

Washington Recycling Reform Act Advisory Council

MEETING #5

August 13, 2026

10:00-2:00pm PT

Meeting Agenda

- I. Welcome
 - a. Review agenda
 - b. Call for disclosure of conflicts of interest related to today's meeting agenda
- II. Ecology Updates
 - a. Recycling Refund Study
 - b. Rulemaking
 - c. Needs Assessment
 - d. Q&A/Discussion
- III. PRO Update – Julie Gilbertson, CAA
 - a. Q&A/Discussion
- IV. Subcommittee Updates
 - a. Needs Assessment
 - b. Equity
 - c. Statewide Lists
- V. Statewide Lists Discussion – Part 1
- VI. Lunch/Break (30 minutes)
- VII. Statewide Lists Discussion – Part 2
- VIII. Public Comment
- IX. Preview of Next Meeting Content
- X. Adjourn

RRA Advisory Council Purpose & Objectives

Purpose

The purpose of the Recycling Reform Act Advisory Council (council) and its subcommittees is to advise the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) on implementation of the Recycling Reform Act (RRA). The council offers diverse perspectives and practical insights to help inform policy decisions related to recycling system design, performance, and equity.

Objectives

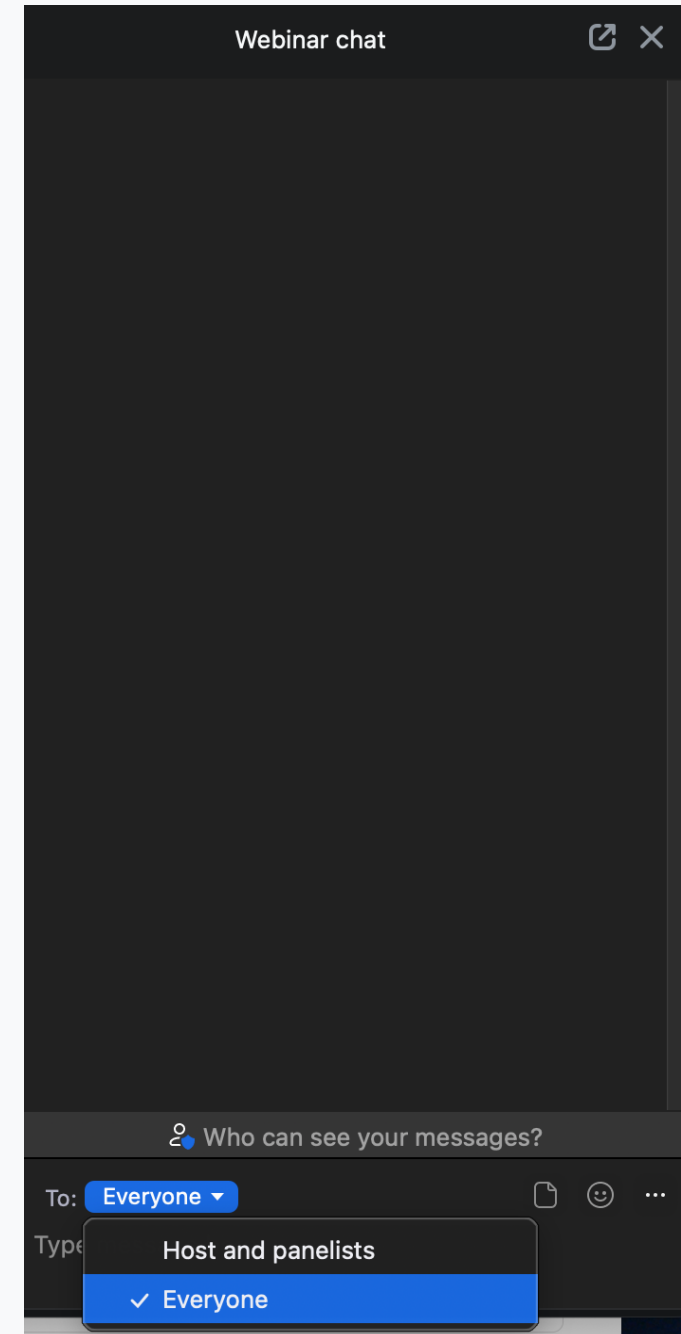
The objective of the council is to give advice and recommendations to Ecology and the PRO to support effective implementation of the RRA, including:

