

Clark County
Solid Waste Advisory Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 22, 2022
6:00 - 8:00pm
Hybrid Meeting on Zoom, and at
Clark County Center for Community Health

SWAC Members Present: Kyle Potter, Simone Auger, Jason Presser, Derek Ranta, Joe Zimmerman, Kim Harless, Mike Mulligan, Reuben Greer,

SWAC Members Excused: Allan Jeska, Tim Kraft


SWAC Members Unexcused:

Staff Present: George Sidles, Pete DuBois, Jessica Fischberg, Mollie Mangerich, Kimberly Walker-Norton, Amber McKnight,


Others Present: Laura Busby (DoE), Sarah Keirns, Henry Canafax, Tina Kendall, Amanda Romero

Meeting began at 6:01 pm

I. Roll Call, Approval of Minutes – September 1, 2022 (*00:00:14)

- Motion to approve by Joe
 - Seconded by Mike
 -  Minutes approved

II. SWMP CH 4: Food Waste – Pete DuBois (*00:01:12)

- Have been having discussions with Department OF Ecology (DOE) regarding organics management
 - Will likely have addendums to this chapter, on yard and garden waste
 - Possibly even split into other chapters
- WA state has an Organics Waste hierarchy
 - Source Reduction
 - Reduce creation of organic waste through educational outreach programs
 - Feed people
 - Support/create programs that get edible food to people
 -  Joe suggests getting in contact with local food banks to find out what % winds up in the landfill
 - Feed animals
 - Support/create programs to send food scraps to animals
 - On-Site Organic management
 - Various methods of composting
 - Off-Site Organic management
 - Sending food waste to off-site facilities for various methods of composting
 - Currently have 2 cities and ~100 businesses doing this
 - Will want to promote as we are already set up for this service in some areas
 - Landfill disposal with energy recovery
 - [Methane energy recovery](#)
 - 25 million kilowatts per year is sold to Pacific Corp
 - Landfill disposal without energy recovery
 - Inefficient use of resources
 - Open burn
 - Promote alternative management resources

- Illegal in WA state
- One ton of food waste is equal to 80 five-gallon buckets filled with coffee grounds
- Ecology defines organic materials as manure, yard debris, garden and food waste, food processing waste, and wood waste
 - We will be including wood waste in the Construction & Demolition chapter
- [RCW 70A.205.015](#)(ii) states *“Organic materials include, but are not limited to, manure, yard debris, food waste, food processing waste, wood waste, and garden waste.”*
 - We are looking at food waste and yard and garden waste as organic materials
- Currently have an average of 58,000 tons (14%) of food waste annually in Clark County
 - Vegetative food waste, 46,983 tons (11.2%)
 - Edible, 26,847 tons (6.4%)
 - Inedible, 20,136 tons (4.8%)
 - Other food waste, 10,906 tons (2.6%)
 - Edible, 8,809 tons (2.1%)
 - Inedible, 2,097 tons (0.5%)
- [HB1799](#) has set a goal of reducing landfill food waste by 75% by 2030
 - Will require businesses that produce large amounts of organic material to compost
 - By 01/01/2023 must adopt compost ordinances
 - 01/01/2025, must allow siting of organics management facilities
- Recommendations include:
 - Outreach campaigns to prevent food waste
 - Reduce food waste at schools through approaches such as share-tables, flexible and right-size food ordering, and composting programs
 - Provide technical assistance, waste audits, and incentives for businesses to compost food waste and increase food donations
 - Research what if anything commercial businesses are doing to donate and divert food waste. Identify barriers to participation
 - Conduct outreach and education related to curbside organics recycling collection; Launch county-wide campaign with expansion of program
 - Expand food waste collection at multi-family properties
 - Seek grant opportunities to support local startup bioconversion facilities
 - Provide education, funding, and equipment for community composting efforts. Establish or expand convenience centers where residents can drop off residential food scraps.¹
 - Provide education, funding, and equipment for backyard composting efforts.
 - Partner with local farmers to transport food waste to farms for composting alongside agricultural waste.
 - Issue RFP to expand County curbside yard debris to include food waste (Organics) in unincorporated areas, BG, La Center, Yacolt
 - Expand local food waste processing infrastructure including more capacity and/or efficiency at existing facilities
- 🗣️ Hoping to have motion to move these forward
- Currently recruiting businesses to sign up for composting
 - County to cover costs for a time, then hand off to the business, once in the habit
 - Also encourage donation of usable foods
- Looking to include food waste in new service contract
- 💡 Reuben suggests looking into infrastructure of every other week pickup, as it may be cumbersome for some residents
- How much of a focus is there in outlining how food waste can impact climate change?
 - The primary landfill Clark County uses, have a methane energy recovery process

