

What are the 2022 Waste ReSources Plan Goals?

Staff has proposed to follow 2015 Waste ReSources Management Plan structure and goal themes. Through the update process, the goals will be refined under the lens and principles of climate change, environmental impact, and diversity, equity and inclusion. Strategies will be developed to achieve the goals.

- 1. Waste Reduction Goal:** Reduce the quantity of waste (garbage, recycle, and organics) generated and disposed in Olympia.
- 2. Recycling and Diversion Goal:** Increase the quantity of recyclable and compostable materials diverted from the landfill.
- 3. Safe and Efficient Operations Goal:** Operate collection services safely and efficiently.
- 4. Utility Rates and Fees Goal:** Manage the Utility's finances responsibly, with equitable rates that promote waste reduction and recycling.

Waste ReSources Plan Update – Project Assumptions

This Waste ReSources plan update project is guided by the following assumptions:

The 2015 Waste ReSources Management Plan serves as an excellent starting point for the 2022 Waste ReSources Plan update – the focus will be on addressing key priorities to include new and emerging issues.

Utility staff is working with consulting services to assist in the following areas:

- Financial analysis and financial plan to include multi-year rates, and rate equity options.
- Refine goals and metrics to include solid waste connection to climate change.
- Education and Outreach programs to include cultural and linguistically relevant methods.
- Investigate electrified fleet alternatives.
- Plan writing for consistent voice.

The Utility Advisory Committee will serve as the primary public review committee, and to include neighborhood associations, and ultimately the city's land-use and environment committee and city council.

What are the Utility's Key Challenges?

The Utility has continually strived to improve operational efficiencies and refine education and outreach programs, while delivering a high level of customer service with fair and equitable rates. The 2015 Waste ReSources Plan further evolved the concept of moving toward the vision of zero waste (2006) and the 2008 Toward Zero Waste Plan (The utility's first master plan). As part of the plan update, staff reviewed its accomplishments and current issues facing the utility. Looking to the future, the biggest challenges are continued volatility in recycling markets, asset management, planning for a new operations and maintenance facility, ensuring our education and outreach programs are focused in the right areas and addressing cultural diversity, and that customer rates balance cost of service, equity and waste reduction.

2022 Draft Waste ReSources Plan Summary

As a result of this work, the following seven key challenges facing the Utility were identified:

Asset and inventory management | An aging cart and container inventory is resulting in increasingly larger orders and budgetary impacts. The Utility does not have an industry specific work order system to track assets and certain work functions, such as cart and container delivery and maintenance.

Waste Reduction | Reducing waste is at the top of the waste management hierarchy, however it's the most challenging to effectively measure and implement.

Equitable and predictable rates and fees | Creating predictability for customers and developers is difficult in a complex environment, especially with volatile recycling markets. The plan will address the balance between ongoing utility needs and keeping rates as low as possible with consideration to diversity and equity.

Education and Outreach Programs | The Utility currently provides education and outreach in five distinct areas – single-family, multi-family, business/commercial, school education and events with some overlap. The Plan will review current programs, industry trends and BMPs and associated staffing levels.

Planning for Growth and Diverse Populations | Growth in the Utility is experienced primarily through infill and development, and then periodically through annexation. No significant annexations will be assumed during the 2022 Plan update, but any annexation executed during this plan cycle will need to be considered for the future.

Metrics and Climate | Measuring progress is critical to know what success looks like. The plan update is an opportunity to review and revise metrics while giving consideration to climate mitigation strategies, changing technology, and an ever-evolving and dynamic waste stream.

Multi-family and Mixed-Use Properties | Increased development of multi-family and mixed-use properties in its downtown area creates challenges with getting adequate solid waste storage capacity and collection vehicle access. This is an emerging issue that needs attention in the future to ensure adequate solid waste collection capacity.

Should we add legislative initiatives such as 1799 (impacts of legislative initiatives or the County CROP)

What has the Utility Accomplished?

The following strategies were successfully accomplished under the 2015 Plan:

- Onboard GIS routing and collector app in residential and commercial trucks.
- Installed two shared compactors in downtown Olympia.
- Continued IAPD driver certification.
- New recycle processing contract.
- Improved in-house recycling program.
- Piloted and implemented C&D hauling to out of county processor.
- Contamination reduction program and removed glass from curbside commingled recycling.

