



Glossary

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13. Glossary and Acronyms

A to C

ACS – American Community Survey, a program of the U.S. Census Bureau that conducts an on-going survey sent to a sample of the population that tells us what the population looks like and how it lives, and that helps communities determine where to locate services and allocate resources.

BMP – best management practice.

BOH – Board of Health; see King County Board of Health.

BPA – bisphenol-A, an endocrine-disrupting chemical found in polycarbonate plastics, food can liners, and many other products.

BTU – British thermal unit, a measure of energy equal to about 1.06 kilo-joules. It is approximately the amount of energy needed to heat one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit.

carcinogenic - a material known to contain a substance which has sufficient or limited evidence as a human or animal carcinogen as listed in both the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and either U.S. EPA's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) or Health Effects Assessment Summary Tables (HEAST), (defined in WAC 173-303-040); having the potential to cause cancer (New Oxford American Dictionary, 2001); covered under "toxic" as a characteristic of some hazardous wastes.

CBO – community based organization, a type of non-governmental organization (NGO).

CDC – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a branch of the federal government within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that focuses on issues such as environmental health and disease prevention, working closely with local health departments.

CEMP – Comprehensive Emergency Plan.

CERCLA – see Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

certified hauler – any person engaged in the business of solid waste handling having a certificate granted by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission for that purpose (defined in KCBOW Code 2.08.015).

CESQG – conditionally exempt small quantity generator; see small quantity generator.

C to D

CFCs – chlorofluorocarbons, a group of chemicals that were widely used as coolants for commercial and home refrigeration units, aerosol propellants and cleaning solvents (under the common trade name, Freon), but which were found to deplete the protective ozone layer in the Earth's atmosphere and were phased out beginning in 1989 through an international agreement known as the Montréal Protocol.

CFR – Code of Federal Regulations.

CH₄ – methane (carbon + four hydrogen atoms).

CO₂ – carbon dioxide (carbon + two oxygen atoms).

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act – the federal law that governs cleanup of contaminated sites; commonly referred to as “Superfund” or known by its acronym, “CERCLA.”

conditionally exempt small quantity generator – see small quantity generator.

corrosive – tending to destroy or damage [metal, stone, or other materials] slowly by chemical action (New Oxford American Dictionary, 2001); either strongly acidic, pH less than or equal to 2, or strongly basic, pH greater than or equal to 12.5 (federal RCRA definition); one of the characteristics used to define some hazardous wastes.

CPG – Consolidated Prevention Grant, the vehicle used by the Washington State Department of Ecology (under RCW 70.105D.070 (3)(a)) to disburse solid waste and hazardous waste funding on an biannual basis to counties and cities within the state.

CRT – cathode ray tube, the standard technology for televisions and computer monitors prior to the development of flat plasma or liquid crystal screens, containing significant quantities of lead as an electron beam shield.

dangerous wastes (statutory definition) - in Washington state, any discarded, useless, unwanted, or abandoned substances, including but not limited to certain pesticides, or any residues or containers of such substances which are disposed of in such quantity or concentration as to pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health, wildlife, or the environment because such wastes or constituents or combinations of such wastes: (a) have short-lived, toxic properties that may cause death, injury, or illness or have mutagenic, teratogenic, or carcinogenic properties; or (b) are corrosive, explosive, flammable, or may generate pressure through decomposition or other means(defined in RCW 70.105.010(5)(a) and (b)).

D to E

dangerous wastes (regulatory definition) – those solid wastes designated in WAC 173-303-070 through 173-303-100 as dangerous, or extremely hazardous, or mixed waste; in Washington state, the words “dangerous waste” refer to the full universe of wastes regulated as hazardous waste under WAC 173-303; extremely hazardous wastes are a subset of dangerous wastes; (defined in WAC 173-303-040). (See also “extremely hazardous waste,” “hazardous waste,” and “mixed waste” definitions).

DDMP – Disaster Debris Management Plan.

DDT – dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane, a widely-used, persistent pesticide (insecticide) that was banned in the U.S. in 1972; we still receive many pounds of this old product at our HHW collection services to this day.

DEHP – di-2-ethyl hexyl phthalate, more commonly called bis (2-ethyl-hexyl) phthalate, one of the most widely used phthalates, organic compounds that help to make plastics such as PVC more flexible.

DOL – Department of Licensing.

EC – evaluation coordinator, the position within LHWMP charged with overseeing the evaluation component of the program.

