

**NINE STEP PLANNER
CLARK COUNTY WORK SESSIONS**

This form must be reviewed & approved by the Council before a work session is scheduled.

REQUESTED BY: Clark County Public Works, Solid Waste and Recycling Division

1. **TOPIC:** Results of the 2025 Waste Characterization Study

2. **WORK SESSION**

Names of staff presenting/attending:

Joelle Loescher, Joelle.Loescher@clark.wa.gov

Sara Schroeder, Sara.Schroeder@clark.wa.gov

3. **TIME FRAME**

Length of time needed for staff presentation: 30 minutes including a Q&A

Desired date: Wednesday April 15 (or any day available in April or May)

Scheduled date:

4. **TIMING CONSIDERATIONS:**

The Waste Characterization Study report and presentation materials will be finalized by Cascadia Consulting Group at the end of March 2026, wrapping up the study that occurred at the three transfer stations throughout 2025.

5. **DESIRED RESULTS:**

The objective of this work session is to provide council members with a clear understanding of the composition and characteristics of the local waste stream. This information will support informed decision-making regarding upcoming solid waste staff reports, program proposals, and strategic planning efforts.

6. **IMPACTS (COMMUNITY/FINANCIAL/STAFF/OTHER):**

The primary objective of conducting a waste stream analysis is to generate reliable, actionable data that supports the Solid Waste & Recycling Division in:

- Identifying and evaluating trends in the local solid waste system
- Informing rate-setting decisions
- Enhancing transparency with policy makers, community partners, and the public
- Evaluating the effectiveness of existing recycling outreach and education programs
- Guiding the development of future waste prevention and recycling initiatives
- Support data driven implementation of the Organics Management Laws and the Recycling Reform Act

Beyond its programmatic value, the findings from this report fulfill key action items outlined in the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan. They are also required by the Washington State Department of Ecology to inform solid waste planning decisions. Additionally, the report satisfies a deliverable requirement for the Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance grant cycle for 2025–2027, as approved by council on September 23, 2025.

7. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

N/A

8. **ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED:**

While the study itself did not generate disagreement or controversy, it highlights strategic considerations for the regional solid waste system. The findings reveal a presence of food waste and recyclable materials in the disposed waste stream, indicating opportunities for improved diversion through targeted outreach and education.

As a result, the following options are being evaluated to expand processing capacity:

- Siting a fourth transfer station in northern Clark County
- Relocating the recycling processing center from the West Vancouver Materials Recovery Facility

The study serves as a foundation for informed decision-making and fulfills planning and grant requirements, but it also signals the need for strategic investment and program support moving forward.

9. **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

This 2025 study provides an updated baseline for materials landfilled through our solid waste system. The Washington State Department of Ecology recommends local jurisdictions conduct a comprehensive waste stream analysis approximately every 5 years. More frequent studies are encouraged with new laws and significant changes to the waste stream. With an increased focus on material management to meet greenhouse gas emission and sustainability goals, does council support targeted studies to evaluate applicable materials such as food scraps, yard debris, and construction & demolition debris?

Signature of requestor:

Sara Schroeder

DATE: 10/17/2025

APPROVED FOR SCHEDULING: