

**Clark County
Solid Waste Advisory Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, November 6, 2008**

**Clark County Auto License Office
1408 Franklin Street
Vancouver, WA**

SWAC Members Present: Mike Carnahan, Richard Baker, Lisa Schmidt, Rebecca Wale, Jack McClary, Jeanne Stewart

SWAC Members Absent: Eldon Wogen, Don Ebbeson

Staff Present: Anita Largent, Mike Davis, Rich McConaghy, Tanya Gray, Susan Newman, Sarah Keirns

Others: Dan Schooler

V. Recycle Bank: Rich McConaghy and Tanya Gray

Due to an equipment issue, this item was moved up to the beginning of the agenda.

SWAC has had several discussions about rewards programs for those who recycle that are in place in other areas of the country. This presentation is about Recycle Bank, a company that is located primarily on the east coast. Rich showed two videos about the company as a brief introduction to this topic. This company has not come to the West coast yet but representatives were here in Portland promoting and sharing information about the company. The company is not a hauler nor is it a recycler. They work directly with local jurisdictions to promote recycling by using a reward system. They give financial rewards to people for recycling based on the concept that helping to divert waste from the landfill saves money in the long run. In discussions with Recycle Bank representatives, they state that households could be charged 90 cents per household; the company earns revenue from advertising on their web site (which can be found at <http://www.recyclebank.com>); and the company could be paid a percentage of what the jurisdictions save in costs from not disposing of waste.

The premise behind this program is weighing the carts and recording the data into customer service records. Each cart is identified with a digital card. The video showed a cart being weighed in motion. Dan Schooler explained that with the new fully automated trucks, this function would not be able to be performed. He said it was related to the movement of the arm. Some SWAC members thought this was an issue that could be handled with an "add-on" piece.

Tanya attended a presentation in Portland and has talked with the company representative. Staff has brought the information to SWAC because of interest shown at past meetings about a system like this. The question is would this work with our system. It would not work with the bin system, but does work with the carts. There are two means of administering the program, either individual weights for each household or dividing the total weight of the recyclables from each truck route against the recycling participants on that route.

Rewards come in the form of gift certificates and are most commonly used for prescription medicine, groceries, or products. Rewards can also be used to donate points to schools or other charitable organizations.

Q: What is the cost to the customers? A: It is 90 cents per household per month. And this is charged to each household even if they do not participate in the program. It is an additional cost to recycling but again, with the additional gains in recyclables, it could lower the level of garbage service needed for the household and in turn lower their total costs. Rich pointed to information provided by Recycle Bank which shows communities that experience significant increases in the amount of recyclables collected. For example, Clayton New Jersey was already using a cart program and after they incorporated this program, recycling took a huge increase in volume.

Q: What about the costs of education? A: Education could be incorporated into our other education programs.

Q: What is the timetable for the new county program? A: The carts will start rolling out in March and will be completed by the end of June.

Q: A few years ago SWAC talked about showing a credit on the bills. Is there a possibility of getting money off the bill by recycling? A: Under the new County recycling contract, WCI will be showing a credit on the recycling bill to reflect the revenue received from the sale of recyclables.

C: According to the number shown here tonight, each household could assume at least a \$10 reward every month. This could send the wrong message that there's a lot of money in recycling. This is not the case and we should be concerned about sending out this message. It sounds unbelievable that the \$2.72 monthly cost for recycling could turn into a \$20 credit.

C: This program basically is forcing the customer to enter into an agreement without any decision on their part.

Q: How long has the oldest user of this program been online with it? A: That would be Wilmington Delaware and it has been four years.

Q: Is this a privately held corporation? A: Yes

Q: Are there any other competitors in this field that you know of? A: We don't know of any other companies offering this service.

Q: Does WCI have any financial interest in this? A: No

Another concern from SWAC is that there's no incentive to reduce packaging and waste. We should be doing both. SWAC members would rather see no extra cost to the resident. It would be better to go to garbage by the pound to encourage people to recycle. There have been some positives shown here tonight and it's good to have a discussion but the current concerns by SWAC is that the area is not ready for this type of program.

Action Item: Staff should request a representative from Recycle Bank to come talk to SWAC. Staff will also contact other communities which have the program in place to gather information from them.

I. Roll Call, Approval of Minutes: The minutes of September 4 were approved unanimously.

II. Updates

County Solid Waste – Anita Largent

- Do It Yourself Fix It Fair will be held on Saturday November 15th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at Clark College. There will be workshops to help people learn to repair rather than throw items away. The workshops are free to the public. There will also be a block foam and political signs collection event at Clark College on the same day and time.
- Copies of the Department of Ecology's (Ecology) updated annual report for the Beyond Waste Plan was distributed. For expanded information go to <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste/>.
- The Single Family annual newsletter has been mailed to all curbside customers.
- The Solid Waste Management Plan: SWAC was given the most recent version. Final comments were received from Ecology and updating to the plan was completed based on the comments. The emphasis of their comments was on the *Moderate Risk Waste Chapter* (Chapter 11). Information including planning process, enforcement, education, and funding was added to Chapter 11. Ecology also requested information identifying for each recommendation the timetable; responsibility for implementing; and the tentative budget. A table has been added to the back of the Chapter 11 with this information.

Other changes in the plan relate more to updating with current information. For example, now that the 2008 Waste Stream Analysis (WSA) has been completed, this document has been added to the Appendix and all references to the 2003 WSA have been updated.

One recommendation in Chapter 9 was been expanded to review further Waste to Energy technology as requested by the Board of County Commissioners.

