2021 Outlook

Looking ahead to 2020, the division will continue to strive for excellence in waste prevention, resource recovery, and waste disposal.

Responding to COVID-19

The Solid Waste Division will follow national, state, and county public health directives and mandates to keep customers and employees safe so it can continue to provide its essential garbage disposal and recycling services.

Sort it Out Pilot Project

In early 2021, the division will begin a pilot project titled “Sort it Out,” which will involve recycling and transfer station employees taking a more proactive role in helping customers sort their materials to increase recycling. The project will focus on helping customers recycle even more scrap metal, yard waste, cardboard, and clean wood.



The division is planning to participate in the statewide paint product stewardship take-back program for oil-based paint.

Accepting oil-based paint at hazardous waste sites

In 2021, the division will be a collector in the statewide paint product stewardship take-back program for oil-based paint collected at the Household Hazardous Waste facility at the Factoria Recycling and Transfer Station, and by the Wastemobile.



Actively engaging customers helps encourage and increase recycling participation.

Evaluating the need for future rate increases

It is unlikely the volume of cost-saving measures that helped prevent a rate increase in 2021 will be possible for the next budget. The division is currently working with its advisory committees and the King County Executive's Office to develop a 2022 rate that will continue to support current services and make progress on division goals, such as zero waste of resources and carbon neutrality.

Capital projects progress

In 2021, the division will issue a Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill Site Development Plan and Relocation Project that

will reflect the comments received on the Draft EIS, and identify a recommended preferred alternative for maximizing landfill capacity at the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill. This will be followed by a decision on which landfill site development alternative studied in the environmental review will be chosen, and a decision on where supported facilities will be relocated.

The South County Recycling and Transfer Station project will have its final design determined, followed by the beginning of construction. The Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station project team will continue meeting with the Siting Advisory Group, begin environmental review, and plan for a public comment period on site alternatives.



Final closure of Area 7

Starting in the spring of 2021, the division will begin the final closure process for Area 7 at the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill, which accepted waste from 2010-19 and contains about 8.1 million tons of garbage. The final cover project includes installing a robust gas collection system, more stormwater capture and conveyance, laying down air-tight and water-tight covers and linings, soil, hydroseed, and access roads. This project is expected to be completed by early fall 2021.



In 2021, the division will begin the final closure process for Area 7, which accepted waste from 2010-19 and contains about 8.1 million tons of garbage.



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