- ! Pete will follow up with landfill/Derek to determine the amount of emissions coming out of the landfill
- It may be a good representation to look at food waste per capita, instead of just as a whole
 - We have done a per capita study on the landfill. We may be able to extrapolate data from that.
- Has WSU been incorporated in this at all?
 - Justin O’Dea may be a good person to contact
- 💡 Joe suggests going to WSU College of business for ideas
- [Just Eat It](#) is a good documentary to watch regarding using food waste
- Will there be a cost added to a monthly bill for curbside organics pickup?
 - An RFP will be sent out, and service and rates will be reviewed before taking the information to local jurisdictions
- This will be presented to the Council after SWAC and other stakeholders have reviewed it
- There may be some concerns in rural areas of organics carts attracting wildlife

III. SWMP Ch 4: Construction & Demolition – Jessica Fischberg (*01:24:53)

- C&D can be classified into 6 different groups
 - Bulky waste (catch all, classic demolition waste)
 - Deconstruction materials (salvage for reuse)
 - Demolition debris (destroy)
 - Hazardous & special waste
 - This will be lumped into the Hazardous Wastes chapter
 - Inert waste (non-decomposing)
 - New construction materials (leftover from newly completed projects)
- ~24% of landfill materials in WA are from wood debris and construction materials
- C&D recycling in Clark County is voluntary, but many builders don’t recycle materials because it requires source-separation, and cannot be contaminated with garbage
 - Currently no facilities in Clark County accept mixed C&D waste
 - Contractors seeking LEED or other certification can subscribe with Waste Connections to have different drop boxes for different materials
 - WC monitors the drop boxes for contamination, and makes reports for the certification
- Need to boost recycling availability of C&D waste in Clark County
 - Could model a program off King County’s recycling system
 - Ban certain C&D materials from being disposed of as garbage
 - Direct materials to designated C&D recycling facility
 - Clark County could propose ordinance and request recyclers to submit proposals to site locations within the county
 - Would be incentive for C&D recyclers to operate here
 - County would direct C&D waste to designated facilities, as long as standards are met
 - Could work out details in an RFP
 - King County states their recovery has reached ~57%
 - Benefits include:
 - Reduces need to mine/harvest new materials from the planet
 - Would help reach goal, set within HB 1799, of recovering clean wood waste
 - Creates jobs
 - Creates commodity out of what is currently seen as garbage
 - Model could be applied to other materials in the future
 - Benefits to Transfer Stations include:
 - Less self-haul traffic would improve safety, wait times, air and noise pollution from clients, customer experience
 - Reduces stress on infrastructure

- In 2012 ~52% of construction waste brought to county transfer stations was brought in by non-residential self-haul
 - Alternatively, County staff could research C&D recycling solutions to build into future contracts and infrastructure plans
 - Would delay current actions, but provide wider knowledge base
 - Include findings in future SWMP update
 - Update educational resources, which list current C&D recycling options
 - Could collaborate with City of Vancouver on this
- Findings and recommendations include:
 - Develop ordinance directing C&D waste to a facility, to be authorized by the county.
 - Research C&D recycling options within current contracts and infrastructure plans
 - Publish a new C&D recycling toolkit identifying regional recycling options for C&D wastes.
- 🗣️ Would like to get SWAC member's recommendations
- Is there an annual C&D tonnage estimate for Clark County?
 - May be able to estimate based on waste characterization studies
 - 1.3 million tones for the whole state
 - ~20% could be estimated for Clark County
- King County's recycling system includes private companies that the county has contracted with
 - Several facilities defined as Transfer or C&D facilities
 - Transfer facilities collect and separate C&D waste, then send it off for recycling
 - C&D facilities are onsite recyclers
- Clark County CRC transfer stations do currently reclaim a pretty good amount of wood
- A fair amount of Clark County materials go to other specific material recycling facilities
 - CRC/WC is actively searching for other drop-box haulers
- Derek is supportive of starting up waste characterization studies again
 - It can be difficult to pursue with limited space
- Kyle would be interested to know what the Council would think of the possibility of a new ordinance
 - Jessica believes the council would flag this, and we would need to have more conversations with them about it
- There is a general concern of cost translating to higher housing prices
- 💡 Jessica's recommendation is for further research
- It will likely take an ordinance to create behavior change
- ! Will need to circle back on this subject at the Oct. 6th Special meeting

IV. Public Comment (*02:09:17)

- none

This meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm

Next Special meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 6, 2022

Next Regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 3, 2022

** These times correlate to the time each agenda item is addressed in the recorded audio file of this meeting. Meetings are recorded for compliance with the Washington State Open Public Meetings Act, RCW 42.30*