



## **SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWAC) MEETING**

ISLAND COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, SOLID WASTE DIVISION

**Monday, October 20, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

Via Microsoft Teams

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 228 228 543 975

Passcode: S4p4UU

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[+1 323-433-2396,,942351210#](#) United States, Los Angeles

Phone Conference ID: 942 351 210#

### **- A G E N D A -**

<b>Meeting Topics</b>		<b>Outcomes</b>	
1.	Call to Order	10:00	Action
2.	Roll Call, Determination of Quorum, and Approval of Minutes	10:00 - 10:05	Action
3.	Public Comment Period	10:05 - 10:10	Information
4.	Operations Update	10:10 - 10:25	Information
5.	2020 Solid Waste and Moderate Risk Waste Management Plan	10:25 - 10:50	Discussion
6.	Island Disposal, Inc. Curbside Recycling Customer Survey	10:50 - 11:15	Discussion
7.	WSU Waste Wise Program	11:15 - 11:25	Information
8.	Open Session, Announcements, Agenda Items	11:25 - 11:30	Discussion
9.	Adjournment	11:30	Action

## **SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **Discussion Form**

October 20, 2025

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#### ***AGENDA ITEM 2: Roll Call, Determination of Quorum, Approval of Minutes***

**PRESENTER:** *Gynon Nash, Solid Waste Division Attendant Supervisor*

**BOARD ACTION:**  Action Item      Discussion      Information

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#### ***COMMITTEE ROLE / ACTION REQUESTED***

Review and approve draft meeting minutes for the July 21, 2025 meeting and welcome aboard new SWAC Member Joan Green, Member-at-Large representing Central/ South Whidbey Island. Welcome aboard, Joan!

#### ***ATTACHMENT(S)***

- July 21, 2025 draft SWAC meeting minutes

**ISLAND COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY (SWAC) COMMITTEE**  
**July 21, 2025**

**Members Present:**

George Place, Dar Christopherson, Sarah Bergquist, Rianne Janovich, and Janusz Bajsarowicz.

**Staff Present:**

Jeff Hegedus (Public Works), James Sylvester (Public Works), Amanda Stevenson (Public Health), Jamie Hamilton (Public Health), and Gynon Nash (Public Works)

**Others Present:**

Katie Jerauld (Dept of Ecology), Don McDaniel (DTG), and Tony Rounds

**Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Island County SWAC was called to order on Monday, July 21, 2025, at 10:07 a.m. via Microsoft Teams meeting, by Sarah Bergquist, Chairperson.

**Roll Call, Determination of Quorum, and Approval of Minutes:**

Roll call determined the correct amount of a quorum. The minutes for the January 27, 2025 and April 21, 2025 SWAC meetings were approved as written, since a quorum was not present on April 21, 2025. The motion for approval was made by George Place and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dar Christopherson. Motion approved - all in favor.

Jeff Hegedus announced that SWAC member Liz Kennedy Ketcheson tendered their resignation and thanked her for her service.

**Public Comment Period:**

None

**Operations Update:**

Jeff Hegedus updated the committee on operations:

- Solid Waste tonnage increased by 2% in the first half of 2025 compared to the previous year.
- The compactor control shack with tipping floor remote video capacity has been constructed and installed.
- Damaged fencing on the top of the tipping floor walls is being replaced.
- At the Camano site new railings, barrier arms and fencing is being installed. A new backhoe has been purchased.
- The North Whidbey site expansion and traffic flow improvements have been completed.
- A pad for the new office at the North Whidbey site is being permitted and installed.
- The Bayview site expansion is complete.
- Moderate risk waste grant for the Department of Ecology for \$433,000 is going before BOCC for approval.
- A cleanup at an encampment in Clinton is nearing completion.
- Annual biosolids land application is currently being implemented.
- The RFP for recycling services on Whidbey has been published, questions due Aug 1<sup>st</sup>, submissions due September 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Amendment to SWAC Bylaws:**

Since a quorum was not present on April 21, 2025, a motion to approve adding youth representatives to SWAC had been delayed. The amendment to the bylaws adds two youth representative position to SWAC, one for Whidbey Island and one for Camano Island for one 2 year membership, with no renewal terms. The committee had a brief discussion concerning voting privileges, age, and mentoring of youth members. A motion for approval was made by George Place and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dar Christopherson. Motion approved - all in favor.

### **2020 Solid Waste and Moderated Risk Waste Management Plan Update:**

Jeff Hegedus informed the committee that the RFP for the update to the Solid Waste and Moderate Risk Waste Management Plan has been advertised and proposals are due by August 8, 2025. In preparation to participate and contribute to the development of the plan he recommends that SWAC members familiarize themselves the existing [2020 Island County Solid Waste and Moderate Risk Waste Management Plan](#) and review [Ecology's guidelines & current updates to the guidelines](#).

### **Vehicle Wrecking and Disposal:**

Jeff Hegedus apprised the committee of laws and current challenges in disposing of recreational vehicles.

### **WSU Waste Wise Program:**

Sarah Bergquist updated the committee on the Waste Wise program:

- Collaborating with Ridwell and rePurpose for hard to recycle items
- Joining forces with rePurpose and Dar Christopherson for feasibility of styrofoam densifier
- Working with WIRE Whidbey Island Renewable Earth for solutions to food waste composting
- Coming this fall a course on plastics, contact Sarah if you are interested in attending

### **Open Session, Announcements, Agenda Items:**

Katie Jerauld, Regional Planner & Grant Manager, Dept of Ecology, emailed the following to Jeff Hegedus to pass along to the committee:

- CAQ-DRLs Workbook Posted for use  
The Cost Assessment Questionnaire-Designated Recyclables Lists Workbook (CAQ-DRLs Workbook) is now live. It is accompanied by Guidelines text. This template captures key recycling program information in a sortable table, clearly shows Ecology's recommendations by material, and is a tool for responsible recycling. It also helps locals meet planning requirements. You may find it and accompanying guidance here: [UTC and Designated Recyclables Lists](#).
- Recycling Reform Act  
Governor Ferguson signed the Recycling Reform Act (Senate Bill 5284) on May 17, 2025, making Washington the seventh state to enact an extended producer responsibility program for consumer packaging. The Department of Ecology prepared this four-page summary of what the Recycling Reform Act will do for Washington:  
<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/2507046.pdf>.  
Please reach out to [Recyclingreform@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Recyclingreform@ecy.wa.gov) with any questions.
- WA Litter Tax Update  
Washington's litter tax has not been updated since it was established in 1971. The tax applies to manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers of commonly littered products.

Today, nearly half of the litter that accumulates in Washington every year comes from items not covered by the litter tax, like construction debris and vehicle-related materials. Ecology proposes the following changes:

- Update [RCW 82.19.020](#) to include construction and motor vehicle products
- Update [Chapter 70A.200 RCW](#) by removing youth employment language to reflect modern program operations

These changes will better reflect today's litter sources, reduce pollution, and support more cleanup efforts across the state.

For more information, please visit our webpage on [Washington's litter tax](#) and read our [focus sheet](#) and [draft legislative language](#).

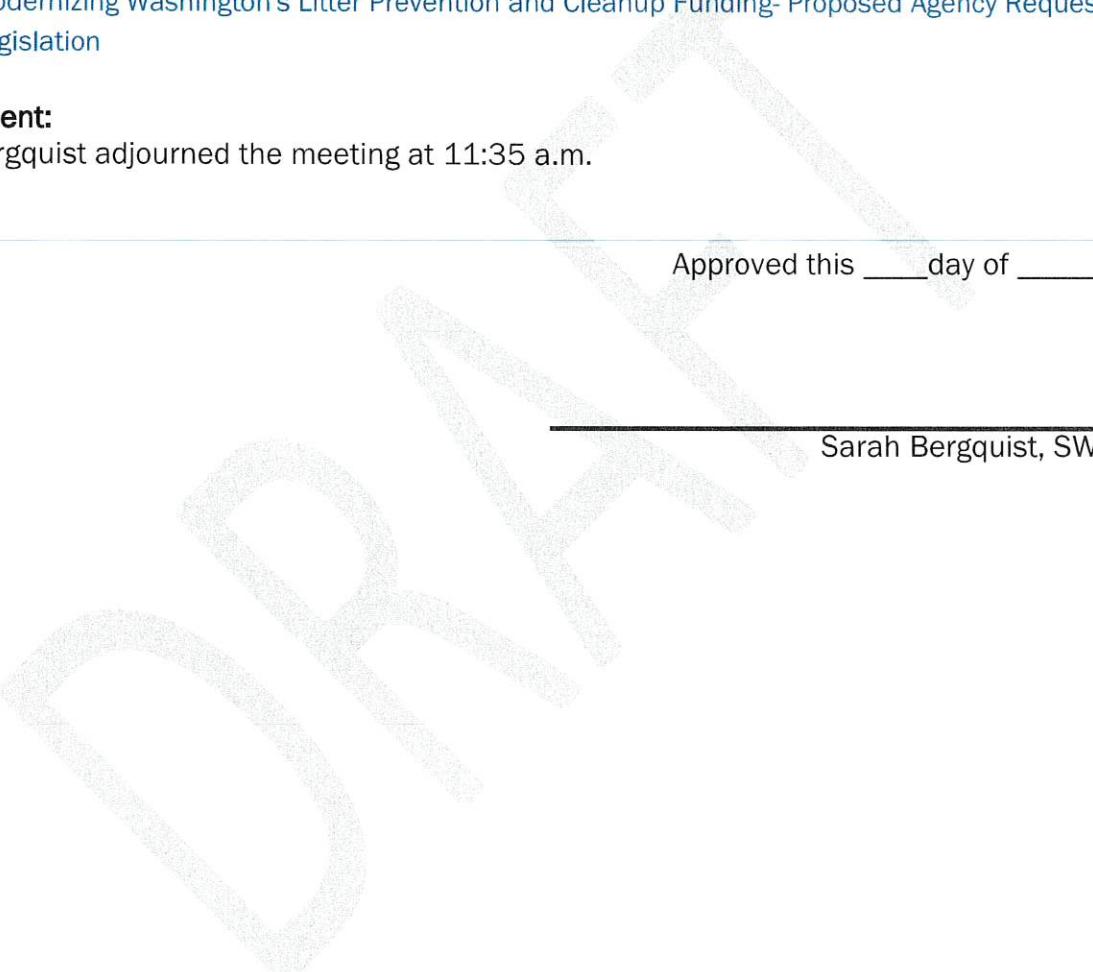
You may submit written comments online through August 8, 2025, at 11:59 PM:

[Modernizing Washington's Litter Prevention and Cleanup Funding- Proposed Agency Request Legislation](#)

**Adjournment:**

Sarah Bergquist adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2025

  
Sarah Bergquist, SWAC Chair

# SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Discussion Form

October 20, 2025

### AGENDA ITEM 4: *Operations Update*

**PRESENTER:** *Jeff Hegedus, Solid Waste Division Manager*

**BOARD ACTION:**  Action Item  Discussion  Information

	Customer Count July			Garbage Tonnage July		Garbage Tonnage Year to Date (Jan thru July)			Recycling Tonnage July		Recycling Tonnage Year to Date (Jan thru July)		
	2024	2025		2024	2025	2024	2025		2024	2025	2024	2025	
Public @ CV				1582.46	1592.74	9798.15	9800.96	↑0.3%					
ID & City of OH @CV				2700.29	2957.28	16799.48	17430.43	↑4%					
50%/No Charge				27.80	32.10	203.09	225.13	↑11%					
Coupeville	9442	9620	↑2%						45.90	66.33	300.00	427.97	↑42%
Bayview	1439	1353	↓6%	49.94	55.69	291.06	263.62	↓9%	113.37*	90.20*	513.60*	613.29*	↓4%*
N Whidbey	343	300	↓13%	14.91	7.61	83.48	76.62	↓8%	50.92	51.14	304.74	374.26	↑23%
Camano	4511	4228	↓6%	1081.23	1063.20	6271.21	6326.92	↑1%	86.57	74.60	435.22	418.60	↓4%
System Wide	15735	15501	↓2%	5456.63	5708.62	33446.47	34123.68	↑2%					

\*Estimate based on number of loads hauled

### SIGNIFICANT POINTS OR EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

After a 4% tonnage increase in 2021, followed by three years of 2% annual decreases, solid waste tonnage has increased by 2% through July, 2025. Septage tonnage increased in 2024 by 48% to 1.4 million gallons, and then by another 10% through July, 2025.

Operations proceed as normal. In November, construction is now scheduled to install the Coupeville compactor hydraulic power unit roof, and repair the tipping floor push walls. The container storage area at Camano is being surveyed for leveling to increase safety, the Camano C Bin barrier arms are now installed, and the North Whidbey container office foundation design, permitting and construction is in process and the entry gate is being widened for increased safety. The Clinton encampment cleanup has been completed.

A \$433,000 2 year grant for Moderate Risk Waste collection and disposal from the Department of Ecology has been completed and approved. Clean Harbors has been retained under the new state contract as the service provider for Moderate Risk Waste disposal. The current contract for recycling services on Whidbey Island expires on December 31, 2025 and a Request for Proposals for continuation of services has been published. Following evaluations and interviewing, low bidder and current service provider DTG has been selected for recommendation of award of contract. The current contract for biosolids land application expires on December 31, 2025 and will go out to bid. New guidelines for PFAS in biosolids is anticipated in 2026.

Landfill monitoring and maintenance work proceeds routinely as required.

# **SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

## **Discussion Form**

October 20, 2025

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### ***AGENDA ITEM 5: 2020 Solid Waste and Moderate Risk Waste Management Plan***

**PRESENTER:** *Jeff Hegedus, Solid Waste Division Manager*

**BOARD ACTION:**  Action Item  Discussion  Information

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#### ***SIGNIFICANT POINTS OR EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

A Request for Proposals for consulting services for the required five year update to the *2020 Island County Solid Waste and Moderate Risk Waste Management Plan (Plan)* has been completed. Five proposals from qualified bidders were evaluated, and low bidder SCS Engineers is being recommended for service provision. It is a primary function of SWAC to participate and contribute to the develop of the plan, without which the plan cannot be approved.

The scope of work to update the Plan is organized according to the following tasks:

#### **Task 1: Visionary Process**

At the outset of the project, Contractor will meet with County staff and other stakeholders to discuss the approach for the updated Plan. This meeting and its outcome will set the framework for the Plan Update – both the process and the project outcome. As part of this task, the Contractor will:

- Review existing Plan goals and objectives with County staff, and with the SWAC and other stakeholders at a SWAC meeting.
- Identify important issues and areas of concern to be addressed in the Plan Update and prioritize the list based on input from stakeholders. Some of the challenges that the County aims at targeting in the Plan update include population growth and waste tonnage throughout recent contract changes and associated rate changes, facility upgrades (including pending needs), program changes (litter control) and other policy and regulatory changes, such as product stewardship laws and the Organics Bill HB 1799.
- Identify which programs and policies from the Plan were implemented and which were not, and identify areas that need expansion, updating, and other necessary changes.
- Provide suggestions for revised goals and objectives.

#### **Task 2: Background Research and Initial Planning**

The purpose of this task is to develop an inventory of the available information pertaining to the solid waste system. Contractor will seek to gain an understanding of the existing policies, programs, and facilities, and the goals and objectives moving forward, and will use this information to identify future alternatives that will be evaluated in the Planning process. For this task, the Contractor will:

- Prepare and submit a short questionnaire to County and Cities staff and SWAC members requesting information on the existing solid waste system policies, programs, and facilities.
- Review data from the County, Cities, and the Ecology regarding disposal, diversion and recycling. Meet with the stakeholders (Cities, SWAC and Ecology) as needed.
- Review the County's existing Comprehensive Plan regarding population projections.
- Review other State, County, and City documents that may impact or be impacted by the updated Plan.
- Work with County staff and the SWAC to develop criteria that will be used to evaluate alternative strategies. The criteria will support the plan goals and objectives and will incorporate the State's Solid Waste Plan goals into the overall decision-making framework.

### **Task 3: Preliminary Analysis (Existing Conditions and Needs Analysis)**

At the outset of this task, Contractor will coordinate with County staff and SWAC to initiate the update of the Plan in compliance with current Ecology guidelines. As part of this task, Contractor will:

- Review existing programmatic and facility objectives to determine if they should be continued, revised, or discontinued.
- Work with County staff and SWAC and the SWAC subcommittee to develop criteria that can be used to evaluate planning options, including new criteria that will incorporate current regulatory developments and considerations into an overall decision-making framework.

### **Task 4: Plan Update**

For this task, Contractor will undertake the following:

- Prepare a current waste generation analysis and projections.
- Evaluate existing promotion and education, waste reduction, recycling and organics programs, and identify needs and strategies for policy, program, and facility enhancements.
- Evaluate the adequacy of current disposal and transfer facilities and collection systems to meet existing and future needs and identify strategies for these facilities and systems.
- Evaluate existing construction, demolition and land clearing debris and building management program elements and identify needs and alternative strategies.
- Review disaster debris management policies and programs and identify needs and alternative strategies.
- Review and update conditions and needs of additional programs to meet the County's goals and objectives and state requirements for handling MRW and other special waste types.
- Summarize existing administration and enforcement programs and identify future

needs.

- Prepare a 20-year implementation schedule.

### **Task 4.1: Waste Stream Characterization and Projections**

The purpose of this task is to provide updated estimates and a projection for waste generated in Island County, including trends in generation, recycling, and disposal; waste generation forecasts for the 6- and 20-year planning periods; and waste composition. Estimates and projections will be based primarily on existing data from prior Island County Waste Characterization Study and data published by the Ecology. Primary tasks include:

- Review historic data from Island County and Ecology regarding disposal, diversion, and recycling.
- Obtain County population projections from the Washington State Office of Financial Management.
- Prepare waste composition estimates using the Island County Waste Characterization Study
- Obtain recycling and diversion quantity data from Ecology's annual recycling survey.
- Estimate composition and quantities of overall countywide disposal, recycling, and generation.
- Describe historic trends in disposal, recycling, and generation.
- Prepare 6- and 20-year waste generation projections.

### **Task 4.2: Waste Reduction and Recycling**

The purpose of this task is to review existing waste reduction and recycling programs and to recommend any strategies to meet the priorities established in RCW 70.95 to reduce the amount of waste generated, provide incentives and mechanism for source separation, and establish recycling opportunities for the source separated waste. Primary tasks include:

- Review information on existing residential and commercial waste reduction, recycling, and food waste programs and incorporate updates from the County, municipalities, certificated haulers, and permitted facilities. Information is expected to include:
  - Current data on the types and quantities of materials collected and processed by municipal and certificated hauler collection programs or by permitted facilities.
  - Current policies and incentive programs designed to reduce waste generation.
- Review designated recyclable materials and assess the viability of recycling markets.
- Review and identify key waste reduction and recycling issues, needs, and opportunities and new regulatory policies that support waste reduction and recycling.
- Identify opportunities to improve or expand current waste reduction and recycling,

programs by considering:

- Materials that are currently disposed of in large quantities.
- Materials for which there are viable markets available to Island County.
- The generators of those materials.
- The current recycling infrastructure.
- Identify waste reduction and source separation strategies.
- Assess the Plan's impact on the costs of solid waste collection, in conformance with the guidelines established by the WUTC.
- Finalize recommendations after review by County to ensure that proposed alternatives are responsive to needs of and conditions in Island County.

