

Waste ReSources Recycle and Program Update



Utility Advisory Committee October 2, 2025

Residential Curbside Recycling at LeMay's Recycle Center

Tonight's Topics

- **Recycling Program Update**
- **Residential and Smart Camera Project**
- **Commercial Organics**
- **Multi-family Program**



The **Waste ReSources Utility's** mission is to inspire our community towards a waste free future.



Scope of Current Services



Single-family – 16,000+ households

- Garbage
- Recycle
- Organics



Multi-family - ~160 properties / 9,500 households

- Garbage
- Recycle
- Cardboard
- Organics (available – requires property management commitment)



Commercial – ~1250 customers

- Garbage
- Organics
- Recycle (limited to drop box service)

History of Recycling in Olympia

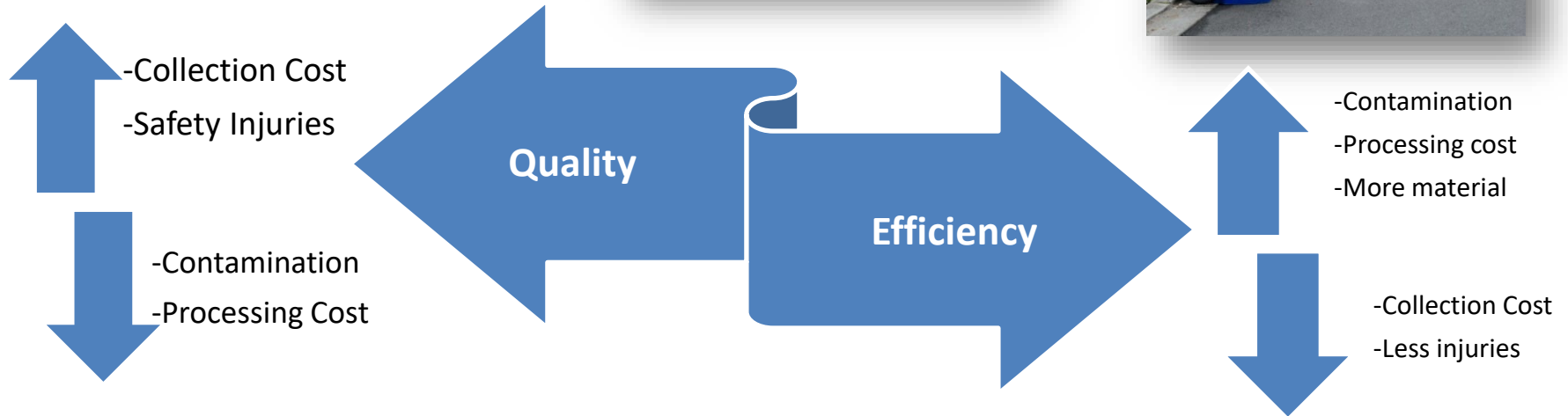
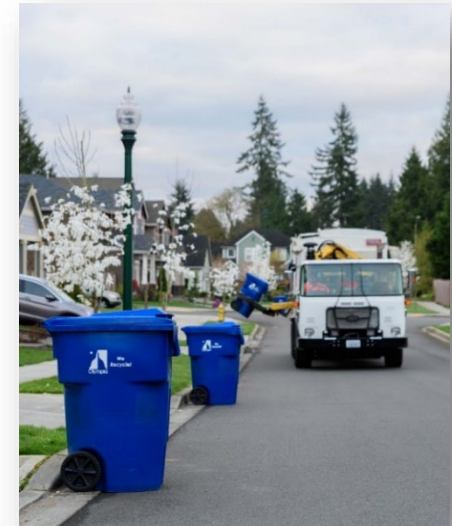
1989 - Curbside Begins



1998 – Commingled Recycling
2 streams – containers/papers



2003 – Fully Automated
Single-stream



Recyclables Acceptance List

Determined by:

- Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs)
- Sorting Technology
- Markets



Residential Recycling | Accepted Materials

Plastic Containers - NO Lids!



Bottles - 8oz & Larger

Jugs (Milk, Laundry, etc.)

Buckets (no lids, no handles)

Tubs (Dairy/Coffee - no clear tubs)

Paper



Newspaper & Mail

Paperback Books

Office Paper
(not shredded)

Magazines

Cardboard Boxes
(cereal, soda, shoe)

Corrugated Cardboard

Recycling Glass

Glass is no longer accepted in your recycle cart. Please take it to a drop off site or put it in the garbage.

