

# Solid Waste Program Updates: Feb. 2024 – Apr. 2024

## Operations

- Hired Amanda Zodrow for Program Assistant position. Starting date: May 1, 2024
  - Will eventually be helping out with SWAC functions
- Currently working on residential yard debris collection RFP for unincorporated parts of county and cities who sign onto the contract via interlocal agreements.
  - Yard debris collection RFP will be released July 31<sup>st</sup> and has an intended contract start date of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.
- Residue study has begun and will have five sorts from various single and multifamily routes (April-May) with our contractor PSU Community Environmental Services.
- Finalizing RFP for waste characterization study, to be released 5/22.
- Three HHW collection events happening April-June, in Ridgefield, Yacolt, and La Center
  - In preparation, team members have done site visits, HAZWOPER, First Aid/CPR/AED, and other various trainings as applicable
- Working with various county departments on compost procurement reporting to ensure compliance with mandated compost procurement reporting due to Ecology each year.
- Continued working on CSWMP updates, including appendices.
  - Continuing to work with Ecology on Guidelines Rejuvenation and Modernization (GRAM) committee.
  - Also meeting with UTC as we are working with them to pilot the new condensed cost questionnaire for updated plan.

## Green Business

### We Compost

- The pilot program has gone through a shift in recruiting approach. The outcome is predicted to result in more community access and more use.
- Set up two new 65-gallon organics carts, diverting 15,600 lbs. of food waste

## Green Neighbors

- Ran Food Waste Prevention Week campaign, including podcast series, and workshop with Fort Vancouver Regional Library
- Preparing for Natural Garden Tour
- Assisted with We Compost program shift
- Working with Operations on HHW outreach information and Cover Your Load campaign

## Green Schools

- Green Awards
  - 2 Green Apple Award winners this year
    - Jennifer Baybado, Sacajawea Elementary School
    - Linda Kubes, Washington State School for the Blind
  - Check out our Living in the Couve article: [https://pcdn.columbian.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/04\\_06\\_Living\\_in\\_the\\_Couve\\_Web-LowRes-2.pdf](https://pcdn.columbian.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/04_06_Living_in_the_Couve_Web-LowRes-2.pdf)
- School Environmental Certifications and Events RFP
  - Released this RFP on April 10<sup>th</sup> for a contractor to help us certify schools for their sustainability work and plan events
  - Check it out here: [https://clark.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2024-04/\\_rfp-890-school-enviro-cert-and-events.pdf](https://clark.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2024-04/_rfp-890-school-enviro-cert-and-events.pdf)
- Discovery Middle School
  - In tandem with Composter Recycler, we installed an on-site food waste digester project

- Harvested decomposed food waste in February and March and buried it in their new school garden beds
- Green Mountain School projects
  - Conducted cafeteria waste audit
  - Installed a new worm bench
  - Planning to install an on-site composting system and school garden in May
- Food Waste Prevention Week
  - Recorded a podcast episode on food waste and children that has over 3,000 views!
  - Check it out: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8Xw95wuD8A>
- STEM Seminar: A Taste of Food Waste
  - Hosted in partnership with EarthGen to help teachers implement food waste reduction and prevention programs at school
  - 20 teachers are participating
- Student Summit
  - Hosted 8 elementary school green teams (78 students) at Clark College on Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Really fun and successful!
- Upcoming projects and events
  - Fort Vancouver HS Earth Day
    - Helping them recruit members for a green team
    - Would like to implement better recycling and maybe some sort tables
  - Waste audits
    - Lacamas Lake ES
    - Prune Hill ES
  - Tabling opportunities
    - Endeavour ES STEAM Night – May 22<sup>nd</sup>
    - Burnt Bridge ES School Resource Fair – June 5<sup>th</sup>

### [Composter Recycler](#)

- The focus for the CR program has been on training the 2024 class of new Sustainability Ambassador volunteers.

### Backyard Composting

- Distributed 22 Backyard Compost bins, diverting 6,380 lbs. of food waste
- Distributed 20 worm bins, diverting 3,600 lbs. of food waste