### **Task 4.3: Organics**

The purpose of this task is to evaluate the existing policies, programs, and infrastructure for organics management in the County, including yard debris, wood waste, food waste, and agricultural waste. As part of this section of the Plan Update, Contractor will develop a wasted food reduction and food waste diversion plan.

Another focus of organics material management will be to address key requirements of HB 1799. Driven by this organics management house bill, Ecology is developing guidance in five key areas: Research, Collection, Processing, Markets, and Prevention. The law states that after July 1, 2024, new and updated local comprehensive solid waste management plans must incorporate provisions for the collection and management of organic materials from both residential and non- residential customers. Additionally, starting on January 1, 2025, county comprehensive plans must include provisions allowing for the siting of organics management facilities to accommodate the necessary capacity for organics collection. Contractor will discuss these requirements upfront with the County and address these HB 1799 related requirements in the Plan along with other requirements of HB 1799. Primary tasks under this analysis will include:

- Review existing information on yard debris drop-off and composting, and curbside collection programs.
- Review processing facilities in the County.
- Review markets for compost materials.
- Review the State wasted food reduction and food waste diversion plan.
- Identify opportunities to prevent and reduce the wasting of edible food by residents and businesses.
- Review HB 1799 related requirements with the County and identify strategies to address identified requirements.

### **Task 4.4: Contamination Reduction and Outreach**

The Contractor will review and update the contamination reduction and outreach plan that meets the new requirements described in RCW 70.95.090(10). To develop a plan that is tailored to the unique needs and conditions of Island County, Contractor will work with the County to identify key contaminants through communication with regional recycling

processors, and to gather input on top contaminants of concern and their impacts on the recycling system in the County. This will include the costs of contamination on recycling processing and impacts on commodity values and marketability of recyclables collected in Island County. Contractor will also draw on data recently compiled in Washington on top contaminants in residential recycling streams, and other available data to update the recycling contamination reduction and outreach plan.

#### **Task 4.5: Other Policies, Programs, and Infrastructure Needs and Strategies**

The purpose of this task is to evaluate the existing policies, programs, and infrastructure that are part of the existing solid waste system in the County and identify future needs and alternatives to meet those needs. Based on the results of the waste generation analysis and waste reduction, recycling, and organics assessments, Contractor will complete the following:

- Evaluate the adequacy of current collection, transfer, and disposal facilities and collection systems to meet existing and future needs and identify future options.
- Review existing moderate risk waste and special waste policies, programs, and facilities.
- Identify additional programs to meet the County's goals and objectives, and state requirements for handling moderate risk waste, special waste, construction, demolition and land clearing debris, and disaster debris.
- Summarize existing administration and enforcement programs and identify future needs.

#### **Task 4.6: Implementation Plan and Budgetary Requirements**

The purpose of this task is to establish an implementation schedule of the recommended policies, programs, and facilities, and to use that schedule to develop a preliminary budget for implementation. To that end, the following will be undertaken:

- Prepare implementation schedule for short- and long-term phases.
- Request information from the County and Cities to be incorporated into the budget process.
- Utilize WUTC guidelines, identify the costs and funding sources for the various programs to be implemented, including facility fees, grants, and other mechanisms.
- Prepare a 20-year implementation schedule.
- Prepare a WUTC cost assessment.

#### **Task 5: Public and Agency Participation Process**

The Plan update must be communicated to key stakeholders for review and acceptance at regular intervals throughout the project's timetable. Significant community and public issues will be identified at monthly meetings with municipal and SWAC representatives, then considered in the draft Plan update and ultimately in the Final adopted Plan.

To facilitate communication among the principal parties concerned with the project,

Contractor will work with County staff to ensure that materials are distributed to members of the SWAC in a timely manner for review prior to meetings. As part of this task, Contractor will prepare a presentation for use by local representatives for their study sessions as needed. Contractor will document notes from public meetings regarding the Plan update. A key assumption for this Task is that public engagement will be led by the County staff and that the Contractor will remotely support the County staff with needed information (agenda, draft documents, notes etc.).

### **Task 6: Preparation of Documents**

After completing the aforementioned tasks, Contractor will initiate the preparation of Plan related documents as explained below:

#### **Task 6.1: Preliminary Draft Plan**

The Preliminary Draft Plan will be submitted for review and comments by County staff and the SWAC. Following incorporation of comments into the Preliminary Draft Plan, Contractor will produce the revised Preliminary Draft Plan for submittal to the County. Upon receipt by the County, the revised Preliminary Draft Plan will be made available by the County to all participating jurisdictions for a 30-day review period. At the end of the 30-day review period, the SEPA process will be initiated.

Following public commentary, Contractor will further revise the Preliminary Draft Plan, as necessary. The Preliminary Draft Plan will then be submitted to Ecology for review and comment. One electronic version of the Preliminary Draft Plan for submittal to Ecology and WUTC will be provided to the County. One set of minor comments from each agency (i.e., Ecology and WUTC) is assumed as part of the Scope of Work.

#### **Task 6.2: Draft Plan**

Contractor will revise the Preliminary Draft Plan and WUTC Cost Assessment based on comments received from Ecology and the WUTC, respectively. The Final Draft Plan will include a summary of comments received, responses to comments, and changes made to the Draft Plan. At this stage, all participating jurisdictions must adopt the Final Draft Plan. After the local adoption process is complete, the Final Draft Plan must be submitted to Ecology for final review and approval. Contractor will prepare the Final Draft Plan for submittal to Ecology. One electronic version of the Final Draft Plan for submittal to Ecology will be provided to the County.

#### **Task 6.3: SEPA Checklist**

Contractor will assist the County in preparing the SEPA checklist. The following will be undertaken by Contractor:

- Evaluate the draft Plan Update's likely environmental impacts and identify necessary changes or mitigation measures for incorporation into the draft Plan.
- Prepare the SEPA environmental checklist, following the established guidelines.
- Assist in determining whether to issue a determination of non-significance (DNS), DNS with mitigation conditions (MDNS), or significance/scoping notice

(DS/Scoping). The latter would begin the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process, which if required, is not part of the Scope of Work.

**COMMITTEE ROLE / ACTION REQUESTED**

- Review the 2025 plan at <https://islandcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3418>
- Review Ecology Guidelines at <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/summarypages/1007005.html>
- Review current updates to the Guidelines at <https://app.box.com/s/k8gz06zj2lqbeji6vhv8cwybpdpvk6x8>

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

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## SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Discussion Form

October 20, 2025

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#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: *Island Disposal, Inc. Curbside Recycling Customer Survey***

**PRESENTER:** *Andrews Riggs, Site Manager, Island Disposal, Inc.*

**BOARD ACTION:**  **Action Item**   **Discussion**  **Information**

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#### **SIGNIFICANT POINTS OR EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Island Disposal, Inc. has proposed to increase solid waste management levels of service through the addition of residential curbside collection of recyclable materials to current curbside collection programs. While curbside collection of solid waste would not be mandatory, residential customers choosing to have curbside collection of solid waste would also receive, as part of the bundled service, curbside collection of designated recyclable materials. Residential customers with curbside solid waste service would not need to self-haul recyclable materials to the transfer station or drop box facilities, and recycling rates would increase.

Chapter 11.3, *Recycling Recommendations* in the approved *2020 Island County Solid Waste and Moderate Risk Waste Management Plan* 'when market conditions improve.' On April 15, 2024 the Island County Solid Waste Advisory Committee unanimously approved recommendation of the proposal, and staff concurs. On October 9, 2024 the proposal was presented to the Board of County Commissioners at Work Session. As requested by the Commissioners, a follow-up Work Session is being scheduled. It is anticipated that further discussion and development will be incorporated into public process associated with the current 5 year update to the 2020 Solid Waste and Moderate Risk Waste Management Plan.

To assess current market conditions regarding the proposal, Island Disposal conducted a customer survey. A total of 4,200 surveys were sent to customers, and 2,156 responses were received.

Detailed results of the survey will be presented, and are attached.

#### **COMMITTEE ROLE / ACTION REQUESTED**

#### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

- Island Disposal Curbside Recycle Survey
- Curbside Collection Proposal



# Island Disposal Curbside Recycle Survey



# Survey Overview

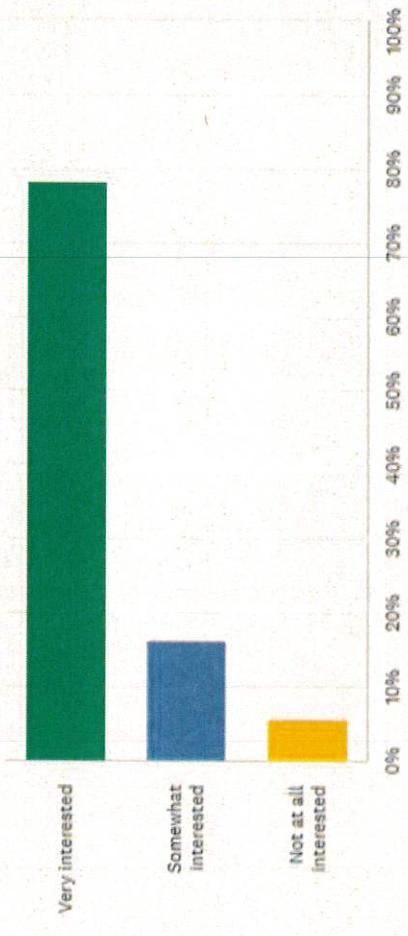
- 4,200 surveys sent out
- 2,156 respondents (51% response rate)
- 78% of respondents indicated a high level of interest in program
- 94% of respondents indicated some level of interest in program
- 1,006 respondents left a verbatim comment
- Verbatim comments overwhelmingly supportive with key questions or criticism surrounding acceptance criteria, cost, and whether material collected gets recycled.



## What is your level of interest in a residential curbside recycle program?

Answered: 2,156

Skipped: 3

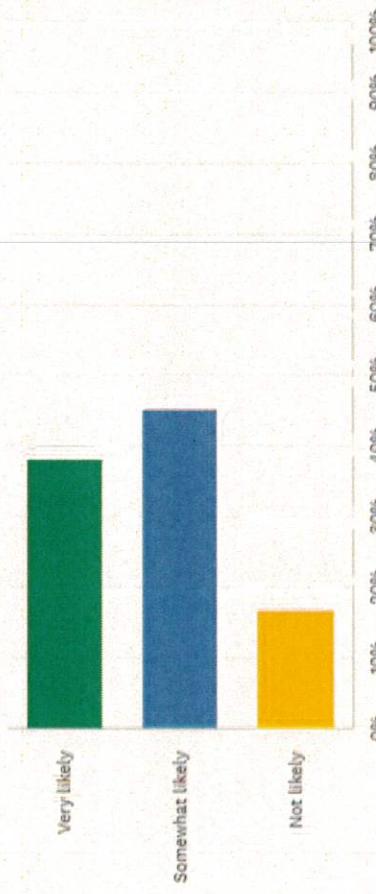


### ANSWER CHOICES

	RESPONSES
Very interested	1,685
Somewhat interested	350
Not at all interested	121
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,156</b>

## How likely will cost influence your decision to subscribe to residential curbside recycle services?

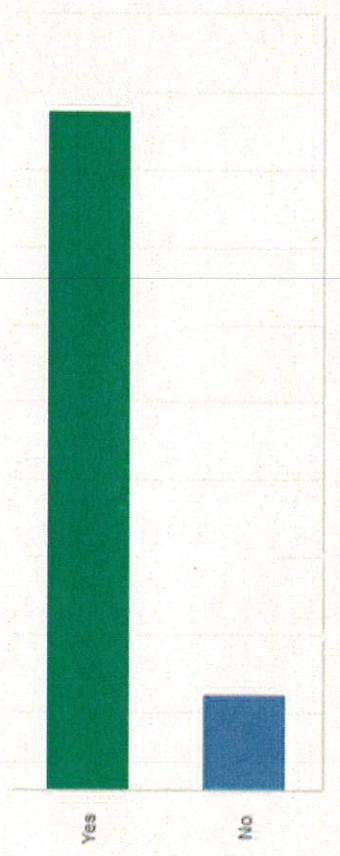
Answered: 2,154    Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES		
	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not likely
Very likely	38.25%	45.17%	16.57%
Somewhat likely	973	357	2154
Not likely	824	973	357
<b>TOTAL</b>			

Given the option, would you use an every-other-week (96 gallon) residential curbside recycle service?

Answered: 2,111      Skipped: 48

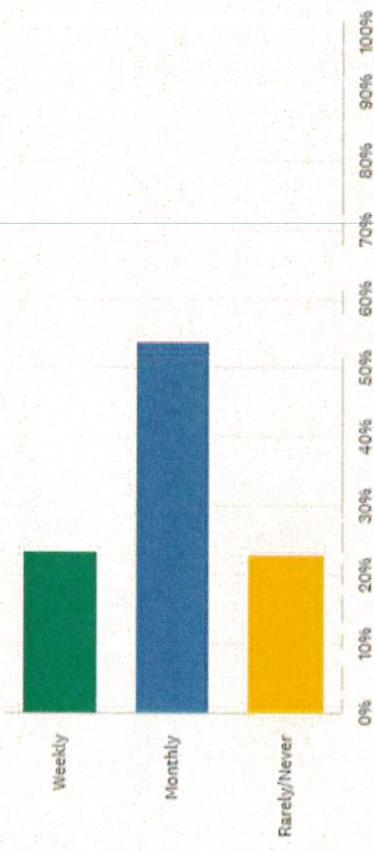


ANSWER CHOICES

	RESPONSES	
▼ Yes	1,852	
▼ No	259	
TOTAL	2,111	

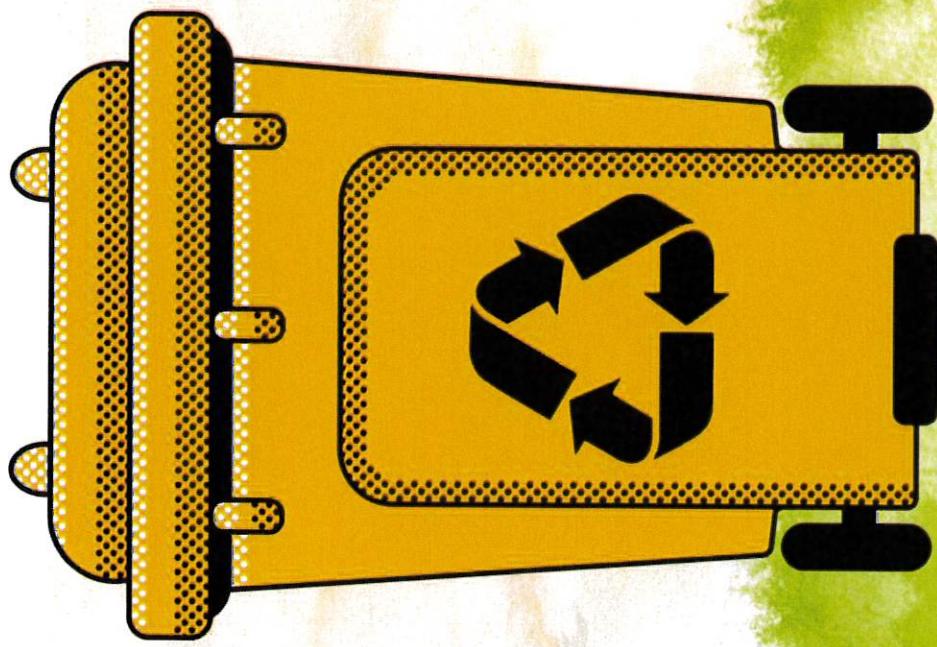
How frequently do you utilize the satellite recycle collection facilities in North Oak Harbor, Coupeville, or Bayview?

Answered: 2,153    Skipped: 6



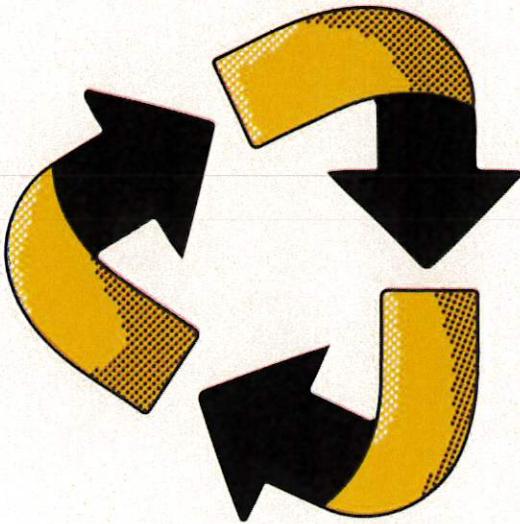
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES		
	▼ Weekly	▼ Monthly	▼ Rarely/Never
▼ Weekly	23.50%	53.69%	22.81%
▼ Monthly		1,156	491
▼ Rarely/Never			2,153
<b>TOTAL</b>			

# Survey Public Comments



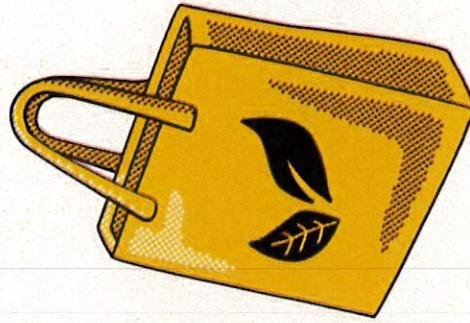
# The Need

- "PLEASE make the recycling pick up happen ASAP! It's a service we truly need on the island."
- "We are excited about this offering and hope that people are more encouraged to recycle given this option."
- "Please make this happen!! It would help so many people learn to recycle!"
- "Would love it! From Seattle and we recycled a lot more."
- "Please begin the recycling program!"
- "About 75% of our waste is recycling."
- "Would love to have this happen. More than half our trash is recyclables."
- "I would recycle more if we had an option here on the island"
- "As a newer, senior, homeowner on West Beach, I tried to recycle, but was discouraged by the time/effort it took. I was forced to add a second large garbage can to my weekly pickup, to dispose of recyclable items."
- "Would love to have curbside recycling. When not on Whidbey we go to CA where the family is. We have curbside recycling there and it's oh so convenient."
- "Whidbey Island really really should make recycling easier for our environment."
- "Many are unable to drive and a curbside service would be so very helpful."

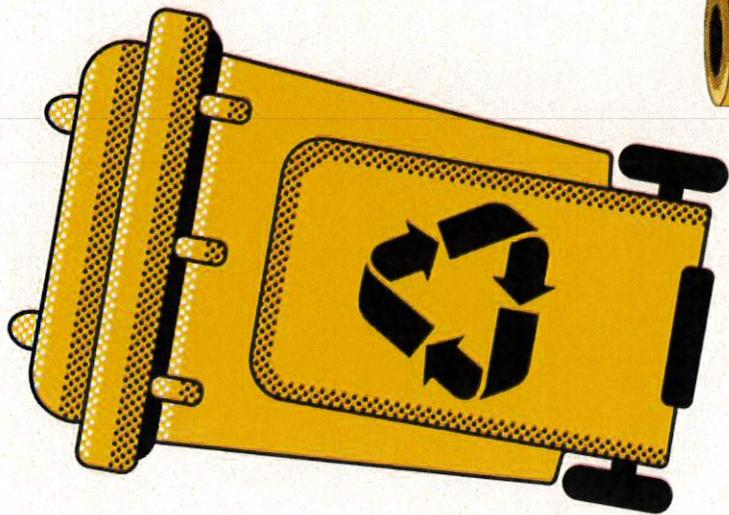


# The Cost

- "Please please please start a recycling service for unincorporated Island County!!! I would love to have garage space not need to be devoted to recycling. I would be happy to pay triple the current bill for biweekly recycling pickup."
- "Cost for this program should be minimal in order to incentivize people to recycle. Perhaps it could be "free" with the cost of trash collection, and trash collection prices could be raised slightly? I'm sure there are a LOT of recyclables going into the trash at present."
- "I would love to support curbside recycling but we do have access to two free facilities nearby so cost will be an issue. If it is bundled with the regular trash pickup price then it would be a little less visible and therefore probably more likely to be accepted. I'm all for this - and I do hope you can figure out how to offer this needed service."
- "No matter what, we will continue to recycle, even if that means driving to Bayview every other week. We are interested in this service because we think it would encourage some of our neighbors to recycle, and that would be worth us paying a bit to support it."
- "How will this impact the satellite recycling facilities because currently that service is free (mostly). Using a 96 gal recycling bin will help us reduce the size of our regular trash bin."
- "It's crazy that recycling is not already offered, but please keep it affordable!"
- "We were used to having recycle services prior to moving to the island a few years ago and miss it. Extra cost is offset by what we spend time/gas taking it in."

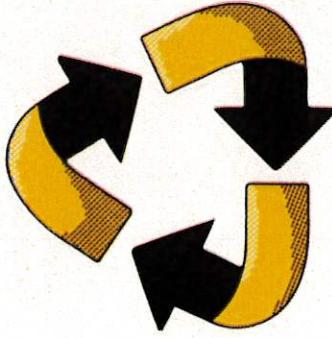


# The Convenience



- "We would also be **VERY** interested in Yardwaste Collection. We have a big yard and we need a place to put food spoils. In Seattle, we had our actual garbage bin down to a tiny size."
- "So excited for this to come to Whidbey! Recycling piles up in our house and it's such a trip to go to recycling centers (which are only open a few days per week). Would be very excited to get rid of recycling buildup more quickly in my home!"
- "As I age, it's harder to do everything I should be doing. Making recycling easier would really help me and the elderly. Thank you for considering this."
- "This would be a wonderful improvement to our community! Thank you for considering. I can see how this will be especially helpful for the elderly and disabled members of our community."
- "We use the Freeland recycling location since that is closest to us. It is used frequently, we absolutely need curbside recycling as soon as possible. Please! I would pay anything to have this service since I am disabled and the recycling piles up in the house!"
- "I have a lot of recycling and it fills the house before I have the chance to take it to Bayview. It would be super helpful and desired to have a pick up option!"

# The Counterpoints



- "I want to be assured that the any items collected are actually recycled"
- "We have a ton but if you are going to charge then I will continue to take out of state where i get paid to bring my recyclables"
- "Right now recycle is free at the available dumps, so cost would be a big factor."
- "The only way I'd consider using it is if my cost remained the exact same. I can take my recycling to the transfer center for free."
- "It should be free like every other city in the Seattle area."
- "I worry that curbside service would be too expensive for me."
- "Whether I would use this service is dependent on the price and what types of items would be allowed in the recycle bin."
- "If you do implement the recycle program, it would be nice that if you also take Glass as a place that we lived before did recycles, but did not take glass items because of breakage."
- "Take more recyclables, especially plastics. Include yard waste."
- "96 gallon seems large. And, would things actually be recycled?"
- "I honestly don't believe recycling is very effective or cost efficient."
- "Please don't add charges/fees for those of us who don't need/want to participate in recycling."





**Island Disposal  
Residential Curbside Recycle  
Proposal**

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**October 2024**

**Introduction:**

At present, only residents of the City of Oak Harbor, the Town of Coupeville, and Naval Housing have access to curbside recycling services on Whidbey Island. This leaves nearly 70% of Whidbey Island residents without convenient access to recycling services. While Island County provides excellent drop box collection facilities for recycling, a recent customer survey conducted by Island Disposal revealed that over 87% of our customers desire a curbside collection program. This highlights a significant need for a more accessible and efficient recycling solution. Implementation of a curbside recycling program aims to address the overwhelming demand for convenient recycling services among our residents while supporting Island County's Solid Waste Management plan objectives.

**Proposal Details:**

- County Commissioners approve a minimum level of service ordinance that includes curbside recycling for each solid waste collection customer.
- Island Disposal customers would receive a 96-gallon recycle container for mixed recycling along with their existing garbage service.
- Acceptable items include plastics, paper, cardboard, and metals.

**Benefits:**

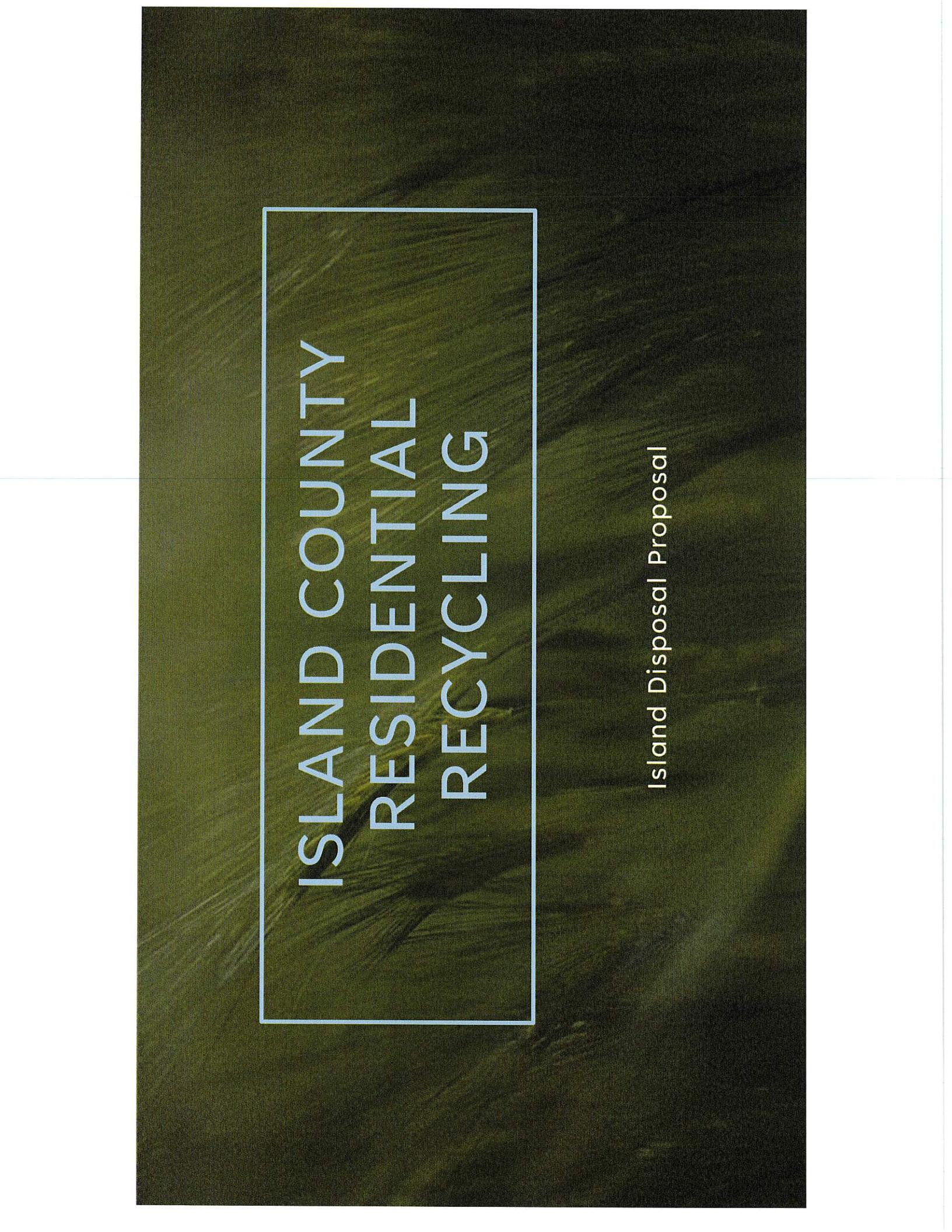
- Supports Island County's Solid Waste Management plan objectives, including waste reduction, encouraging recycling, and long-term capital planning.
- Provides residents with convenient access to recycling services, leading to increased participation and reduced environmental impact.
- By reducing the need for residents to travel to collection centers and the transfer station, the program would contribute to waste reduction and environmental stewardship goals.
- Offers cost savings for the community through economies of scale, with the bundled program being approximately 35% less expensive than a subscription-based model.
- Enables a faster implementation process, as the bundled program allows for immediate capital allocation without the uncertainty associated with subscription-based enrollment.

**Conclusion:**

The implementation of a bundled curbside recycling program represents a significant step towards achieving our shared goals of waste reduction, environmental stewardship, and community sustainability. By partnering with Island Disposal, Island County has the opportunity to provide residents with a convenient and cost-effective recycling solution while still having the option for residents to use the satellite collections facilities for glass and bulk recycling materials.

**Recommendation:**

We hereby request that Island County consider and support our proposal for implementing a bundled curbside recycling program. This initiative offers substantial benefits to residents, the environment, and the community at large, and represents a proactive step towards achieving our waste management goals.



# ISLAND COUNTY RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING

Island Disposal Proposal

## ISLAND DISPOSAL RECYCLING COMMITMENT

### MEET CUSTOMERS NEEDS & ENCOURAGE RECYCLING

Current programs require 70% of residential customers to self-haul recyclable material to outlying collection stations. It has become clear that residents desire an easier solution.

### SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

Island Disposal has a robust framework for collection of recyclable commodities, processing of material, and shipping to recovery centers. This role is integral to Washington State's initiative to promote sustainable materials management.

### SUPPORT ISLAND COUNTY SOLID WASTE COMP PLAN

Island County has committed to waste reduction and recycling as a priority. Island Disposal can, and does, play a vital role in this effort.

### COST MANAGEMENT

Island Disposal is committed to providing an environmentally responsible recycling program to Island Disposal's residents at a price point that is not cost prohibitive and encourages program utilization.

### WASTE DIVERSION/LANDFILL REDUCTION

Industry estimates show the United States currently has approximately 18 years of landfill capacity remaining. Diverting recyclable commodities from the landfill has never been more important.



## IMPLEMENTATION OF COMBINED GARBAGE & RECYCLE SERVICE

Island Disposal would work in conjunction with Island County to implement a minimum level of service for garbage and recycle services. All customers who wish to take advantage of Island Disposal's waste services would also receive a 96 gallon recycling container that would be serviced every other week.

### BENEFITS:

- Lowers cost to customers for residential recycling.
- Significantly increases potential waste diversion and encourages recycling.
- All customers would have access to program immediately upon implementation.
- Aligns Island County with other jurisdictions and positions the county for adherence to future legislation.
- Decreases environmental impact by having stable and efficient routes.

### DISADVANTAGES:

- Island Disposal customers who do not wish to recycle would be required to have the service.



# ISLAND DISPOSAL PROPOSAL

A BUNDLED WASTE AND RECYCLE SERVICE ON THE ISLAND WOULD PROVIDE THE GREATEST BENEFIT TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS.

## Customer Impact

- Customers would have a convenient method to recycle waste.
- Customers would see their waste services bill increase by approximately \$6.50 per month. However, **many customers would be able to reduce garbage container size which would effectively lower their monthly waste services bill from current cost.**
- Aid the County in reducing transfer station costs through lower waste volumes.
- Support the County's commitment to waste reduction and recycling as a top priority.
- Fulfils Island County Solid Waste Plan for recycling recommendations.
- Aligns County with RCW 70.95.090(7)(b)(i)

## County Impact

- Upwards of 145 tons\* of recyclable material diverted from the landfill **each month.**
- Fewer vehicles driving to satellite recycling stations reduces emissions and road wear.

## Environmental Impact

\* Based on 28.5 lbs. of waste recycled per month (Town of Coupeville average) and current UTC regulated customer count of 10,000 customers

**SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Discussion Form**  
October 20, 2025

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**AGENDA ITEM 7: WSU Waste Wise Program**

**PRESENTER:** *Sarah Bergquist, WSU Extension*

**BOARD ACTION:**  Action Item  Discussion  Information

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**SIGNIFICANT POINTS OR EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

An update will be provided on the WSU Waste Wise program  
<https://extension.wsu.edu/island/nrs/waste-wise/> .

**COMMITTEE ROLE / ACTION REQUESTED**

**ATTACHMENT(S)**