

Utility Advisory Committee

February 4, 2021



Gary Franks, LOB Director
Ron Jones, Senior Planner



Agenda



- Recycling Program Overview
- Recycle Markets
- City Response
- Q & A

History of Recycling in Olympia

1989 - Curbside Begins



1998 – Commingled Recycling
2 streams – containers/papers



2003 – Fully Automated
Single-stream



Quality

- Less material
- Processing cost low
- Less safe, higher injuries
- Labor intensive for customers
- Collection cost high
- Contamination low

Efficiency

- More material
- Processing cost higher
- Safer for drivers
- Easier for customers
- Collection cost lower
- Contamination High



Recycling is Dynamic

The Ever-Evolving Waste Stream

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

1988/89

- Curbside begins
- Tin & aluminum cans, glass bottles & jars, newspaper, cardboard, mixed papers, milk cartons and juice boxes

1998

- Switched dual stream comingled.
- Added all plastic bottles, aerosol cans and aluminum foil, and shredded paper.
- Glass is mixed with other containers

2003

- Fully automated
- Cardboard now required to be inside cart, not alongside.
- Glass is now mixed with everything

2013

- Remove aerosol cans, aluminum foil, shredded paper
- Added plastic dairy tubs, buckets, flowerpots, and metal pots & pans.

2020

- Removal of Glass from Curbside Stream and added 3 Drop Locations
- Removed poly-coated materials from acceptable items list

Scope of Current Services



Single-family – 15,000 households

- Commingled



Multi-family – 150 properties, 9,000 households

Commingled
Cardboard



Limited Commercial (mostly drop box)