Ecology – within this Plan Update, and when capitalized, refers to the Washington State Department of Ecology.

ECOSS – Environmental Coalition of South Seattle, a local NGO.

E-Cycle Washington – the product stewardship take-back program required by Washington state law and organized, operated, and funded by product manufacturers for collecting waste computers (CPUs, monitors, and laptops) and televisions; see e-waste.

EJNA – Environmental Justice Network in Action, a Seattle Public Utilities/Program funded the project that focuses on outreach to historically underserved populations via partnerships directly and with a variety of community based organizations (CBOs).

Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act – the federal law that requires emergency planning, including that related to hazardous chemicals, as well as notification of release of hazardous chemicals into the environment; also known as “SARA Title III,” after the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986.

E to G

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency, a branch of the federal government charged with protecting human health and the environment.

EPCRA – see Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act.

EPR – extended producer responsibility; see product stewardship.

EQT – Environmental Quality Team, the project within LHWMP that provides direct outreach, technical assistance, and complaint response services to businesses and other customers throughout King County.

ESL – English as a second language.

E-waste – electronic waste; in theory, any discarded product that has a plug or uses batteries; mostly, this term refers to items such as computers and televisions which are covered by the E-Cycle Washington program but also to products such as computer peripherals, cell phones, and other small electronic items.

explosive – able or likely to shatter violently or burst apart (New Oxford American Dictionary, 2001); covered under “reactive” as a characteristic of some hazardous wastes.

extended producer responsibility – see product stewardship.

extremely hazardous waste – in Washington state, any dangerous waste which (a) will persist in a hazardous form for several years or more at a disposal site and which in its persistent form (i) presents a significant environmental hazard and may be concentrated by living organisms through a food chain or may affect the genetic make-up of man or wildlife, and (ii) is highly toxic to man or wildlife; and (b) if disposed of at a disposal site in such quantities as would present an extreme hazard to man or the environment; (defined in RCW 70.105.010(6)(a) and (b)).

FEMA – the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

flammable – easily set on fire (New Oxford American Dictionary, 2001); covered under “ignitable” as a characteristic of some hazardous wastes.

GHGs – green-house gasses, those chemicals such as carbon dioxide, methane, ozone, nitrous oxide and chlorofluorocarbons which contribute to the warming of the Earth’s atmosphere.

H

hazardous – risky; dangerous (New Oxford American Dictionary, 2001).

hazardous household products – those residential products that exhibit hazardous properties or contain hazardous ingredients and which present hazards in their use or storage, even before they become a waste.

hazardous household substances – those substances identified by the Washington State Department of Ecology as hazardous household substances in the guidelines developed under RCW 70.105.220; (defined in RCW 70.105.010(13)).

hazardous wastes – those solid wastes designated by 40 CFR Part 261, and regulated as hazardous and/or mixed waste by the United States EPA under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); includes certain listed wastes as well as those wastes that exhibit the characteristics of ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity or toxicity; in Washington state they are referred to as dangerous wastes (defined in WAC 173-303-040). (See also “dangerous waste” and “extremely hazardous waste” definitions).

HCFCs – hydrochlorofluorocarbons, the group of chemicals that replaced the ozone-depleting CFCs; HCFCs have much lower (although still some) ozone-depleting potential.

HHP – see hazardous household product.

HHW – see household hazardous waste.

household hazardous waste – hazardous waste generated from residences (as opposed to SQG wastes which are generated from non-residences); left-over household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable or reactive ingredients (U.S. EPA definition); waste from residential sources that contains chemical ingredients or properties that present one or more concerns due to hazards in their use or storage, in their handling in municipal waste streams, or in their ultimate disposal in the environment (definition in Galvin and Dickey, 2008).

HSWA – Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments, a federal law which modified RCRA in 1984 to, among other things, revise the minimum technical standards for the design and operation of solid waste facilities as a result of concerns about the disposal of unregulated quantities of hazardous waste at municipal landfills.

HW – hazardous waste.

HWMA – Hazardous Waste Management Act, the Washington State law, as amended, which establishes requirements for hazardous waste management; see RCW 70.105.

I to K

ICT – Interagency Compliance Team, the project within LHWMP that facilitates multi-agency efforts to bring historically recalcitrant businesses into compliance with environmental and health codes, rules and regulations.

ignitable – catches fire readily; flash point less than 60 degrees C. (140 degrees F) (federal RCRA definition); includes flammable and some combustible materials as defined in fire codes; one of the characteristics used to define some hazardous wastes.

