



Washington Association of
County Solid Waste Managers

2024 Legislative Summary Solid Waste

PASSED

Mercury Lights (HB 1185) | Representative Hackney

Extends the mercury lights program, creates timeline for ban on mercury-containing lights, and transitions funding away from Eco Fee to a more traditional Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) model.

Organics (HB 2301) | Representative Doglio

This bill makes additions and adjustments to the Organics Management Act. Business requirement changes include updates to the process for receiving business composting waivers and includes multi-family dwellings as "businesses" starting in 2030. Lastly, corrections were made to the regions where collection is required.

Residential changes include a requirement that non-elective curbside organics collection is provided, and residential participation is mandated by 2030. HB 2301 also mandates year-round residential collection service once the requirements are in place.

Lastly, HB 2031 added funding opportunities to implement requirements. Starting in 2025, funding is available in the form of Sustainable Food Management grants for food rescue and food waste prevention activities, specifically in underserved or vulnerable communities. Additionally, ecology must develop a grant program to fund implementation of food waste requirements. These grants are available to affected businesses, local governments, tribes, organics management facilities, and non-profit organizations. These grants can be used for education, outreach, infrastructure, transportation, and other costs associated with meeting requirements. Lastly, the Waste Not Washington Awards for schools are increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

While budget proposals originally directed \$8m towards food waste reduction grants, the final 2024 state operating budget directed \$1.5m to Ecology for food waste reduction grants and \$150,000 for grant related management. Another \$3.2m is directed to the Department of Agriculture. These funds come from the Climate Commitment Act.

Illegal Dumping (HB 2207) | Representative Ramos

HB 2207 changed the level of offense for illegal dumping of certain volumes from a civil infraction to a misdemeanor, immediately enforceable without requiring a trial. Depending on the volume of waste dumped, penalties range from \$250 to \$1,000, plus 4 times the cost of clean-up. The

resulting revenue is allocated to the landowner and to law enforcement agency investigating the incident.

Cannabis Waste (SB 5376) | Senator Stanford

Legalizes the sale of cannabis waste if the waste meets certain requirements, if the sale details are provided to the Washington State Department of Agriculture, and the public has access to the sale equally.

DID NOT PASS

ReWRAP Act (HB 2049) | Representative Berry

Simplified WRAP Act from 2023, removing the deposit return system and narrowing the list of covered products. It would have established an EPR program for packaging and paper products, required county needs assessments, and mandated a statewide list of collected recyclables. The program would be fully funded by the Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO), which must also develop and review implementation plans with county input. PRO must also reimburse counties who participate for activities related to supporting the program.

Bottle Deposit (HB 2144) | Representative Stonier

Sought to establish a bottle deposit program separate from other EPR initiatives. It mandated that beverage producers participate in a Deposit Return System, with unclaimed deposits used to operate the program. The program would reimburse counties for supporting activities and includes a fund to offset revenue losses for the first five years.

Improving Recycling (HB 1900) | Representative Fey

HB 1900 would have mandated a county-by-county needs assessments, a material recyclability study, and established a statewide definition of “recyclable materials” based on statewide recovery rates. It also would have set goals for statewide recycling rates, established truth in labeling requirements, set post-consumer recycled content requirements, and require producers of covered products to register with Ecology.

Dilapidated RVs (SB 5844) | Senator Muzzall

With a goal to prevent unwanted RV’s from becoming abandoned RV’s and environmental hazards, this bill would have created a voluntary grant program under Ecology to fund the proper disposal of dilapidated RVs. The proposal allocated \$5 million for counties to administer scrapping and recycling programs and ensure ownership verification prior to acceptance.

Appliance Gas Capture (HB 2401) | Representative Duerr

Focused on collecting gas from specific appliances and returning it to a central organization for reimbursement per unit.

Litter Tax (SB 5878) | Senator Fortunato

Removed the Department of Revenue's ability to use litter tax funds for enforcement compliance.