Drop off locations:

- 1000 10th Ave SE
- Yaeger Park
503 Alta St SW
- Concrete Recyclers
2935 Black Lake Blvd SW
- Waste And Recovery Center
2420 Hogum Bay Rd NE

Metal - No Lids!



Large Cans (peaches, coffee, etc.)
Aluminum Cans
Tin Soup Cans

Recycle Coach App

- Find out what to recycle & compost! Use the "What Goes Where" feature to search over 20,000 materials.
- Available in your app store and online olympiawa.gov/wastewise

Recycling Notes

- Empty containers only
Rinse out all food or liquid from containers.
- Throw away all lids and caps.
- Flatten cardboard

Visit olympiawa.gov/wastewise for organics, recycling and garbage information.



Recycling is Dynamic

The Ever-Evolving Waste Stream

- New - Lighter & Thinner - Reduced Production/Consumption - E-commerce

Recycle Begins

T.A.G.
Paper
Cardboard
Basic List
Cartons

Fully Automated

Cardboard inside the cart.
Glass mixed with paper

Remove aerosol cans, aluminum foil, shredded paper.

Add plastic dairy tubs, buckets, flower pots, metal pots and pans

Remove glass from curbside.

Offer drop-off glass.
Remove polycoat.

Markets remain unsettled while costs continue to rise

1989

1998

2003

2011

2013

2017

2020

2023

2025

Dual Stream Fibers/containers

Add:
All plastic bottles.
Aerosol Cans
Glass Mixed In
Aluminum Foil
Shredded Paper

China Green Fence

Warning Signals
Markets disrupted

China Sword
China and other Nations Ban Recycle Imports
Markets Tank

Markets recovering, but still turbulent due to impacts from Covid and Shipping and Logistics.



Recycling Costs Rise While Values Fluctuate

Cost Center	Increase(decrease)
Processing Cost	41%
Transload/Hauling	32%
Material Value	(52%)

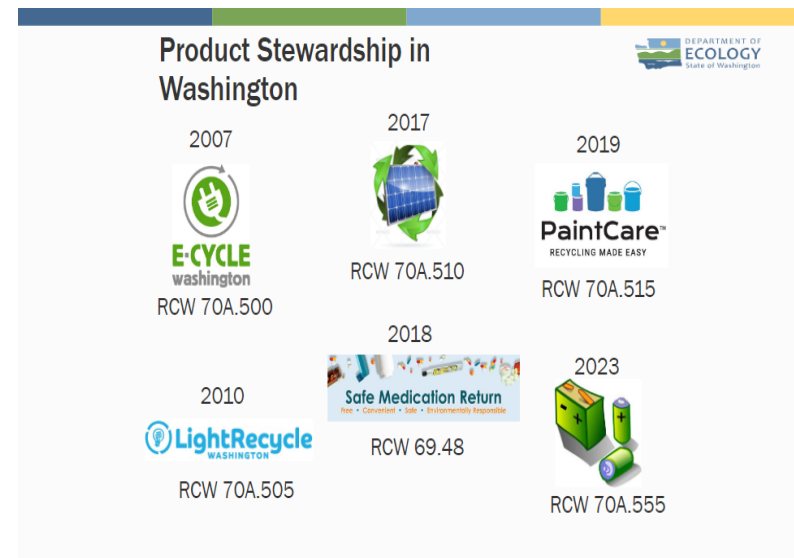
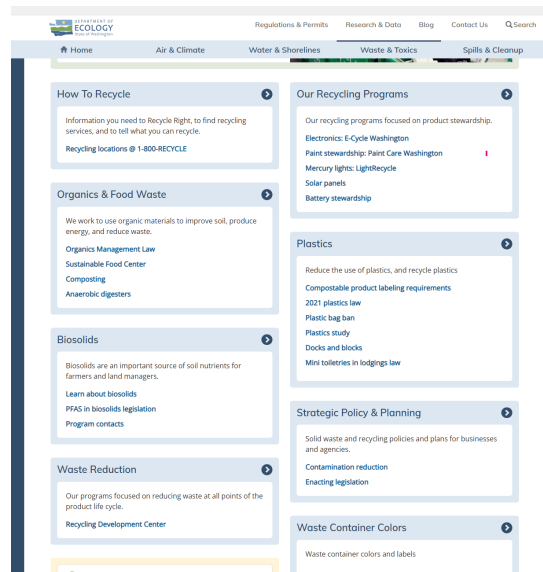
Landfill charge: Currently \$119/ton and increasing to \$154/ton in 2027

