

Beyond Waste Implementation Working Group – Task 1

PROPOSAL TITLE: Optimizing the current collection system and getting the paper out.

What is the problem? The problem identified in AW-3 (Mitigation Option Description) that Task 1 tackles is “*expanding source **recycling and composting** of household, business, industrial and agricultural and construction-related waste streams.*”

The solution to the problem identified in AW-3 that Task 1 is answering with this proposal is “**Optimizing the current collection system services**”.

First we should **maximize** and expand the current services to residences and businesses that already have curbside services, and then we should **optimize** and expand the system by getting those same services to those currently not being served.

There is a missed opportunity every time a house or business is driven by on an existing route where residential and business recyclables and organic materials are not collected, specifically **paper**, as well to provide for safe disposal. This is an opportunity to fully **optimize** the universal service aspect of the current collection system.

We believe there are many aspects from other Beyond Waste IWG Task Group’s and from other CAT IWG’s such as Transportation (discretionary and mandatory trip reduction goals) this proposal can mutually compliment and get the synergy the CAT is looking for in GHG Reductions.

What are the target materials? AW-3 Goals are to “*recycle at least 50% of the remaining waste and capture 90% of organics, following source reduction strategies.*”

The highest priority of Task 1 is currently *paper (fiber)*. Additionally any increase in collected residences and businesses would additionally increase the amount of all collected recyclables (*metals, organics and plastics*) produced by residences, businesses and public buildings.

What is the potential for reduction in green house gas emissions (tons)?

	<u>Present Recycling Rate</u>	<u>Recycling Goal</u>	<u>GHG Reductions</u>
High Grade Paper	44%	60%	298,473
Newspaper	56%	80%	360,163
Cardboard	61%	80%	1,465,542
Mixed Waste Paper	28%	60%	780,934

	<u>Present Recycling Rate</u>	<u>Recycling Goal</u>	<u>GHG Reductions</u>
Aluminum Cans	33%	60%	173,095
Tin/Steel Cans	14%	50%	17,233
Mixed Organics	50%	90%	???????
Food Scraps	17%	80%	65,232
Yard Trimmings	56%	80%	(7,618)
PET	32%	50%	9,300
L/HDPE	20%	50%	8,622

What action is needed (specifically)?

- 1) Local government adoption of minimum service level ordinances that require a minimum level of recycling be provided to all residences and business -- via a mandatory pay/voluntary subscription program (i.e., existing Pierce County Program).
 - with a \$1.00 penalty per garbage can per month per customer for residents who are unwilling to sign up to receive recycling (paper) and yard waste (organics) receptacles and recycle. Under this scenario everyone pays for recycling service whether they use it or not and the \$1.00 penalty per garbage can of service if they choose not to recycle. The important thing here is that they still have a choice. The Pierce County program currently has a 94% sign-up rate and a 90% set-out rate and is offered county-wide to all residents.
- 2) Updating county solid waste plans to require recycling & organics collection;

- 3) Establishing business and office recycling programs, targeting fiber (paper).
 - a. Require at time of city/county business license/permit
 - b. Opt out of recycling plan if proof of subscribed service is shown
- 4) Tie enactment of these collection programs to qualifying or additional consideration for \$'s (i.e., Grant of other new green program dollars, CPG Grants, Public Works Trust Account Dollars, , etc.,)
- 5) Disincentives self-hauling through increased minimum tipping fees. Increased fees to be used to promote local curbside collection programs and Paper Wasters Program. This will have benefit of combating litter, unsecured loads, illegal dumping and local government cost associated with servicing self-haulers.
- 6) Financial incentives for haulers, i.e., current WUTC program to promote recycling.
- 7) Initiate an aggressive, statewide campaign to promote paper recycling by residences, businesses, and government. Campaign would target “paper wasters” and self-haulers.
- 8) Provide recycling and organics collection services to the commercial accounts (including businesses, institutions, and public sector facilities) that currently employ 80% of Washington’s labor force (through service level ordinances and municipal contracts).
- 9) Establish minimum standards for residential curbside collection in 70.95 (pay-as-you-throw (PAYT), broad range of materials including all grades of recyclable paper, commingled collection, aggressive education programs, etc.).
- 10) Provide a meaningful “price signal” to all customers, which will motivate waste reduction and recycling (PAYT systems have resulted in 15% to 20% increases in WR/R behavior).
- 11) Require all public sector facilities to recycle at least paper.
- 12) Consider penalties for businesses that fail to recycle paper, if CAT paper diversion goals are not met within five years.

What mechanism should be used to put the action in place (legislation, executive order, regulations, policies, etc.)?

1. Cities and counties could currently enact minimum service level ordinances and/or update county/city solid waste plans requiring subscription and/or collection within their current authorities.

2. State legislation that amends 70.95 RCW to provide a Model Minimum Service Level Ordinance for mandatory pay/voluntary subscription service.
3. State legislation that amends 70.95 RCW, and other statutes, that includes best management practices for both regulated and commercial recycling activities for adoption by local governments and/or enforcement by state agencies.
4. State legislation to require/mandate adoption of local ordinances statewide.
5. State legislation to require statewide mandate within urban growth areas only to deal with rural county issues.
6. State legislation and to provide for increasing financial incentive for UTC haulers or to grow recycling programs.
7. Compliance and enforcement activities that will dissuade sham recycling and other activities that undermine the collection system.
8. State legislation (70.95 RCW) Provide effective curbside collection (60% – 80% capture rates for principal recyclables including all paper grades) and organics collection services to the 80% of residents that live in “urban” areas (to be defined in 70.95).

Is the proposal ready to proceed? (i.e. can the deliverable be delivered Sept 1? What is the current stage of development?)

Yes!

Current authorities exist for local governments to provide for subscription of residences and businesses to collection services.

Pierce County has program up and going since 2005. Several counties including Whatcom and Clark Counties have a form of mandatory collection in place currently.

Many cities currently have some form of mandatory programs for example Bellingham, Ferndale, Yakima, Sunnyside, Grandview, etc

Affected parties and likely positions: How feasible is it in terms of support/opposition?

We believe that the support of these and other organizations and government agencies is feasible.

Washington State Association of Counties and individual counties
Washington Association of Cities and individual cities
Washington State Recycling Association
Washington Organic Recycling Council
Washington Refuse & Recycling Association
Department of Ecology
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

If this proposal is adopted and is implemented:

Who will be responsible to implement?

Local Governments (Cities and Counties) statewide
Department of Ecology
Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
Franchised Haulers
City Contractors
Commercial Recycling Companies
Material Recovery Facilities

How will it be implemented?

- 1) Implementation could occur immediately through the enactment of minimum service level ordinances by individual cities and counties.
- 2) Legislation could be adopted in the 2009 Session that provides a Model Minimum Service Level Ordinance
- 3) Legislation could be adopted in the 2009 Session that provides a mandate/requirement or incentives for adopting the model program.

When will it be implemented?

Enactment could occur at any time as the local governments currently have this authority to decide collection levels and products to be recycled.

On a statewide level most programs could be up and going by start of 2010(?).