

The Solid Waste System in King County

Shoreline City Council

January 7, 2013

Cooperative System

Authority and Responsibilities

- Collection –
 - Cities and Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission have the authority
 - Waste collected by private collection companies or City forces
- Transfer –
 - King County
- Disposal –
 - King County
- Recycling –
 - Primarily private collection and processing
 - Some collection at transfer stations
- Construction and Demolition Debris –
 - Almost completely privatized
 - Small amounts accepted at County transfer stations

Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan

- Provides the policy and vision for management of the region's solid waste for the next twenty years, with a focus on the next six years
- Contains policies and strategies for:
 - system planning
 - waste prevention and recycling
 - solid waste collection and processing
 - the transfer system
 - landfill management & solid waste disposal
 - system financing
- King County prepares a coordinated Plan for the system in cooperation with the Cities



The Comprehensive Plan in the ILA

- County serves as the planning authority for solid waste
- Cities and County work collaboratively to maintain and update the Plan and support the Waste Prevention and Recycling goals established in the Plan
- County provides support and technical assistance to Cities consistent with the Plan, including grants for Waste Prevention and Recycling programs that further the goals in the Plan
- County provides facilities and services pursuant to the Plan
- County will engage with MSWAC and other stakeholders to seek advice and input on disposal alternatives to be used after closure of the Cedar Hills Landfill and amendments to the Plan necessary to support changes

Comprehensive Plan Adoption

- No change from current ILA
- The Plan is adopted when:
 - It is approved by the King County Council, and
 - It is approved by Cities representing three-quarters of the population of the incorporated population of Cities that are parties to the ILA
 - The three-quarters calculation considers only those Cities taking formal action to approve or disapprove the Plan within 120 days of receipt
 - The 120-day time period begins when a City receives the Plan from the Solid Waste Interlocal Forum, either with or without a recommendation

Disposal

- Current policy is that the County will contract for disposal at an out-of-county landfill when Cedar Hills reaches capacity
- The Draft Plan eliminates current policy in favor of a recommendation to consider not only waste export to an out-of-county landfill, but also waste-to-energy and other disposal or conversion technologies
- The Plan also recommends evaluating partial early waste diversion, considering effects on system costs versus benefits
- Planning for disposal for post-Cedar Hills will begin about seven years before the landfill is forecast to close
- The Solid Waste Division is tracking waste-conversion and waste-to-energy technologies and projects across the country

Disposal Considerations

- System availability and reliability – proven performance
- Funding and costs – capital and operating
- Environmental, including compatibility with waste prevention and recycling
- Siting, design, permitting, and construction requirements
- Market for products, e.g., energy or fuel
- Residue disposal requirements
- Waste composition and amount of waste required

Amended and Restated ILA

- Expands City role in system planning, including financial policies and long-term disposal options