IMEX – Industrial Materials Exchange, the project within LHWMP that brings together industrial manufacturers or others who have or need certain materials to allow exchanges of materials amongst businesses which otherwise would have to be disposed as waste.

IPM – integrated pest management, a holistic approach to pest (including weed) management; IPM stresses the prevention of pest problems through design and maintenance practices and uses a range of pest management techniques, including biological, cultural and mechanical controls; chemical controls are considered a last resort.

IRAC – Interagency Resource for Achieving Cooperation, the project within LHWMP that provides an intergovernmental forum for inspectors from multiple jurisdictions to address a variety of environmental problems collectively.

KCSWD – see King County Solid Waste Division.

KCWLRD – see King County Water and Land Resources Division.

key performance indicators – the high level outputs and indicators associated with each performance measurement category, used to track the Program's progress towards its broad goals and outcomes.

King County Board of Health – the governing board for Public Health – Seattle & King County.

King County Solid Waste Division – the division within the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks that is in charge of solid waste/garbage/trash and recycling for the unincorporated portions of King County and for all the suburban cities within King County, and participates as one of the Program Partners.

King County Wastewater Treatment Division – a division within the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks that is in charge of sewage treatment for much of western King County and southern Snohomish County.

K to M

King County Water and Land Resources Division – a division within the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks that is in charge of surface water, ground water and various land management programs for the unincorporated portions of King County, and participates as one of the Program Partners.

KPI – see key performance indicators.

landfill – a disposal facility or part of a facility at which solid waste is placed in or on land and which is not a land treatment facility (defined in KCBOH Code 2.08.030).

LEPC – Local Emergency Planning Committee, an emergency planning and response coordination body required by the federal EPCRA.

LHWMP – see Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County.

Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County – the coalition of governments including the City of Seattle, King County and the Suburban Cities, that work together to address moderate risk waste throughout King County and all of its incorporated cities; referred to throughout this Plan Update as “the Program” or by its acronym, “LHWMP”.

LQG – large quantity generator, a fully-regulated, non-residential generator of hazardous waste under state and federal laws; see, by comparison, MQG and small quantity generator.

Management Coordination Committee – the decision-making and management-oversight body for the LHWMP, as authorized by KCBOH Code 2.08, composed of one representative from each of the five Program Partners.

MCC – see Management Coordination Committee.

M&E – measurement and evaluation.

Metro – Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle, the former regional agency that provided wastewater treatment and public transportation services for the metropolitan Seattle area; in the mid-1990s, its services were merged into King County. Metro was one of the original partner agencies in development of the LHWMP.

moderate-risk waste – any waste that exhibits any of the properties of hazardous waste but is categorically or conditionally exempt from regulation by the State of Washington solely because the waste is generated in quantities below the threshold for regulation, and any household wastes which are generated from the disposal of substances identified by the Department of Ecology as hazardous household substances (defined in RCW 70.105.010(17) (a) and (b)).

M to N

MOU – memorandum of understanding, a type of formal agreement between or among parties.

MQG – medium quantity generator, a term not specifically defined in regulation but which refers to those regulated hazardous waste generators of between 220 pounds and 2,200 pounds per month, when the regulations discuss specific situations such as accumulation. See LQG and small quantity generator. See also Ecology fact sheet, “Guide for Dangerous Waste (DW) Generators in Washington State” at www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/981252hwtr.pdf.

MRW – see moderate-risk waste.

MSDS – Material Safety Data Sheet, a source of information regarding the properties, potential hazards, and safety recommendations surrounding the use of chemicals as raw materials or in products; required by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration to be available to employees in the workplace; also required by EPCRA to be available to local fire departments and emergency planning officials.

MSW – municipal solid waste; see solid waste.

mutagenic – an agent, such as radiation or a chemical substance, that causes genetic mutation (New Oxford American Dictionary, 2001); covered under “toxic” as a characteristic of some hazardous wastes.

NAHMMA – North American Hazardous Materials Management Association, the professional association of programs and individuals that focus on moderate-risk waste issues similar to LHWMP.

NAICS – North American Industry Classification System, the standard used by the federal government to classify businesses by type; used to be known as the Standard Industrial Classification or “SIC”.

NGO – non-governmental organization.

NIMS – National Incident Management System, part of FEMA.