Recycle Cost: \$147.64/ton (2025)

Processing			Transload/Hauling			Material Revenue	Net Expense
Year	CPI	Cost Per Ton	Year	CPI	Cost Per Ton	Value Per Ton	Per Ton
2017	0.00%	\$ 84.56	2017	0.00%	\$ 62.00	\$ 110.11	\$ 36.45
2018	3.30%	\$ 87.35	2018	0.00%	\$ 62.00	\$ 33.39	\$ 115.96
2019	2.70%	\$ 89.71	2019	3.10%	\$ 63.92	\$ 11.44	\$ 142.19
2020	2.50%	\$ 91.95	2020	2.15%	\$ 65.29	\$ 27.06	\$ 160.18
2021	1.70%	\$ 93.51	2021	1.40%	\$ 66.20	\$ 103.02	\$ 56.69
2022	13.00%	\$ 105.67	2022	6.50%	\$ 70.50	\$ 66.19	\$ 109.98
2023	8.00%	\$ 114.12	2023	8.00%	\$ 76.42	\$ 29.65	\$ 160.89
2024	4.30%	\$ 119.03	2024	4.40%	\$ 79.78	\$ 55.30	\$ 143.51
2025	0.00%	\$ 119.03	2025	2.70%	\$ 81.93	\$ 53.32	\$ 147.64

Recycle Reform Act SB 5284

- Reimburse recycling costs by 50% starting 2030
- Reimburse 90% by 2032
- Reimbursement based on statewide needs assessment



Smart Camera and Tagging Project

Overview

- Fully funded by The Recycling Partnership and Washington State Department of Ecology (nearly \$54,000)
- Collaborated with Prairie Robotics
- Hybrid project – Smart Camera's and Cart Tagging
- Smart Camera – May and June – 4 weeks
- Cart Tagging – July and August – 2 weeks


RECYCLE
 RECICLE

THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING THESE:
 GRACIAS POR RECICLAR ESTOS MATERIALES:


Paper
 Papel


Paper (all colors and types)
Papel (de todos los colores y tipos)


Cardboard
 Cartón


Cardboard (flatten)
Cartón (desdoblado)


Cans
 Latas


Aluminum and Steel Cans (empty and dry)
Latas de aluminio y acero (vacíos y secos)


Plastic
 Plástico


Plastic Bottles and Containers (empty and dry)
Botellas y envases plásticos (vacío y seco)

NO!



No Plastic Bags or Plastic Wrap
No bolsas de plástico o envolturas de plástico



No Bagged Recyclables (no garbage)
No coloque material reciclable en bolsas (no basura)



No Yard Waste
No reciclar residuos de jardinería



No Glass
No reciclar recipientes de vidrio



No Styrofoam™
No recicle Styrofoam


 Olympia

360-570-5837 | www.olympiawa.gov/wastewise


 The Recycling Partnership
 Building a Better Recycling System

When we emptied your recycling into the truck—our team noticed these “NO” items in your cart.

Quando vaciamos su reciclaje en el camión, nuestro equipo notó algunos materiales que “NO” deberían estar en su contenedor.



All data is stored securely and safely within the USA and never sold or shared with third parties. Information is used solely to provide feedback and strengthen our community's recycling program.

OOPS!

PLEASE KEEP THESE ITEMS OUT OF CURBSIDE RECYCLING:
POR FAVOR NO COLOQUE ESTOS MATERIALES EN SU CARRITO DE RECICLAJE:



No Plastic Bags or Plastic Wrap
No bolsas de plástico o envolturas de plástico



No Bagged Recyclables (no garbage)
No coloque material reciclable en bolsas (no basura)



No Styrofoam™
No recicle Styrofoam



No Yard Waste
No reciclar residuos de jardinería



No Glass
No reciclar recipientes de vidrio



No Paper Towels or Napkins
No recicle toallas ni servilletas de papel

When we emptied recycling carts from your street into the truck—our team noticed these “NO” items.

Quando vaciamos el contenedor con ruedas para reciclaje de su calle en el camión, nuestro equipo notó algunos materiales que “NO” deberían estar en el contenedor.