- a. Identifying system gaps, needs, and implementation challenges
- b. Elevating equity and environmental justice considerations
- c. Ensuring representation of diverse perspectives across Washington's recycling system
- d. Balancing the needs and interests of the groups each council member represents with the best interest of the program overall

Council input is intended to help Ecology and the PRO carry out the law effectively, equitably, and in alignment with legislative intent.

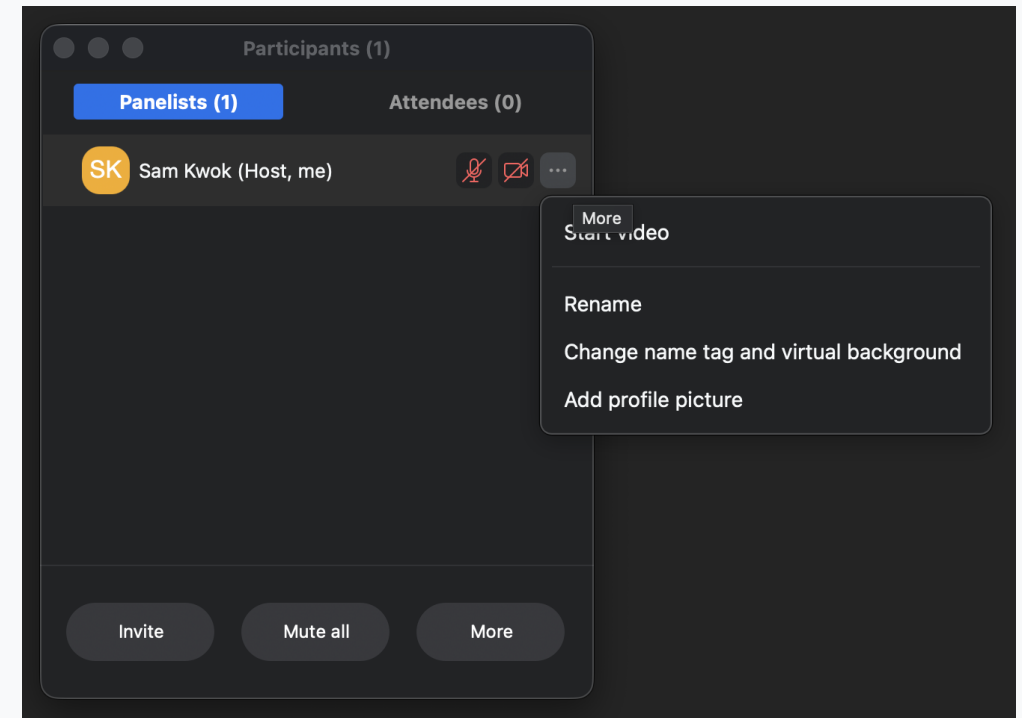
Housekeeping

- All public participants are observers and in listen-only mode. Microphones are muted. The chat is not available for public attendees to use, but they may still see the chat. **Public attendees should use Q&A function for any public comment.** The Q&A button can be opened at the bottom of your toolbar.
- Council members will be able to raise hands and come off mute to communicate. **If using chat, please make sure all messages are sent to "Everyone" (see right).**
 - All panelists should open the chat box now and ensure that "To" is to "Everyone" above the box to type.
- If council members experience any A/V issues throughout the webinar, Deion Collins is available for technical support.



Housekeeping

- Live captioning is enabled for meetings. Participants have the option to toggle it on and off at the bottom of their toolbar.
- Council members should rename themselves to include: **name, organization, seat represented** (e.g., Rick Vahl, Waste Connections, Solid Waste).



Open Public Meetings Act

RCW 42.56: Public records act

RCW 42.30: Open public meetings act

- RRA advisory council must comply with OPMA (RCW 70A.208.050(8)(b))
- Meetings are open to the public for all deliberations and discussions
- Post agenda, meeting schedule, and minutes (notes)
- Actions and votes must be public
- All conversations and comments in the virtual chat must be viewable by all attendees and must be directed to "Everyone"
- Official business may only be conducted in meetings open to the public (e.g., no council or subcommittee discussions via email)
- Any documents shared for committee comments/edits must also be available and accessible to the public

Public Comment Process

- How to sign up
 - Online: Use the Q&A box to indicate your interest and topic.
 - By phone: Press *9 to raise your hand.
 - In person: Add your name to the public comment sign-up sheet.
 - Speakers will be called in the order requests are received.
- Comment requirements
 - Comments must relate to the meeting agenda.
 - Each speaker has up to 2 minutes.
 - A timer will sound when time is up, and the speaker will be muted.
- Comment or questions
 - The public may provide comment or ask a question when making a public comment.
 - Questions may be answered within the 2-minute period when a response is readily available.
 - Questions that cannot be answered immediately will be captured in the meeting notes, with best efforts made to respond in the notes or at a future meeting.
 - If time remains during the 10-minute public comment period, the facilitator may invite additional speakers or allow time to address unanswered questions.
- Meeting conduct
 - Speakers may lose their remaining time or future commenting privileges if comments are off topic or disrupt the orderly conduct of the meeting, including hate speech, political campaigning or promotional content.
- Written comments may be submitted to rraadvisorycouncil@cplusc.com.

RRA Advisory Council Members

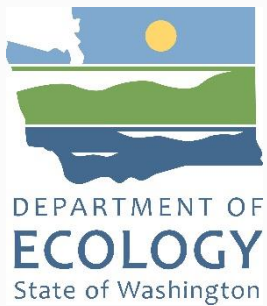
Member	Affiliation	Category Represented
Megan Daum	American Beverage Association	Producers/manufacturer trade association
Danielle Waterfield	AMERIPEN	Producers/manufacturer trade association
Casey Bouchard	Methow Recycles	Recycling facility
Jeff Zillich	WM	Recycling facility
Rick Vahl	Waste Connections	Solid waste collection/hauling
Amanda Dalton	Northwest Grocery Retail Association	Retailers of covered materials
Moji Igun	Zero Waste Washington	Statewide environmental organization
Ming-Ming Tung-Edelman	CareMakers Collective	CBO/environmental justice organization
Alissa Campbell	Recology	MRF
Jay Blazey	Cedar Grove	Compost facility/composting interests
Trace Bradburn	City of Spokane	Local government
McKenna Morrigan	Seattle Public Utilities	Local government
Becci Piepel	Douglas County Solid Waste	Local government
Grant Williams	Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network	Tribal solid waste interests
Jocelyn Quarrell	Bold Reuse	Reuse / refill systems
Karen Hultgren	Pierce County	Other interested parties
Michael Liptack	Friday Harbor	Other interested parties
Peter Lyon	WA State Department of Ecology	Ecology representative (non-voting)
Julie Gilbertson	CAA	PRO representative (non-voting)

Conflicts of Interest

- Members must disclose any actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest as soon as it arises and before participating in discussion of the relevant topic. Disclosures will be made verbally at the onset of meetings and/or in writing to the facilitation team prior to meetings.
- In most cases, disclosure alone is sufficient, and a council member can still participate in discussion after the disclosure is made.
- In the case of a conflict-of-interest disclosure where the member or their organization stands to receive a direct financial or regulatory benefit from a specific recommendation, the member will self-identify the conflict of interest and recuse themselves from participating in the discussion and from any vote related to that agenda item.
- In general, members should self-identify conflicts of interest and recuse themselves from discussion when appropriate. However, the council chair can also determine that a member has a conflict of interest and ask them to officially disclose the conflict, and if needed, recuse themselves from discussion. The vice chair may step into this role if the chair is the person with a conflict and they opt not to self-disclose or recuse themselves from discussion.

