

Recycling Reform Advisory Council

Equity Subcommittee

Meeting Agenda

June 29, 2026, 10-11:00am PT

[Meeting Slide Deck Link](#)

- I. Welcome (10:00-10:10)
 - a. Attendance

Member	Affiliation	Attendance
Ming-Ming Tung Edelman (Chair)	CareMakers Collective	Y
Julie Gilbertson	Circular Action Alliance	Y
Rick Vahl	Waste Connections	N
Becci Piepel	Douglas County Solid Waste	Y
Grant Williams	Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network	N
Miriam Mendoza	Yakima Eco Solutions	Y
Leah Simeon	Feed Seven Generations	Y
Socorro Medina	Seattle Public Utilities	Y

- b. Review of meeting agenda
 - c. Call for disclosure of conflicts of interest related to today's meeting agenda
 - i. No conflicts of interest disclosed
- II. Introduce new member (10:10-10:15)
 - a. Socorro Medina, SPU
 - i. Socorro has managed the recycling and composting multifamily program for Seattle Public Utilities for 10 years
- III. Role of Equity Subcommittee (10:15-10:30) – Lauren DiRe & Krysta Thornton, Ecology [[Slides](#)]
 - a. Q&A
 - i. Subcommittee Member: Regarding the environmental map for disproportionately affected groups, noticed Ecology says greater than 10. Is that how we look at it for each group included as the most likely affected?
 - 1. Ecology: Ecology's recommendation is 9 and 10 typically. It doesn't have to always be used because vulnerable populations can lie within any community. The map is a guide to ensure we're reaching those overburdened communities.
 - ii. Subcommittee Member: Would you be able to share a link to the environmental health disparities map so subcommittee can orient themselves to that?

1. Ecology: [Link to Department of Health's Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map](#)
 - iii. Subcommittee Member: Confirmation that the slides will be available.
 1. [Link to slides](#)
- IV. Overview of Recycling Refund Engagement Study – Nicole Villamizar, ERG; Christy Chow and Hannah Swee, Cascadia (10:30-10:50) [[Slides](#)]
 - a. The draft Report will be posted by Ecology on July 8 for review/comment
 - b. If you're curious about organizations we partnered with, here are their websites: [Duwamish Valley Sustainability Association \(DWSA\)](#); [Latino Community Fund](#); [Nuestras Raices](#)
 - c. The Community Connectors were also tasked with promoting the survey to community members in their respective counties
 - d. Q&A
 - i. Subcommittee Member: I noticed of the 3 groups chosen to be in the survey, two are Latino-speaking communities. How did you identify these three groups realizing there are 6 primary languages?
 1. Cascadia: Our team has a list of different community-based organizations (CBO) that represented the 3 counties we're looking at. We did some really intentional outreach to a whole host of folks and got various responses back. From the folks that did respond, we did some one-on-one meetings and talked through the project with them and eventually landed on working with those organizations.
 - ii. Subcommittee Member: I'm wondering if there are other diverse groups besides Latino that you're focusing on since you want to get a broad response.
 1. Cascadia: We wanted to use different engagement activities, including having a statewide survey, getting broader perspectives, and then working with community connectors to really reach those more underserved communities. We have partnerships with CBOs that we've worked with that ended up looking at the 3 geographic regions, which we were limited to.
 - iii. Subcommittee Member: Was Cascadia talking to tribal councils or was it primarily department heads when you were getting comment from them?
 1. Cascadia: For our tribal engagement, we followed Ecology's policy for government-to-government consultation. Ecology did reach out to tribal nations and Cascadia and ERG did additional consulting. We connected with Grant Williams, who's part of TSWAD, who's also on the equity subcommittee, to engage the tribal solid waste coordinators as well.

V. Public Comment (10:50-10:55)

- a. Rod Whittaker (in-house counsel and policy advisor for the Washington Refuse and Recycling Association representing the primary private sector providers under the Recycling Reform Act such as companies that collect curbside recyclables and operate the material recovery facilities): I was hoping to try and find out how to submit or share a one-pager that we have with the committees. Nationally, we're kind of in an affordability crisis and costs for essentials like groceries are rising. This one pager highlights how a deposit return system can deepen that affordability crisis and possible hit those least able to pay very hard while creating a duplicative system that might have high barriers to access, particularly for folks that rely on public transportation or just don't have space to store large amounts of containers until they're able to find time in their busy days to get them to a redemption center.
- b. [Link to Washington Refuse and Recycling Association Bottle Bill One Pager](#)
- c. Everyone can also submit their comments (or materials) via email to raadvisorycouncil@cplusc.com

VI. Preview of Next Meeting Content (10:55-11:00)

- a. Upcoming meeting likely in September to discuss draft needs assessment
- b. Upcoming Advisory Council meeting on August 13

VII. Adjourn