

TRANSFER STATIONS AND DROP BOX FACILITIES



UPDATING THE “350” RULE

Solid Waste Handling Standards, Chapter 173-350 of the Washington Administrative Code, is a regulation addressing waste management issues as diverse as used tires, surface impoundments, and incineration.

These rules govern how individuals, businesses and governments can manage solid waste, what materials can be recycled, when permits are required, and many other technical details.

Updating the rule allows Ecology to address emerging issues, look for ways to improve its effectiveness and get feedback from stakeholders.



Section 310— Transfer stations and drop box facilities

Many of the facilities covered under this section are solid waste transfer stations and drop boxes. The standards for these intermediate solid waste handling facilities have worked well over the past decade and Ecology received very little interest in changing these standards.

The only area of inquiry in this section revolved around material recovery facilities, or MRFs. As part of the work on issues relating to the crossover between recycling and material recovery, the MRF standards were moved to section 173-350-210 (see “Recycling and material recovery facilities”) in the update.

This reorganization created clearer delineation between facilities primarily sending waste to disposal, like transfer stations, and facilities primarily recovering materials for other uses.

Only the most minimal changes were made to the substantive requirements of transfer stations and drop box facilities, but the format was updated to be easier to read and interpret.

Preliminary changes

- Material recovery facilities standards were removed from this section and placed into Section 173-350-210, now titled “Recycling and material recovery facilities.”
- The title for WAC 173-350-310 was changed to “Transfer stations and drop box facilities.”
- The language in section 310 was revised to more clearly explain compliance requirements for transfer stations and drop box facilities, particularly the contents of the plan of operations, but without major

Contacts

You can find documents, schedules and other information on our website: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/rules/wac173350/1308ov.html

To be kept up to date on developments in the 350 rulemaking, please subscribe to our ListServ at the link above.

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changes to the substantive requirements.

- An exemption for drop box facilities accepting only recyclable materials was moved from section 020 to 310 be with the other drop box requirements.
- The reorganization of sections 310 and 210 will make it easier for operators to find the correct requirements and know what is needed to meet compliance.



Public input

After releasing a draft version of the revised 350 rule, Ecology will hold informal workshops to educate interested persons about the proposed changes. Feedback during this informal process may result in changes to the draft rule.

In September 2016, Ecology plans to formally announce proposed revisions. This will begin a formal comment period, including hearings where stakeholders can comment on the changes and ask questions that will be answered in the official rulemaking documents. Ecology hopes to adopt changes to the rule in the spring of 2017.

350 rule update schedule (dates subject to change)

Now	Draft rule available
July 21	Informal workshop—Lacey
July 26	Informal workshop—Ellensburg
July 27	Informal workshop—Spokane
Sept. 6	Informal comments due
December	Proposed rule filed
January-March, 2017	Public hearings on proposed rule
Spring, 2017	Rule adopted