ECOLOGY UPDATES

- RECYCLING REFUND STUDY – KARA STEWARD
- RULEMAKING – LAUREN DIRE
- NEEDS ASSESSMENT – DAN WESTON



Recycling Reform Act

Ecology Updates

Advisory Council Meeting – August 13, 2026



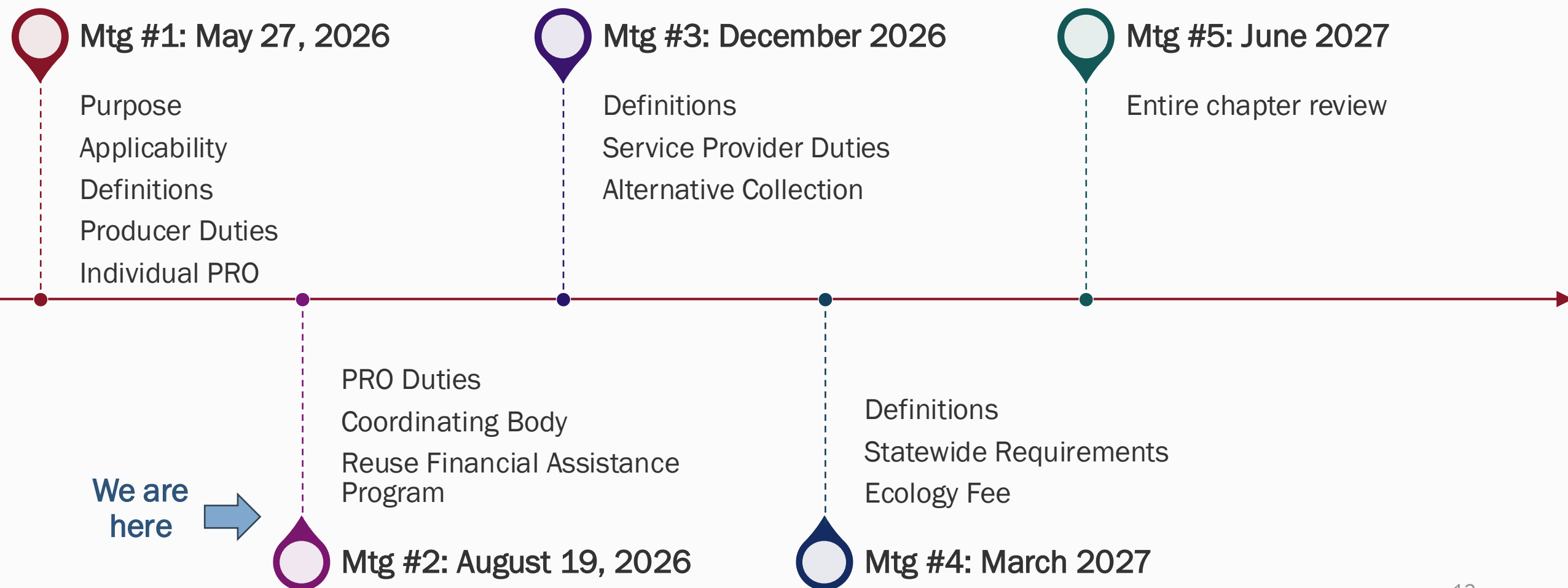
Recycling Refund Program Studies

- Phase 1 - Model study published in January 2026
- Phase 2 - Engagement study
 - Public comment completed
 - Sept 15 to Oct 2: Advisory Council
 - Sept 17 presentation
 - January 2027: due to the Legislature

Statewide Survey Results



Rulemaking Public Meeting Timeline



Rulemaking Resources

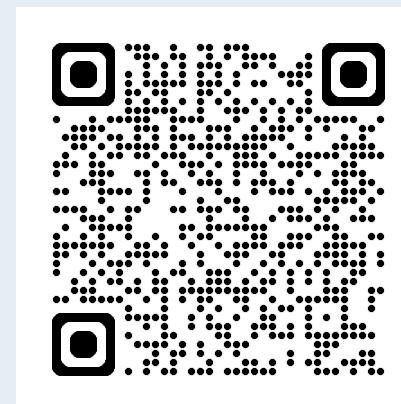
Ecology's Rulemaking webpage



<https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/laws-rules-rulemaking/rulemaking/wac-173-950>