PLEASE KEEP THESE ITEMS OUT OF CURBSIDE RECYCLING:
POR FAVOR NO COLOQUE ESTOS MATERIALES EN SU CARRITO DE RECICLAJE:



No Plastic Bags or Plastic Wrap
Bolsas o envolturas que no sean de plástico



No Bagged Recyclables (no garbage)
No coloque material reciclable en bolsas (no basura)



No Styrofoam™ or To-Go Containers
No productos de espuma de poliestireno y envases de comida para llevar



No Yard Waste
No reciclar residuos de jardinería



No Glass
No reciclar recipientes de vidrio



No Clear Plastic Produce or Takeout Containers
No se aceptan envases de plástico transparente o contenedores de comida para llevar

Smart Camera and Tagging Project

Learnings

- Common Contamination
- Carts need to be attached to an account

Moving Forward

- Continue with tagging carts and letters



Tree Collection Schedule

City of Olympia garbage customers, if your collection day is...

Tuesday or

Wednesday:

Saturday, January 10

Thursday or Friday:

Saturday, January 17

- No tinsel, lights, ornaments or stands
- No trees over 6 feet
- Place in your regular collection spot

Apartment residents, please contact your property manager for tree collection information and dates.

Questions?

Kim Johnson
360.570.5837
kjohnson@ci.olympia.wa.us

Recycling Lid Lift Results

Contamination in recycle carts can cause safety hazards for workers, damage sorting machinery and decrease the value of the material. To help educate customers, the City performed recycling cart lid lifts to check for unwanted items in residential recycling carts. If contamination was found, tags were left on the cart handles with information and a list of acceptable items. Over time, there was vast improvement and decrease in contamination. Thank you for all who participated and helped clean up the recycle stream!

The top contaminants that we found are listed below. Please throw these items in the garbage, even if the packaging says recyclable, compostable or biodegradable. Visit olympiawa.gov/wastewise for more information on acceptable recycling items.

Garbage

Takeout containers



Plastic fruit, veggie, egg and bakery containers



Pizza boxes



Cups, lids and straws



Plastic bags



Cartons



Styrofoam



Plastic mailers and film



Commercial Outreach

- Waste Assessments
- Shared Compactors
- Internal City Recycle





For Businesses, Schools, and Other Organizations

Waste Assessments

"Our waste assessment aided us in reducing our garbage output as well as setting up and using organics successfully."

Erin Nealey, Office Administrator
Treinen Associates, Inc.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a waste assessment?
A waste assessment will look at the waste generated by your business, school or organization to determine if you can keep materials from ending up in the garbage. Waste reduction staff will help you identify areas to reduce, reuse or recycle more.

How can a waste assessment help my business?
You can help your business become proactive in reducing waste, helping the environment and possibly saving money on disposal costs by participating in a waste assessment. A waste assessment will help your business build waste wise practices by examining your solid waste stream and working to reduce your garbage.

What can I expect?

- A brief phone call with our waste reduction staff to determine your needs and set up an on-site visit
- An on-site visit and facility walk-through to examine together the variety and volume of material you have that could be taken out of your waste stream
- An assessment of items not already recycled or composted such as pallets, scrap metal, plastics, Styrofoam, food waste and yard waste.
- A follow up with ideas and suggestions on how to reduce waste and possibly disposal costs

Benefits

- A waste assessment is FREE
- Start or improve your organics and recycle program by finding materials you can recycle, compost or reuse
- Determine if you can save on disposal costs
- Determine the right size collection container
- Expert advice to help identify your needs and answer your questions

Contact

Spencer Orman | Waste Resources
Public Works, City of Olympia
sorman@cityofolympia.wa.us
360.753.6752



City of Olympia | Commercial Organics | olympiawa.gov/wastewise

The City of Olympia is committed to the non-discriminatory treatment of all persons in employment and the delivery of services and resources. CS2015





Commercial Organics

- Started in 2008
- Grown to ~170 customers
- Subscription fee-based service
- Changes to accepted materials
- Once or twice a week collection