- Commingled
- Organics
- Styrofoam

Recyclables Acceptance List

#1 PET & #2 HDPE only

Plastic Containers - *NO LIDS!*



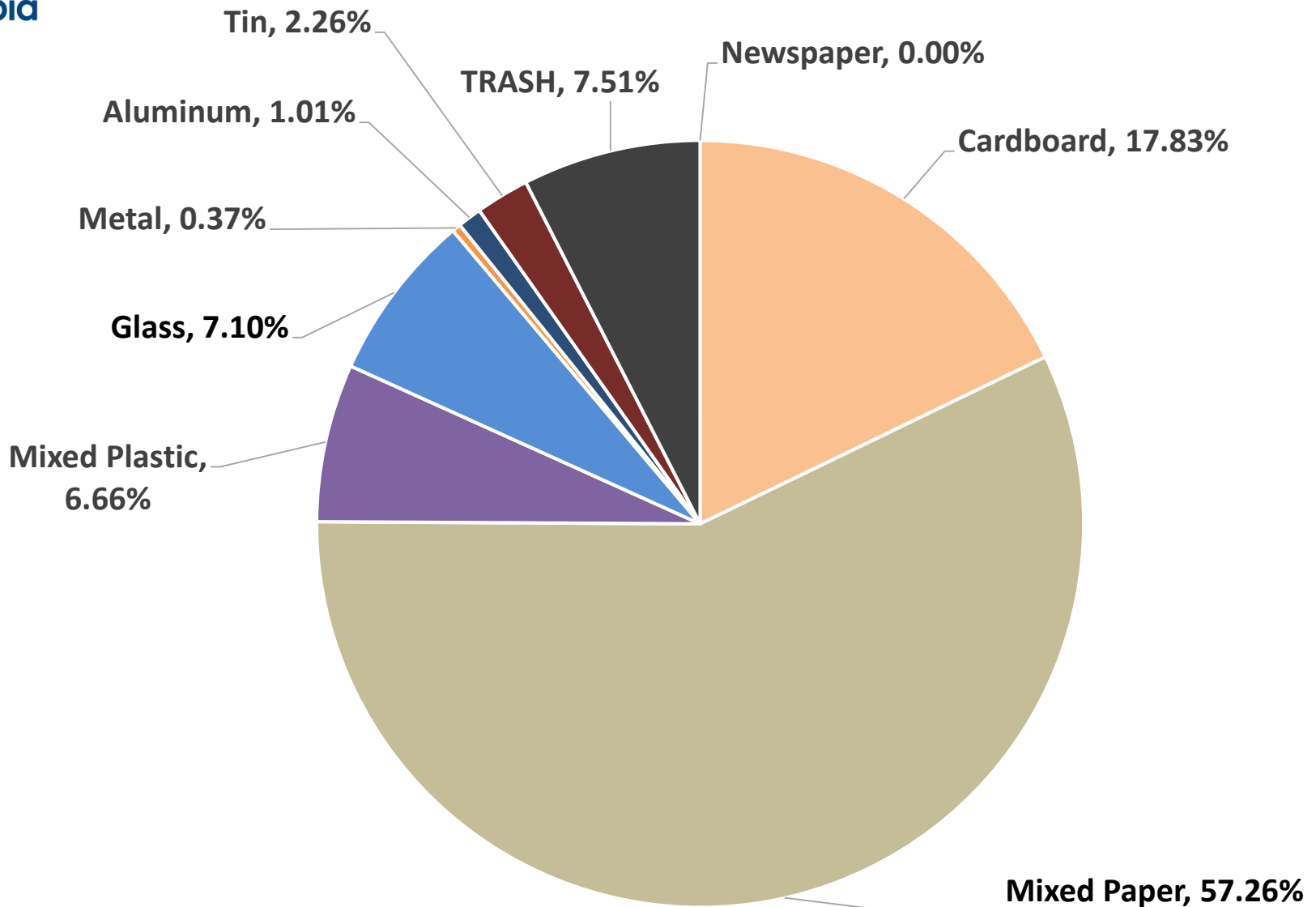
Paper - *NO LIDS!*



Metal - *NO LIDS!*



What's in Curbside Recycling ?



From Curb to MRF to End-user

Each step in the recycling system has a cost!



Route trucks pick up from residents, empty at transfer site



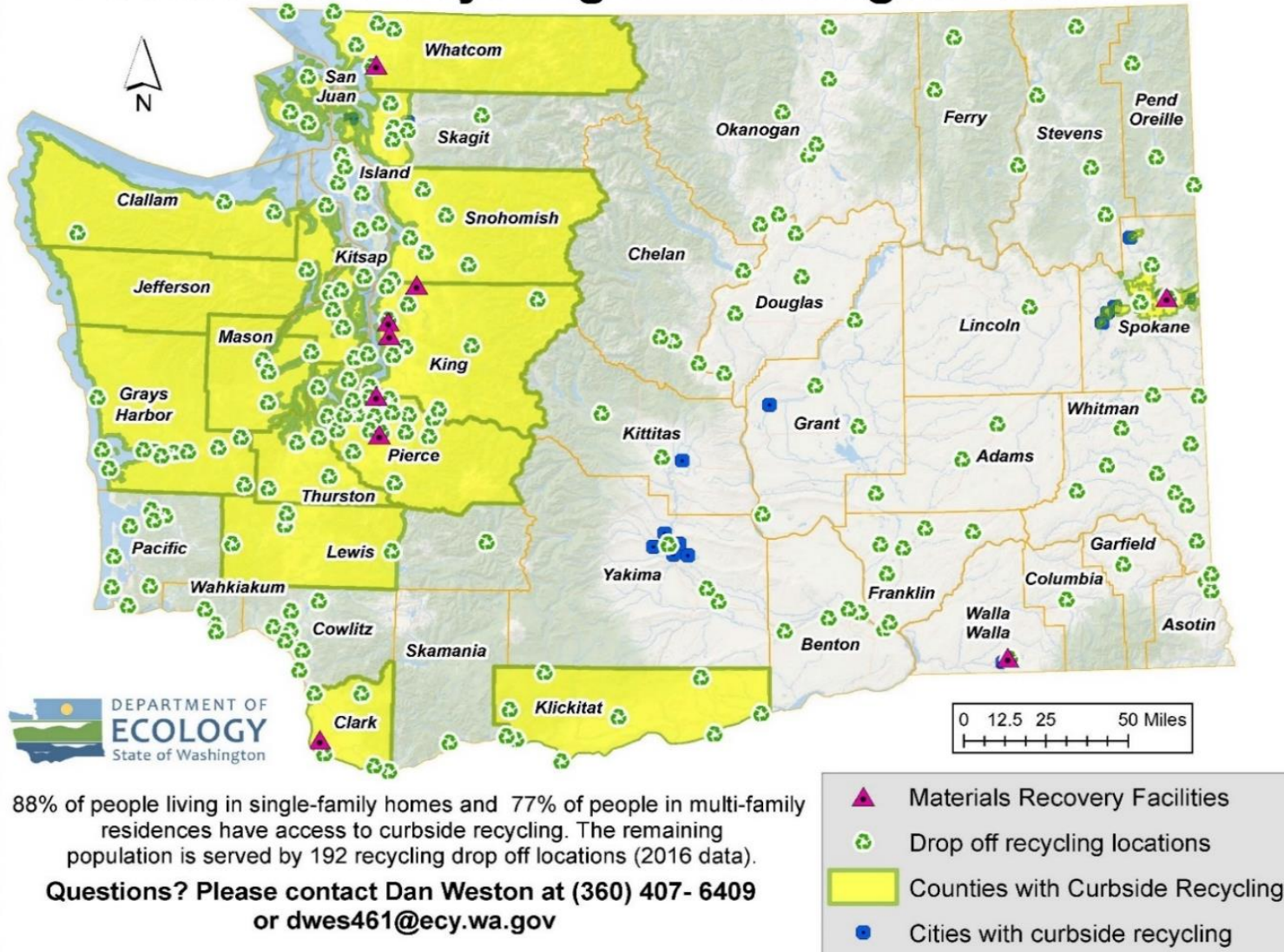
Recyclables are processed into bales and placed in long-haul trucks and transported to MRF



MRF sorts materials into “like” categories and sells to end-users

7 Major Sorting Facilities Statewide

Residential Recycling in Washington State



China National Sword - Impacts

2017 Pre-China Sword

China consuming 50% of global recycling supply



\$
Material Value \$

June 2021

China has banned and not importing. Domestic mills have increased capacity some.

\$
Material Value \$

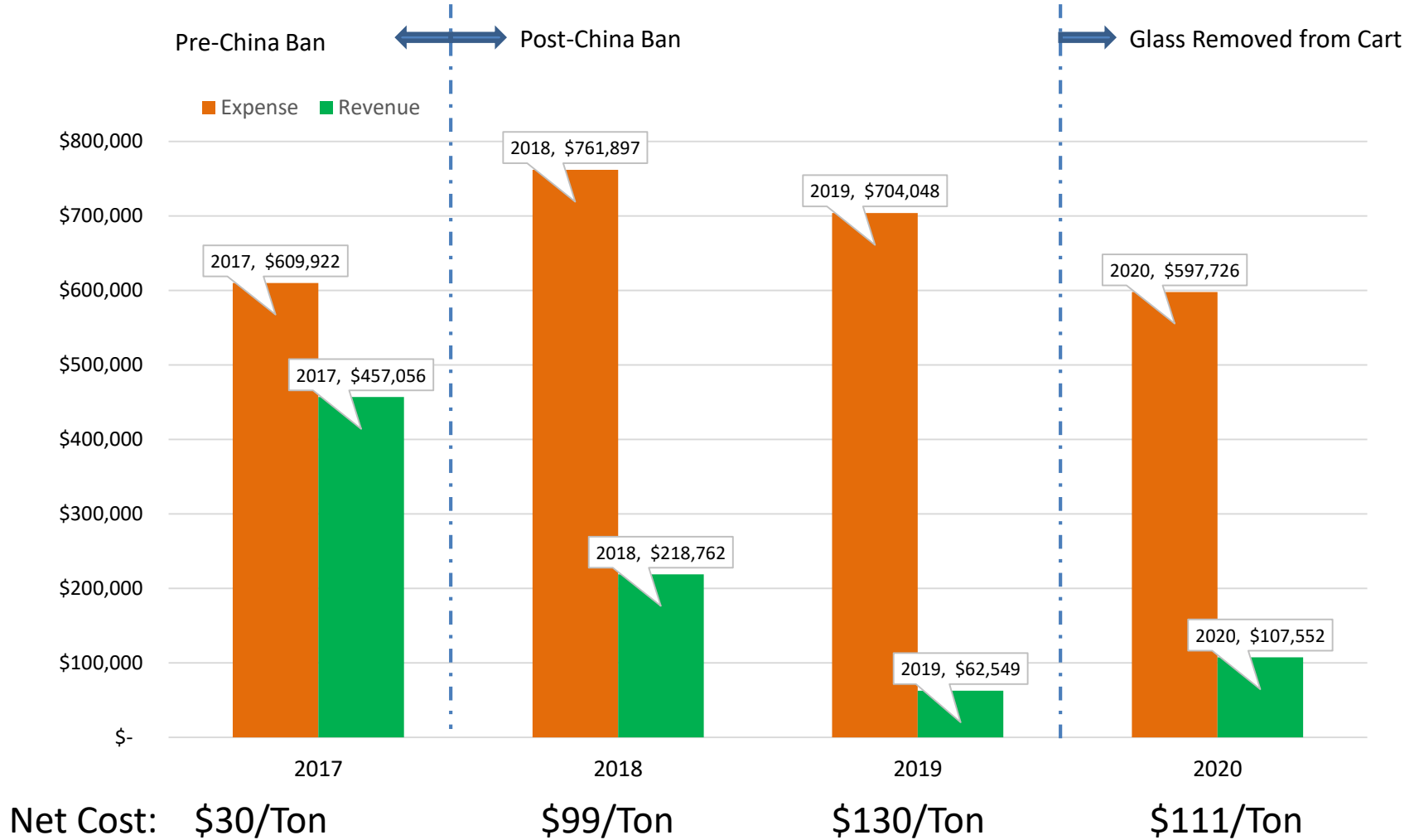
June 2019

China not importing recyclables
Other countries placing restrictions
Markets remain uncertain
Domestic capacity expanding