Provide input on rule language

Public comment form



<https://ecology.commentinput.com/?id=fuSCmsPi5>

Preliminary Needs Assessment

August

September

October

November

December

January

Technical memos

- Current statewide service level (8/6)
- Statewide infrastructure capacity (8/19)
- Current end markets (8/19)
- Contracts and service costs (TBD)
- Material quantity (8/31)

- First draft preliminary needs assessment to Ecology and advisory council for review (9/29)

- Public comment period on the draft preliminary needs assessment
- First consultation call with advisory council (10/8)

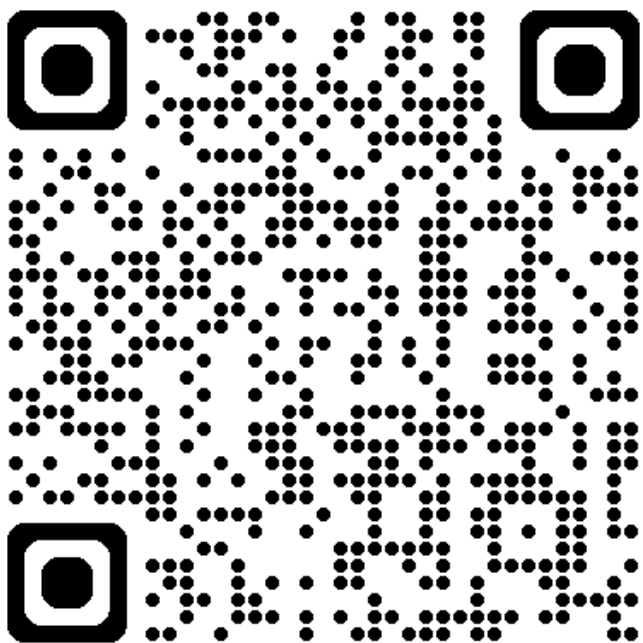
- Draft public comment summary and analysis and recommendations
- Second consultation call with advisory council (11/19)

- Second draft preliminary needs assessment for Ecology review

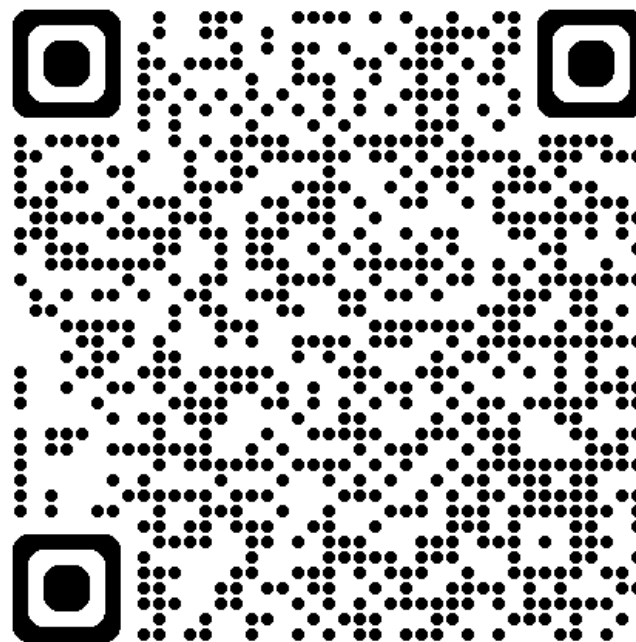
- Final summary and analysis of public comments
- Final preliminary needs assessment to Ecology

