

ISLAND COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY (SWAC) COMMITTEE

July 21, 2025

Members Present:

George Place, Dar Christopherson, Sarah Bergquist, Rhianne 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 2nd 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 1st, submissions due September 1st.

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 2nd 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 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 20th day of October 2025


Sarah Bergquist, SWAC Chair