Chapter 18 has been added with the *Implementation Schedule* for all recommendations.

An *Executive Summary* and *Acronyms and Abbreviations* have been added to the front of the Plan.

The entire plan is on the Clark County Solid Waste web site under the documents section at <http://www.clark.wa.gov/recycle/documents.html>.

An Open House for the public to review the Plan has been scheduled for Thursday November 13th from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. A hearing has been tentatively scheduled for December 9th with the Board of County Commissioners.

City of Vancouver – Rich McConaghy and Tanya Gray

- A presentation was given to the Vancouver City Council on October 6th about the plastic bags issue. Mike Piper, City of Vancouver Sustainability, and Pete DuBois, County Sustainability, were both available with information and for discussion. The council will be coming back to this issue. They agreed with SWAC that we need to move forward with more education as a beginning step.
- Rich and Tanya have been working on garbage and recycling rates for the City of Vancouver. An ordinance will be coming to the City Council on Monday November 10th for the first reading. On November 17th, a full vote is scheduled. The proposed rates include changing from a franchise fee to a utility tax.

County Public Health – Gary Bickett

No updates from County Public Health this month.

III. Recycling Collection Program and Transfer Facilities: Mike Davis

- Collection trucks have been ordered and should be here by March.
- The carts have been ordered from Rherig and will be delivered to WCI by the end of 2008.
- An education team will be lead by Rob Guttridge.
- A communication team will be lead by Bob Patterson and will include Jo Anne Berg, Susan Newman and all the CSR's from WCI. We will have FAQ's so that everyone has the same information and can respond to customers' questions consistently.
- Approximately 5,000 customers a week will be brought "on line" beginning on March 1st in 2009 and it is planned that distributions should be completed by the end of June.
- COV staff will be updating the City Council on November 9th. The city is continuing in contract negotiations with WCI.
- County staff has presented the contract to the Battle Ground City Council and will be going to the Yacolt Council on November 17th. Interlocal agreements will be signed with Battle Ground, La Center, and Yacolt for recycling services under the county contract. Once all the interlocals have been signed, we will go to the Board of Commissioners for approval. This is tentatively scheduled for the end of December.

Q: What will be happening to the old bins? A: Households will be keeping one bin for glass collection. They will have the choice of keeping the other two or setting them out to be collected. Rherig will be recycling the old bins and the county will receive a credit for the bins that are recycled.

Q: When will the new sort line be done at West Van? A: We are current in discussions with CRC. They will be responsible for handling all of the recyclable materials during the transition to the carts and also during the installation of the new sort line.

- Washougal Transfer Station: The metal framing has gone up and the outer walls will go up the week of November 10th. We still hope to have the facility open by the first of the year. SWAC members would like to see the facility prior to receiving the first load.
- We have deconstructed a farm house and five outbuildings on the Leichner property (the old Koski property). Staff is putting together the information on the deconstruction and will present to SWAC.
- Central Transfer and Recycling currently has traffic and space issues. WCI is looking at a possible expansion through purchasing or leasing the property directly behind it. The State is planning on putting in a full median on 117th Avenue instead of the current barricade. This means there will be no left turns into the facility for people traveling north on 117th and no left turns coming out of the facility. We are discussing installation of a deceleration lane for the right turn into the facility. We will also be beginning talks about a fourth transfer station.

IV. 2008 Waste Stream Analysis

The Waste Stream Analysis report is complete. This study was conducted from May 2007 through April 2008. The goal of the analysis is to provide data for evaluating our current programs, planning for future programs, and evaluate waste diversion activities at the transfer stations. 243 samples were randomly selected and sorted. Waste was divided into six groups: residential self-haul; non-residential self-haul; single family, multi-family, commercial and commercial compactor.

Waste quantities conclusions from the report include:

- Residential Self Haul – this contributes only 7% of the county's total waste stream but is responsible for 54% of the traffic at the transfer stations.

- Non-Residential Self Haul – this is almost twice as much waste (13.6%) as Residential Self Haul generators but represents less than one quarter (23.3%) of the vehicle trips to the transfer stations.
- Multi-Family – 5% of the County’s waste stream
- Commercial and Commercial Compactors – makes up almost half (45%) of the County’s waste stream.

Waste composition highlights from the report include:

- Single Family – food waste is 21.8%; mixed waste paper is 7.4%; plastic film and bags is 6.9%; the Single Family waste stream contains 20.9% of materials currently collected through the curbside recycling program (including yard debris).
- Multi-Family – food waste is 15.6%; mixed waste paper is 10.3%; plastic film and bags is 4.8%; and cardboard is 4.7%
- Residential Self Haul – wood is 13.8%; food waste is 9.7%; mixed metals is 7.4%; mixed waste paper is 5.2%; cardboard is 4.1% and other plastic is 3.7%
- Non-Residential Self Haul – wood is 22.2%; other construction waste is 31.5%
- Commercial – food waste is 24.3%; mixed waste paper is 8.3% plastic film and bags is 7.2%; and cardboard is 5.4%
- Commercial Compactors – food waste is 12.9%; wood is 20.8%; cardboard is 7.4%; plastic film and bags is 5.5%

Actual weights for the specific materials are shown on Table 4, page 18 of the report.

SWAC noted the actual weights of food waste and how they are increasing. There was discussion as to our current education programs with this waste stream. Another observation is that there have been some decreases in the wood and metal, but this is probably linked more to a slowing of construction in the current economy.

VI. Other Business

There was no other business.

VII Comments from the Public on Non-Agenda Items

There were no public comments.