Recycling Reform Act resources

Ecology's newsletter



Ecology's website



Ecology's email

recyclingreform@ecy.wa.gov

Advisory Council

www.RRAadvisorycouncil.org

PRO UPDATES

- JULIE GILBERTSON, CAA

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

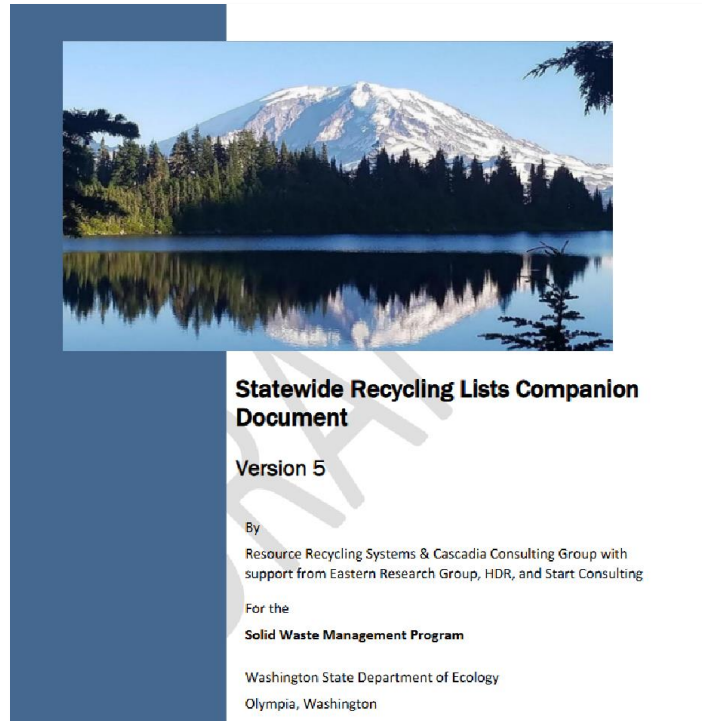
- NEEDS ASSESSMENT SUBCOMMITTEE
- EQUITY SUBCOMMITTEE
- STATEWIDE LISTS SUBCOMMITTEE

STATEWIDE LISTS DISCUSSION

Statewide Collection Lists

Candidate Materials List

~100 materials evaluated



Evaluation Criteria

10 factors used to score each candidate material

Statewide collection access

Sorting & processing compatibility

Responsible end markets

Anticipated yield loss

Cross-state harmonization

Design guideline adherence

Easy identification and preparation

Unlikely to cause contamination

Environmental health and safety considerations

Environmental factors from a life-cycle perspective

How the Statewide Collection Lists Evolve



The preliminary lists are a starting point. Each checkpoint can refine them before the program begins in 2030.

Residential Recycling

Glass & Ceramic Packaging

82. Glass Bottles & Containers

Metal Packaging

69. Aluminum Cans

70. Aluminum & Bi-metal Food Packaging

73. Steel & Tin Cans

Paper Packaging

1. Uncoated Food Service Corrugated Cardboard

2. Uncoated Other Corrugated Cardboard

4. Kraft Paper

5. Uncoated Paperboard

6. Uncoated Food Service Paper and Molded Pulp Packaging

7. Other Uncoated Paper

8. Other Molded Pulp Packaging

10. Polycoated Fiber Food Packaging

11. Other Coated Fiber

12. Aseptic Containers

13. Gable Top Containers

Paper Products

18. Magazines & Catalogs

19. High-grade Paper Products

20. Low-grade Paper Products

25. Newsprint

Rigid Plastic Packaging

26. #1 PET Clear/Natural Bottles, Jugs, & Jars

27. #1 PET Tinted/Pigmented Bottles, Jugs, & Jars

28. #1 PET Clear/Natural Other Containers

30. #1 PET Clear/Natural Large Containers

32. #1 PET Lids >2"

33. #2 HDPE Natural/Clear Bottles, Jugs, & Jars

34. #2 HDPE Tinted/Pigmented Bottles, Jugs, & Jars

35. #2 HDPE Natural & Pigmented Other Containers

36. #2 HDPE Natural & Pigmented Large Containers

37. #2 HDPE Lids and Handles >2"

43. #5 PP Bottles & Containers

44. #5 PP Other Packaging & Food Serviceware

45. #5 PP Large Containers

46. #5 PP Lids >2"