Financial Impacts

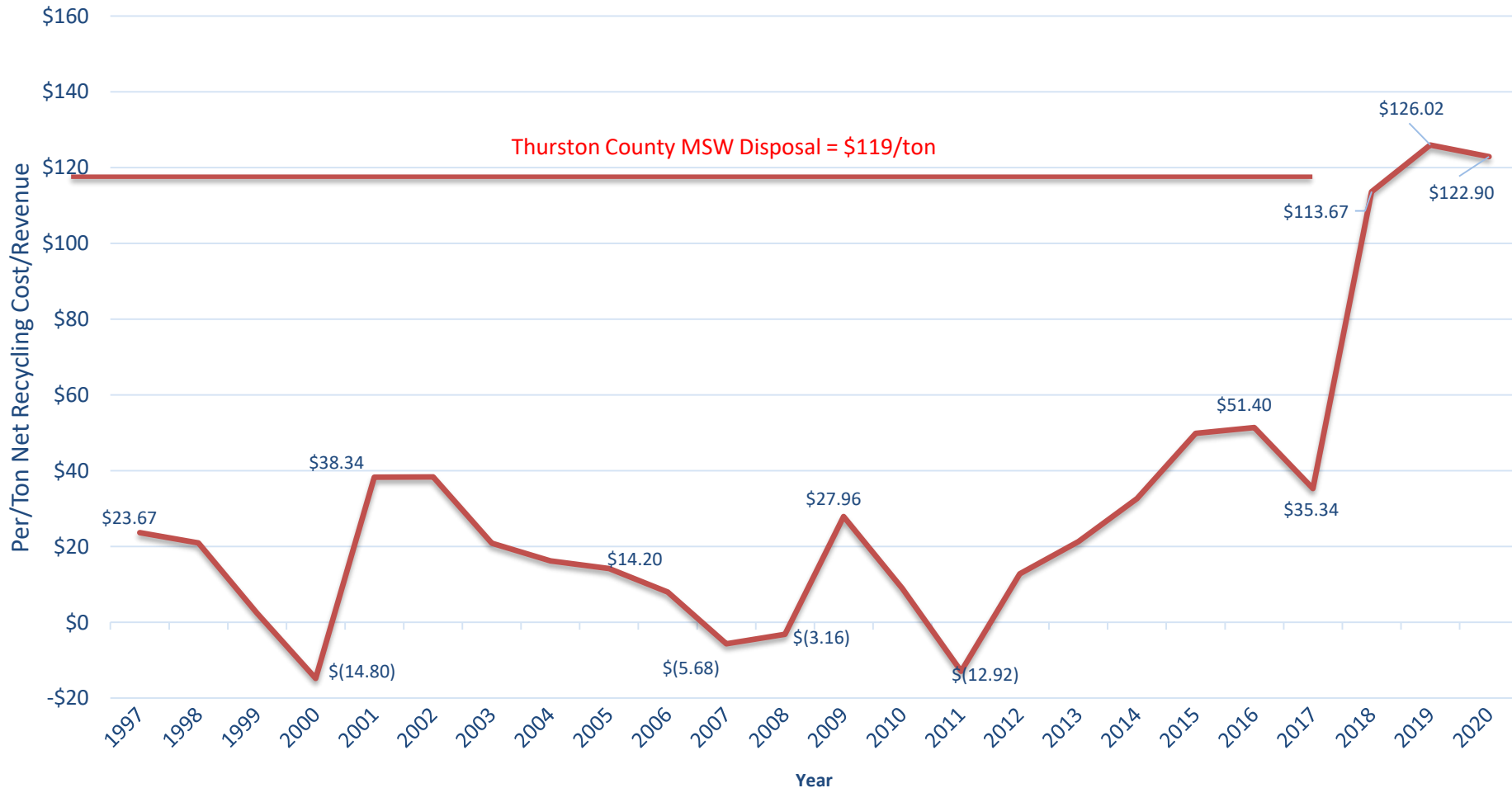
- Commodity values at historic low.
 - Mixed paper (57% of commingled stream)
 - \$150/ton before China Ban .
 - **-\$22/ton** 2018/19 Low
 - \$17/ton December 2020
- Revenue generated from sale of recyclables no longer offsets transload, hauling and processing.
- Processor
 - Slowed throughput and invested in technology
 - Efforts to improve quality for domestic markets

Recycle Revenue/Expense '17-'20



Annual Per/Ton Net Recycling Cost '97 - Current

(Processing Cost + Transport to MRF) - Aggregate Commodity Value = Net



City Response

- ✓ Remove glass from commingled recycle
 - ✓ (January 1, 2020)
- ✓ Create glass drop-off at 10th Ave, Yauger, & Concrete Recyclers
- ✓ Residents can also use Thurston County Transfer Station
- ✓ Remove poly-coated materials from recycle
- ✓ Grant Acquired & Completed (LSWFA Program \$53,000)
- ✓ Aggressive Education Program to reduce glass and other contamination

Customer Response to Changes



110 Phone calls



125 Emails

Reasons for contacting staff:

- Location of drop-off sites.
- Upset about glass not being recycled anymore.
 - *Understood and accepted once explained.*
- Wanted to make sure they were doing everything correctly.

Glass Contamination Postcards and Letters

Rear load ride-along in westside alleys tagging customers for glass contamination





Please, No Glass or Plastic Bags in Recycle Carts

Glass can be taken to drop-off locations throughout the City or put in the garbage.