NPDES – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, the federal permitting system under the Clean Water Act that allows for (with limits) discharges into navigable waters.

NRF – National Response Framework, part of FEMA, establishes an adaptable management structure for coordinating response to disasters.

N to P

NRP – National Response Plan, replaced by the NRF in 2008.

NWPSC – Northwest Product Stewardship Council.

OSHA – Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the federal agency that regulates workplace safety, including exposure to hazardous materials.

PAO – the King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office.

passenger licensed vehicle – any motor vehicle licensed by the State of Washington or any other state or governmental entity as a passenger vehicle (defined in KCBOH Code 2.08.040).

PBDEs – poly-brominated diphenyl ethers, a class of chemicals used as flame retardants which have recently been found to be widespread in people and have begun to be phased out, including with the recent law in Washington state.

PBT – persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic chemical.

PCBs – poly-chlorinated biphenyls, a class of chemicals widely used as electrical insulators in transformers and capacitors, but found to be extremely persistent in and toxic to people and the environment; their use was banned in the U.S. in 1979.

PH – see Public Health - Seattle and King County.

poisonous – having the properties or effects of a poison; able through chemical action to kill, injure or impair an organism (Webster’s Dictionary, 1989); covered under “toxic” as a characteristic of some hazardous wastes.

POTW – publicly-owned treatment works, a term used in the federal Clean Water Act to refer to municipal wastewater treatment plants and related sewerage collection systems.

product stewardship – a long-term solution to manage waste products by shifting the responsibility for collection, transportation, and management of waste products away from local governments and their ratepayers, to the manufacturers of those products or others along the products’ supply chain; often used interchangeably with the term, extended producer responsibility (EPR).

Program – see Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County.

Program Partner Agencies – see Program Partners.

P to S

Program Partners – the four agencies (SPU, KCSWD, KCWLRD, and PH) that are the primary implementers of the Program, plus the suburban cities as represented by the Suburban Cities Association.

PSCAA – Puget Sound Clean Air Agency.

PSI – Product Stewardship Institute, the national-level NGO that works on extended producer responsibility and related product stewardship issues.

Public Health – Seattle and King County - a department within King County that is broadly in charge of water and food protection, disease control, toxics regulation, and preventative health measures for those living throughout King County, and participates as one of the Program Partners.

radioactive – emitting or relating to the emission of ionizing radiation or particles (New Oxford American Dictionary, 2001).

RBRC – Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation, the voluntary, industry-funded collection system for rechargeable batteries; its main program is now known as “Call2Recycle.”

RCRA – see Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

RCW – Revised Code of Washington, the compilation of laws passed by the Washington State Legislature.

RDP – Regional Disaster Plan.

reactive – causes chemical reactions; explosive, unstable or readily undergoes violent change when combined with other materials; one of the characteristics used to define some hazardous wastes.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act – the federal law that defines and regulates hazardous wastes as well as solid wastes; in Washington State, RCW 70.105 and its implementing regulations (WAC 173-303) incorporate all of the federal law plus includes additional materials and conditions beyond the federal law.

SARA – Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986; see Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act.

SCA – see Suburban Cities Association.

S continued

Seattle Public Utilities – a department within the City of Seattle that is in charge of solid waste/garbage/trash, recycling, drinking water and drainage/stormwater/surface water within the City of Seattle, and participates as one of the Program Partners.

self hauler – all vehicles that are neither passenger licensed vehicles nor vehicles used by certified haulers in their solid waste handling operations (defined in KCBOH Code 2.08.045).

septage – a semisolid consisting of settled sewage solids combined with varying amounts of water and dissolved materials generated from a septic tank system (defined in KCBOH Code 2.08.050).

SERC – State Emergency Response Commission, an emergency planning and response coordination body required by the federal EPCRA.

sewage – any liquid or liquid-borne waste from the ordinary living processes, or liquid or liquid-borne waste which contains animal or vegetable matter in suspension or solution, or liquid or liquid-borne waste which contains chemical in suspension or solution, and which may be lawfully discharged into a public sanitary sewer (defined in KCBOH Code 2.08.055).

small quantity generator (conditionally exempt small quantity generator) – a non-residential generator of hazardous waste that: a) never generates more than 220 lbs. (approx. 27 gals.) of hazardous wastes and/or not more than 2.2 lbs. (approx. 1 qt.) of certain extremely hazardous wastes per calendar month; b) never accumulates more than 2,200 lbs. (approx. five 55 gallon drums) of hazardous waste, or 2.2 lbs. of certain extremely hazardous wastes onsite at any time; c) designates (properly identifies) hazardous wastes according to WAC 173-303-070; d) manages hazardous wastes in a way that does not pose a potential threat to human health or the environment; and e) disposes of hazardous wastes in accordance with the Dangerous Waste Regulations, WAC 173-303.