Public Place

Glass & Ceramic Packaging

82. Glass Bottles & Containers

Metal Packaging

69. Aluminum Cans

70. Aluminum & Bi-metal Food Packaging

73. Steel & Tin Cans

Paper Packaging

1. Uncoated Food Service Corrugated Cardboard

2. Uncoated Other Corrugated Cardboard

4. Kraft Paper

5. Uncoated Paperboard

6. Uncoated Food Service Paper and Molded Pulp Packaging

7. Other Uncoated Paper

8. Other Molded Pulp Packaging

10. Polycoated Fiber Food Packaging

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27. #1 PET Tinted/Pigmented Bottles, Jugs, & Jars

28. #1 PET Clear/Natural Other Containers

30. #1 PET Clear/Natural Large Containers

32. #1 PET Lids >2"

33. #2 HDPE Natural/Clear Bottles, Jugs, & Jars

34. #2 HDPE Tinted/Pigmented Bottles, Jugs, & Jars

35. #2 HDPE Natural & Pigmented Other Containers

36. #2 HDPE Natural & Pigmented Large Containers

37. #2 HDPE Lids and Handles >2"

43. #5 PP Bottles & Containers

44. #5 PP Other Packaging & Food Serviceware

45. #5 PP Large Containers

46. #5 PP Lids >2"

Alternative Collection

Film Plastic Packaging

65. PE Bag and Film Non-food Packaging

Metal Packaging

71. Aluminum Aerosol Cans

74. Ferrous Aerosol Containers

75. Compressed Gas Cylinders

76. Other Ferrous Packaging

77. Small Format Metal Packaging

Residential Composting

What List Placement Means for Collection

IF INCLUDED

A covered material on any of the four statewide lists must be collected within that program. The duty falls on three different parties:

Producer Responsibility Organization

Must ensure the material is collected within the applicable program, as required by its approved plan.

[RCW 70A.208.130\(3\)\(I\)\(i\)](#)
[RCW 70A.208.100\(2\)](#)

Service Providers

Must accept the material and offer residential recycling collection wherever residential garbage service is available.

[RCW 70A.208.080\(1\)](#)

Local Governments

Must provide curbside collection for the material as part of their comprehensive solid waste plan.

[RCW 70A.205.045\(7\)\(b\)\(i\)\(B\)\(II\)](#)

IF NOT INCLUDED

The prohibition in RCW 70A.208.090(4)(a) is written for residential recycling programs specifically.



Not on the Recycling List

May not be collected as part of a residential recycling program.

[RCW 70A.208.090\(4\)\(a\)](#)



Not on the Composting List

Not barred from residential composting collection. Local composting programs have the option to add the material on their own.

Residential Composting Candidates

Film Plastic Packaging

68. Certified Compostable Bags and Film

Organics & Wood Packaging

89. Untreated Wooden Packaging

Paper Packaging

9. Certified Compostable Coated Food Service Paper

Products & Other Organics & Wood

92. Food Waste

93. Yard/Garden Waste

94. Clean Wood & Dimensional Lumber

Rigid Plastic Packaging

59. Certified Compostable Plastic Food Packaging & Food Service

60. Certified Compostable Plastic Single-use Utensils

61. Certified Compostable Plastic Non-food Packaging

Statewide Lists Subcommittee Activity Summary (July – August)

- Three meetings held, two rounds of document review & comment
- **Overall objective:** Validate and/or provide input on preliminary list assignments and identify ways to strengthen the technical basis for the Statewide Collection Lists.
- **Key questions posed:**
 - *Are there material categories—or specific material formats—that should be assigned differently? If so, based on what criteria and supporting evidence?*
 - *Are there criterion evaluations that should be reconsidered? If so, what evidence or technical information supports an alternative evaluation?*
 - *Would additional subdivision of certain material categories improve the statewide lists?*

Statewide Lists Subcommittee Activity Summary (contd.)