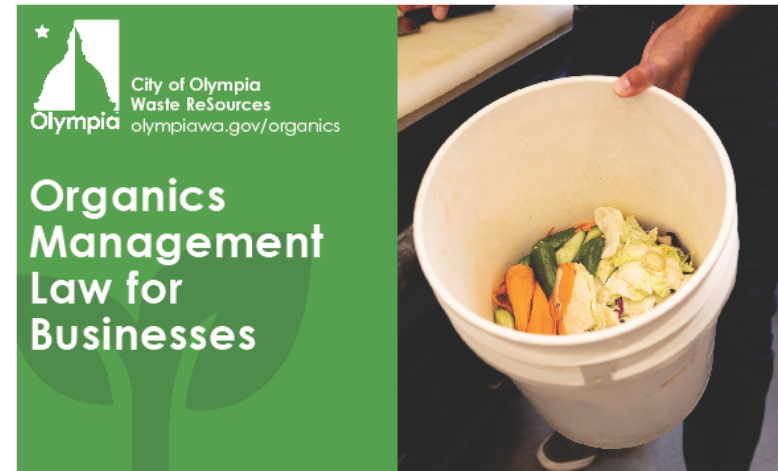


Start composting at your businesses

Call 360-753-8752 to get started today.

ORGANICS MANAGEMENT LAW

- **Why was the law passed?**
 - Methane reduction
- **What does the law require?**
 - Compost Procurement
 - Requires businesses to subscribe
 - **2024** - 8 cubic yards of organic material waste per week.
 - **2025** - 4 cubic yards of organic material waste per week.
 - **2026** - 96 gallons of organic material waste per week.
- **City approach**
 - *Required to offer organics*
 - *Proactively helping customers*



Organics Management Law

To help meet Washington State's emissions and climate goals, the Organics Management Law was passed in 2022 and updated in 2024. The law's primary goal is to reduce the amount of methane emissions created when organic materials decompose in a landfill.

The law requires businesses to divert food and yard waste materials they generate through a phased in approach over the next few years. Businesses generating certain amounts of organic waste material must arrange for organic materials management services.

What is considered a business?

A business is defined as any for profit or non-profit commercial or public entity. This includes, but not limited to, grocery stores, restaurants, manufacturers, hotels, caterers, firms, corporations, associations, schools, churches, hospitals, and public agencies. Multifamily residential entities are not considered businesses under the law.

Businesses are required to comply with the following timeline:

January 1, 2024 - Business generating at least eight cubic yards of organic material waste per week.

January 1, 2025 - Business generating at least four cubic yards of organic material waste per week.

January 1, 2026 - Business generating at least ninety-six gallons of organic material waste per week.

For questions and to get started contact:

Spencer Orman
sorman@ci.olympia.wa.us
360.753.8752

City of Olympia
Waste ReSources
olympiawa.gov/organics 

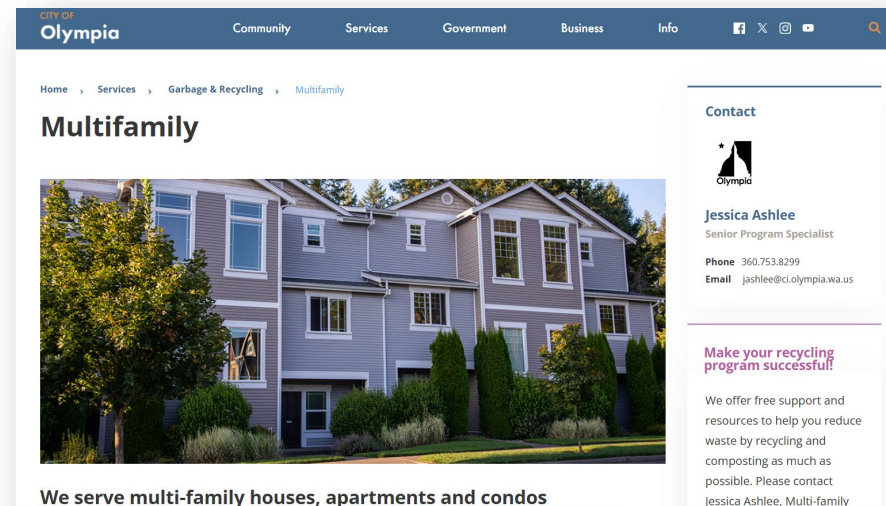
Multifamily Program Update



2023-2030 Waste Management Plan Strategy 2.2 identified the need to *expand multifamily recycling outreach to increase recycling and reduce contamination.*

Program Highlights:

- Transcreation of education materials
- New Multifamily [website](#)
- Increasing proactive outreach to properties





Questions

A large, semi-transparent recycling symbol (a triangle with arrows) is centered in the background of the slide.

Thank you!

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