

Solid Waste Program Updates: Aug. 2023 – Nov. 2023

Operations

- Sara Schroeder has been working to update our web pages
 - Updated the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan webpage <https://clark.wa.gov/public-health/solid-waste-management-plan>
 - Hopefully it improved ease of navigation and clearly outlines the role of the SWAC and RSWSSC.
 - I also updated appendices as the updates became available including the final RSWSS and draft SEPA
 - Comments also will be closed by the date of the SWAC meeting – we can let them know it will be reopened when we have the official public commenting period for the preliminary draft in early March 2024.
 - Created a page to house the RSWSS including descriptions of the phases and links to the different reports including the evaluation of ownership report <https://clark.wa.gov/public-health/regional-solid-waste-system-study>
 - Proposing significant changes to the website in 2024 to address redundancies across the department pages and any outdated content. We are working with our communications program to tailor the layout and structure for ease of access for the public
- Continuing work on the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan
 - Began the work of moving the plan into the recommended Ecology table of contents to ensure all the Ecology requirements are present and easy to locate
 - Conducted an initial review of the public comments submitted on the pre-preliminary draft.
 - Items that were requested edits were reviewed and incorporated as applicable. Note that with the updates to the plan structure, some public comments were no longer applicable.
 - Items that were larger conversations about how the SWAC and RSWSSC can engage in the process were marked for manager review
 - Worked with Maul Foster to generate an overall style for the plan
 - Interlocal Agreements were drafted as well.
 - Will continue the CSWMP review and restructuring.
- Continuing work on Equity Plan
 - Worked on timeline and charter for the new plan
 - Kick-off meeting on October 16
 - Working with King County – they’re providing some much-needed guidance and expertise on how to create the plan
 - Draft to be completed by April 2024
- Distributed materials to battery recycling retail locations:
 - large durable sign, an informative poster, and a window cling
- Consultant completing the triennial inspections of the transfer stations, Parametrix, completed the first inspections of the three facilities.

Green Business

- October's Morning Blend event focused on implementation of sustainable practices in PeaceHealth medical facilities.
- Green Business team is working with the County's Food Safety team to be able to invite newly permitted food facilities to participate in our We Compost pilot program as well as our Green Business certification process.
- Celina will be talking about the Green Business program at the 2023 Stormwater Partner's Symposium!

Green Neighbors

- Recently co-presented with Green Schools at the Association of Oregon Recyclers about an innovative schools related project to promote cafeteria waste sorting.
- Food Waste Reduction:
 - To celebrate the program's anniversary, we are hosting an event in partnership with educators at the WSU Extension and SNAP-Ed. [Scrappy Cooking: Embrace your Culinary Creativity](#) will promote reducing food waste through reimagining leftovers! The event is scheduled at the Vancouver Community Library (downtown) on Sunday, Oct 22nd from 2-3:30.
 - The November Livin' in the 'Couve publication features an article highlighting various holiday sustainability actions, including food waste reduction around the holidays. The article will be available in the next issue!
- HHW:
 - Working with the operations team to develop marketing, outreach, and communications to promote new battery drop off locations. We are working on a communications toolkit which will be used to promote the program to Clark County residents.
 - HHW Campaign – I worked with Sean to film an [educational video](#) about proper and safe HHW disposal.
 - The Sept. Livin in the Couve publication included an article about Green Cleaning with the goal of reducing HHW.
 - [Content on pages 12-13.](#)
- Organics Diversion:
 - The annual [fall leaf coupon](#) is now available for residents. This program encourages residents to drop off leaves at an appropriate yard waste vendor, instead of sending leaves to the landfill. I worked with Sean to film an [educational video](#) to promote this program. Marissa, Christine and I have been working alongside staff from public works and CoV to promote this program through newsletters, blogs, social media and by sending out a press release.
 - Promotion of this program is ongoing across GN platforms until the end of the calendar year.
- Recycling Contamination Reduction:
 - Collaborated with educators at Waste Connections and worked with Sarah and Liz with CoV to provide feedback, edit and finalize the annual fall mailer.

Green Schools

- August
 - Accepted to present at Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR) in October
 - Delivered recycling containers to new RBG Elementary School
 - Tabled at Hudson's Bay HS Resource Fair
 - Meetings with SNAP-Ed and WSU Extension about covered education space at Heritage Farm
- September
 - Onboarded [new AmeriCorps member, Kalie](#)
 - [Governor Inslee visited Hockinson School District](#) to check out all of their amazing sustainability work
 - Recycling and Consumption Consequences lessons at Lupine Experiential School
 - Joined EarthGen's visit to schools who certified with them last year
 - Hockinson Heights ES
 - Hockinson MS
 - Gardner School

- [Launched new Educator Toolkit on GS website](#)
 - Created by last term's AmeriCorps member, Saré
- October
 - Presented at AOR Conference on La Center School District composting program
 - Had about 20 attendees for our session and lots of questions were asked!
 - Checked on Lacamas Lake ES cafeteria composting program
 - Working on implementing share tables at Hockinson Heights ES
 - Reaching out to teachers about worm bins and composting programs
- Upcoming
 - Waste audits
 - Washington State School for the Blind
 - Vancouver Flex Academy
 - Silver Star ES
 - Composting programs
 - Soil digestors and sort tables at Discovery MS
 - Events
 - [STEM Seminar: A Taste of Food Waste with EarthGen](#)
 - [Clark County Secondary Student Summit](#)

Composter Recycler

- 29 Community worm bins distributed for food scrap diversion (5,220 pounds per year).
 - Each worm bin on average diverts 180 pounds of food waste annually
 - Community Worm Bins request form – <https://clarkcountycomposts.org/worm-bin-request-form>
- 6 Backyard compost bins distributed for organics material diversion (1,740 pounds per year).
 - Each compost bin on average diverts 290 pounds of food waste annually
 - Community Backyard Compost Bin – Enviro World FreeGarden™ EARTH compost bin – <https://clarkcountycomposts.org/buyacomposter>
- Pilot soil digester food waste system installed at Kindred Homestead (2,000 pounds per year).
- Food Waste Diversion partnership with Nekter Hazel Dell (8,000 pounds per year).
- 2 compost demonstration sites maintained and utilized for community field training (6 trainings conducted).
- Outreach Tabling Events included:
 - Vancouver Farmers Market (3 events – Jul, Aug, Sep)
 - E. Vancouver Farmers Market (1 event – Jul)
 - Salmon Creek Farmers Market (1 event – Sep)
 - Camas Farmers Market (1 event – Sep)
 - CASEE Art in the Garden
 - CPU Benefits Fair
- Composter Recycler Volunteer Enrichment Meetings (3 meetings – Jul, Aug, Sep)
- AmeriCorps member selected – Austin Kleinert-Strand
- Several upcoming fall workshops and compost field trainings