- **July 22:** Reviewed and discussed V.1 lists, material evaluation results
 - *Discussion focused on Residential Recycling List, Public Place List*
- **Aug 4:** Reviewed and discussed V.2 lists, material evaluation results
 - *Discussion focused on materials newly assigned or changed in V.2*
- **Aug 10:** Continued discussion, alignment/summary of feedback
 - *Continued discussion on V.2 lists, specific materials flagged for further discussion*
 - *Identified topics/statements to bring to full Advisory Council for vote*

Statewide Lists Subcommittee Key Topics Summary

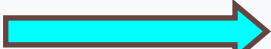
- Importance of differentiation between covered materials and non-covered materials
- Importance of alignment of Residential Recycling & Public Place Lists
- Appropriate method of collection of Glass
- Additional materials appropriate to include on Residential Recycling List – for purposes of Needs Assessment
- Implications of inclusion/exclusion of compostable materials from Residential Composting List
- Deeper dives on materials of special interest

Statewide Lists Subcommittee Proposed Feedback

1. Residential Recycling Collection List should be aligned with Public Place Collection List.
2. It is appropriate to include a broader range of materials than is commonly recycled under the current system so that feasibility and costs can be further evaluated as part of the Needs Assessment.
3. The Preliminary Lists should be revisited and refined once further evaluation and recommendations from the Needs Assessment are available, including:
 - Appropriate method(s) of Residential Recycling collection – specifically for glass, but also more broadly.
 - Sortation and marketing of aseptic & gable top cartons – into Mixed Paper vs. positive sort into separate commodity.
 - Sortation and marketing of PET thermoform.
 - Inclusion of fiber food service packaging - the implications of including those materials in Mixed Paper bales on Responsible End Market options.
 - Further evaluation of aerosols on residential collection list in addition to alternative list.
4. Category names, descriptions, and scope of covered materials included should be aligned with industry standards / other EPR states.
5. The Alternative Collection List should be expanded to include additional materials (see next slide).

Alt. Collection – V.1

Class	Material Category
PAPER	14. Small Format Paper Packaging
	21. Shredded Paper
	23. Small Format Paper Products
PLASTIC	49. #6 EPS Food Packaging & Food Service*
	50. #6 EPS Non-food Packaging*
	54. #1-#7 Black Pigmented Rigid Plastic Packaging
	58. #1, #2, & #5 Bulky Packaging*
	64. #2, #4, and #5 Plastic Products ⁺
	65. PE Bag and Film Non-food Packaging*
METAL	71. Aluminum Aerosol Cans
	74. Ferrous Aerosol Containers
	75. Compressed Gas Cylinders*
	76. Other Ferrous Packaging*
	77. Small Format Metal Packaging
	78. Other & Composite Metal Packaging*



Alt. Collection – V.2

Class	Material Category
PAPER	
	21. Shredded Paper
PLASTIC	
	50. #6 EPS Non-food Packaging*
	54. [ALT.] #1, #2, & #5 Black Pigmented Rigid Plastic – OR – Black Plastic Nursery Pots
	58. #1, #2, & #5 Bulky Packaging*
	65. PE Bag and Film Non-food Packaging*
METAL	71. Aluminum Aerosol Cans
	74. Ferrous Aerosol Containers
	75. Compressed Gas Cylinders*
	76. Other Ferrous Packaging*
	77. Small Format Metal Packaging



Petroleum & Automotive Product Containers

*Category includes some amount of non-covered materials

*Category is entirely non-covered materials

PUBLIC COMMENT (10 MINUTES)

- 2 MINUTES PER PERSON
- COMMENT MUST BE RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS
- RAISE HANDS TO SPEAK (*9 IF DIALING IN)

PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING CONTENT

Next Steps

- Meeting materials, including meeting notes and copies of the presentations today will be published on RRAAdvisoryCouncil.org in 10 days
 - Council will receive an email when it's up
- Upcoming Statewide List Meeting (9/10) – subject to cancelation
- Next Advisory Council meeting (9/17)
- October hybrid meeting will take place at WM in Spokane

ADJOURN

- NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 17, 9:00-11:30AM; VIRTUAL