Plastic bags go in the garbage.





City of Olympia
P.O. Box 1967
Olympia, WA 98507-1967



Glass Disposal and Drop-off Locations

Glass can be taken to drop-off locations throughout the City or put in the garbage.

| | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1000 10th Ave SE Open 24/7 • Yauger Park 503 Alta Street SW Open daily, dawn - dusk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concrete Recyclers 2935 Black Lake Blvd SW Open Mon - Sat, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. • Waste and Recovery Center 2420 Hogum Bay Rd NW Open daily, 8 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. |
|--|---|



Questions? Visit olympiawa.gov/wastewise or contact Kim Johnson, 360.570.5837, kjohnson@ci.olympia.wa.us

City of Olympia | olympiawa.gov

699 Glass Contamination clicks on the iPads by the Collectors:

- 671 postcards
- 51 letters
 - 43 customers 1st warning
 - 13 customers 2nd warning

Glass Removal Savings

2019:

Glass 1,050 tons @ \$202/ton = \$212,000
22% of commingled material was glass to Pioneer

2020:

- Drop-off to CR: \$11,451
(347 @ \$33/ton)
- Commingled: \$57,166
(283 @ \$202/ton)
- Landfill: \$49,980
(420 @ \$119)
- Total Cost: \$118, 597
- **Savings: \$93,503**



Market Response

Mills

- NORPAC – Expansion
- Port Townsend Pulp Mill
- Port Angeles Mill
- PCA Walulla Wa.
- New Mill in Salt Lake City

Pioneer Recycling Services

- Plastic to pellets in Canada
- Residual going to waste to energy
- Capital investments (Optical Sorters)





Solid Waste Bills Signed into Law 2019 & 2020 Sessions

2020

- Reusable Bag Bill
- Solar Panel Recycling
- Flushable Wipes Labeling
- Encourage Compost Procurement and Use

2019

- Sustainable Recycling - Recycling Development Center
- Plastics Packaging Study
- Paint Stewardship
- Alternatives to Cremation – Concerning human remains
- Composability Labeling
- Food Waste Reduction





Legislative Initiatives

- SB 5022 Product Packaging EPR — establishes a minimum recycled content for plastic beverage containers, ban expanded polystyrene products used for food and packing peanuts and requires food service business with on-site consumption to only provide utensils, straws, condiment packaging, and beverage cup lids upon request. Establishes minimum content for plastic beverage
- SB 5219 Management of Plastics establish a similar minimum recycled content program as established in SB 5022 applied to plastic packaging. This version of the bill does not include a ban on expanded polystyrene products.
- SB 5286 Statewide Organics Waste Management Goal - A statewide goal is established to divert no less than 50% of organic waste by weight from landfill disposal by 2025 and 90% by 2030
- HB 1053 Carryout Bag — delays implementation of statewide plastic ban to July 2021 or January 2022
 - COVID related
 - Small stores/restaurants having a tough time receiving inventory
 - Manufactures have diverted attention to PPE including masks



Legislative Initiatives

- SB 5040 Litter Funding for state Highways — Ecology must give priority to litter control along state highways when distributing the 40 percent of funds for litter control.
- SB 5174 Recycled Wind Turbine Blade EPR -Creates a product stewardship plan for the recycling of wind turbine blades and their components.
- SB 5345 Industrial Symbiosis — Establishes an industrial waste coordination program to provide expertise, technical assistance, and best practices to support local industrial symbiosis projects. Establishes a competitive industrial symbiosis grant program to provide grants for the research, development, and deployment of local waste coordination projects.





- Recycling is...
 - Dynamic
 - Not Free
- Adapt to changing market conditions
- Continue to reduce glass and contamination
- Legislation Initiative Tracking
- Participate in characterization study with Thurston County in 2022
 - As part of the Waste Resources Plan we may request to start that process earlier

UAC Update

February 4, 2-21

Gary Franks, Director
Ron Jones, Senior Planner