

Title:***Optimize the solid waste collection system*****2009 Action Description:**

- The goal is to optimize the collection of recyclable materials and products, construction and demolition wastes and organics for recycling in Washington State to meet a new recycling goal of 80% by 2020.
- The fundamental strategy to achieve this goal is to require source separation of materials and wastes by generators and require participation in provided collection services.
- Local governments will be required to update their local comprehensive solid waste management plans on a phased schedule based on population size and location.
- The action will increase the collection of recyclables, organics and waste through mandatory source separation and collection programs for residences. It also requires businesses to source separate and provide for recycling of materials they generate as described in local government comprehensive solid waste management plans.
- This action also requires local governments to develop construction and demolition waste recycling programs associated with the issuance of building permits.

Basis for Selection:

- The result will contribute to the reduction of GHG annually by over six MMTCO₂E when fully implemented, based on current waste generation calculations. Based on generation trends and anticipated population growth, this number will be much higher in 2020.

Implementation Approach and Mechanisms:

- Amendments to Chapter 70.95 RCW are required and are developed (attached). The amendments require updates of local solid waste management plans.
- A funding mechanism is offered to increase revenues generated by the solid waste collection tax required by Chapter 82.18 RCW by applying the tax to all collection, not just solid waste collection. This tax funds the public works trust fund. Increased revenue will be used to fund activities required by 70.95.
- There is concern over requiring commercial and industrial recycling expressed by the private recycling industry. The proposal, however, only requires that these generators source separate wastes and participate in recycling. It does not require them to use any specific recyclable collection service provider.

Supporting Information:

- **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Potential if these targeted materials are recycled:**
 - Paper (2.7 MMTCO₂E potentially available)
 - Organics (.8 MMTCO₂E potentially available from food waste alone)

- Metals (At least 1.3 MMTCO₂E potentially available)
 - Construction and Demolition Waste (1 MMTCO₂E in carpet alone)
 - Plastics (.1MMTCO₂E from plastic bottles alone)
 - Contaminants (GHG potential not known, however, contaminants reduce the recyclability of the targeted materials above).
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- **Costs or cost savings:** Recycling has proven to be more cost effective than disposal. Waste disposal is a cost to the system while recycling generates revenue. The cost of collection remains, in either case.
 - **Distribution of costs and benefits:** Costs will be borne by rate-payers, the benefactors of the services provided. This is a pay as you go proposal.
 - **Additional external benefits:** This action will create more green collar jobs in businesses and industries that collect, process and use recycled materials.
 - **Engagement opportunities for individual action/behavior change:** Participating in recycling and engaging in waste reduction activities is one of the few and most tangible ways the general public can engage and be part of the climate change solution.
 - **Economic Implications:** The climate change action agenda demands a shift in our economy. The traditional “dig and dump” economy relies heavily on resource extraction and waste disposal. The new “sustainable” economy will rely on resource conservation and materials reutilization. Recycling is the key to making this new economic system work.
 - **Engagement opportunities for local and regional governments and private sector:** This action relies completely on the ability of local governments and the private sector to work collaboratively to provide new services to the public.