SMC – Seattle Municipal Code, the compilation of ordinances passed by the Seattle City Council.

solid waste – all putrescible and nonputrescible solid and semisolid wastes, including but not limited to garbage, rubbish, ashes, industrial wastes, infectious waste, swill, demolition and construction wastes, abandoned vehicles or parts thereof, discarded commodities, or contaminated excavated solid/fills material. This includes all liquid, solid and semisolid materials which are not the primary products of public or private, industrial, commercial, mining, and agricultural operations, except that for the purposes of this rule solid waste does not include source-separated recyclable materials (defined in KCBOH Code 2.08.060). Municipal solid waste is often referred to by the acronym, MSW.

SPU – see Seattle Public Utilities.

S to T

SQG – see small quantity generator.

Suburban Cities Association – a non-profit organization that represents the majority of cities in King County on a wide variety of regional policy issues, and participates as one of the Program Partners.

suburban city/cities – any incorporated city or town whose boundaries include territory within King County and which has entered into a solid waste interlocal agreement with King County pursuant to Chapter 10.08.130 of the King County Code (defined in BOH Code 2.08.065).

SWMA – Solid Waste Management Act, the Washington State law, as amended, which establishes requirements for solid waste management; see RCW 70.95.

teratogenic – an agent or factor that causes malformation of an embryo (New Oxford American Dictionary, 2001); covered under “toxic” as a characteristic of some hazardous wastes.

TERC – Tribal Emergency Response Commission, an emergency planning and response coordination body required by the federal EPCRA; see SERC.

toxic – having the properties to cause or to significantly contribute to death, injury, or illness of man or wildlife (defined in WAC 173-303-040); poisonous or able to cause illness; includes acutely (short-lived) poisonous characteristics as well as chronic (long-term) effects such as carcinogenic, mutagenic, or teratogenic; one of the characteristics used to define some hazardous wastes.

Toxic Substances Control Act – the federal law that regulates new and already existing chemicals, requiring some testing, review, and authorization for chemicals in U.S. commerce.

transfer station – a staffed, fixed, supplemental collection and transportation facility used by persons and route collection vehicles to deposit collected solid waste from off-site into a larger transfer vehicle for transport to a permanent disposal site (defined in KCBOH Code 2.08.070).

TRC – Thermostat Recycling Corporation, a voluntary, industry-funded system for the collection of waste thermostats, especially those that contain mercury.

TSCA – see Toxic Substances Control Act.

TSD – treatment, storage and disposal, a term referring to facilities permitted under RCRA or state hazardous waste laws to handle hazardous wastes.

T to Z

TSDR – treatment, storage, disposal and recycling, a term referring to facilities permitted under RCRA or state hazardous waste laws to handle hazardous wastes.

UASI – a federally-designated Urban Area Security Initiative region; the Seattle Urban Area Security Initiative Region (Seattle UASI Region) includes King, Pierce and Snohomish counties.

universal waste – a subset of hazardous wastes that are widely or “universally” generated and which are subject to streamlined regulation under RCRA or state hazardous waste rules; common examples include batteries, fluorescent lamps, thermostats and certain pesticides; the federal rule is found in 40 CFR 273.

U.S. EPA – Environmental Protection Agency, a branch of the federal government charged with protecting human health and the environment.

UWR – Universal Waste Rule, see universal waste.

VOC – volatile organic compound, a general term for organic chemicals that are relatively lightweight or have high vapor pressure and which tend to vaporize from liquid into gases at ambient temperatures.

WAC – Washington Administrative Code, the compilation of regulations and other administrative procedures necessary to implement the laws incorporated in the RCW.

WISHA – Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act, Chapter 49.17 RCW.

WLRD – see King County Water and Land Resources Division.

WTD – see King County Wastewater Treatment Division.

XQG – unidentified quantity generator, the unofficial term used by the Washington State Department of Ecology to refer to a hazardous waste generator that could previously be categorized as LQG, MQG or SQG but which is currently an inactive reporter.



References

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