



**SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)**

October 5, 2022 Meeting Notes  
Webex  
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

*Chair: Brie Kuhn  
Secretary: Celine Fujikawa*

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Present?</b>	<b>SPU Staff /Guest</b>	<b>Role</b>
Danny Barksdale	Y	Quinn Apuzzo	SPU – SWAC Program Coordinator
Rina Fa’amoe-Cross	Y	Jeff Fowler	SPU – Solid Waste LOB Deputy Director
Celine Fujikawa	Y	Katie Lynd	SPU – Community Affairs
Brie Kuhn	Y	Andrew Lee	SPU – General Manager/CEO
Alessandra Pistoia	N	Michell Mouton	Communications Manager (HWMP)
Hannah Scholes	Y	Katie Kennedy	SPU – Construction & Demolition Diversion Lead
Adrian Tan	Y	Anna Seweryniak	SPU – Recycling & Composting Multifamily Graduate Intern
Ming-Ming Tung Edelman	N	Maythia Airhart	Guest
Michael Johnson	Y		
Chelsey Evans	Y		
John Martin	Y		
Erin Gagnon	Y		
Wendy Weiker	N		
Steven Walls	Y		
Yongkang (YK) Zhou	Y		

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

- SWAC Chair, Brie, called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.
- Members and guests introduced themselves. Prompted by the SWAC Chair, they each shared their name, affiliation, and their Halloween costume ideas. SPU General Manager/CEO Andrew Lee welcomed the new SWAC members and thanked SWAC for their service.
- September meeting minutes were approved by SWAC members in attendance.

**2. Farewell to Celine**

SWAC Secretary Celine has accepted a new position in California and will be stepping down from the committee after the October meeting. SWAC recognized Celine’s contributions and thanked her for her service.

**3. Comments on SWLOB Updates for SWAC**

SWAC members were asked to review the Solid Waste Line of Business updates in advance of the meeting. The Solid Waste Deputy Director was available to answer questions.

- **A SWAC member asked,** “Are there any plans to expand [the Nihonmachi] artwork pilot?”

- **A SPU representative responded,** “Yes. SPU is still piloting to see if it works well but funding from Seattle’s 1% of the Arts program could be used for this purpose in the future.”
- **A SWAC member asked,** “Can you talk more about the outreach campaign about Extended Producer Responsibility?”
- **A SPU representative responded,** “SPU in conjunction with the NW Product Stewardship Council will be sharing information about EPR in advance of the upcoming legislative session.”
- **A SWAC member asked,** “Will you be working with other businesses in the same way that you are working with Safeway?”
- **A SPU representative responded,** “We are looking at additional grocery stores. Seattle’s Safeway stores will be a good test to see if the program sticks (employee training goes well, etc.). Then SPU will find other retailers of scalable sizes both large (e.g., Kroeger) and small (e.g., PCC).”
- **A SWAC member asked,** “It appears that self-hauling to transfer stations is an area we can improve in. Does SPU have any plans for education on the horizon?”
- **A SPU representative responded,** “We have a feedback form for customers now available at the South Transfer Station. We’re focusing on reducing costs for customers. Information on our website is continuously updated.”
- **A SWAC member asked,** “What is the situation with the locks I am seeing on many bins? Will there be totes or bins for Clear Alley Program?”
- **A SPU representative responded,** “The Clear Alley Program (CAP) requires that customers in the CAP area use bags for garbage and recycling. Totes are only used for food/yard waste. SPU is working on updating our cart/container locking policy, but it is currently up to residents if they choose to lock their containers.”
- **A SPU representative commented,** “Last week Ecology completed its review of the draft 2022 Solid Waste Plan Update and determined it to be compliant with RCW requirements for comprehensive plans. SPU is reviewing Ecology’s comments now and working to create a final version of the plan update and an accompanying resolution for City Council adoption at the beginning of 2023.”

#### 4. Hazardous Waste Management Program (HWMP) Overview

Michell Mouton, Communications Manager with the Hazardous Waste Management Program, provided an overview of the HWMP.

- The HWMP is managed by a coalition of local government organizations and serves Seattle and King County.
- The program works to provide grant funding to cities, residents, and tribes.
- They are focused on doing more upstream work via prevention outreach/education, including:
  - Hotline
  - Natural yard care
  - Want people to be aware of exposure risk
  - Provide direct service (mobile collections)
  - Drop-off locations requiring no additional fees
  - Direct mailing

- Racial equity is a focus for the program. They conduct outreach in 13 languages currently.
- Spotlight on Ojo Con El Coro, one of the program’s safer alternatives campaigns that advocates for natural vs chemical products.
- **A SWAC member asked,** “My company works with the multifamily sector a lot. What is the best resource to improve batteries/oil/empty paint canisters disposal?”
- **A HWMP representative responded,** “We want to provide better support for the multifamily sector. We hear from residents that transportation is an issue. I will connect you with Julie Mitchel who can better answer your question.”
- **A SWAC member asked,** “Do you collect data or have an idea of communities/neighborhoods in Seattle that use the hazardous waste program? How accessible are these drop-off locations to them?”
- **A HWMP representative responded,** “We generate quarterly and annual reports where we look at this. Seattle is home to the most users—more than 50% of folks who contact the program are from Seattle. We also collect zip codes. In the future, we want to better reach folks outside of Seattle, marginalized and low-income communities.”
- **A SWAC member asked,** “Do you provide outreach materials in different languages?”
- **A HWMP representative responded,** “Our website is translated into 13 languages. We do a lot of groundwork with community-based organizations that provide outreach materials in different languages. We continue to ask ourselves how we can remove more barriers.”
- **A SWAC member asked,** “Are you able to know whether folks are consuming mailed materials? What metrics are you using?”
- **A HWMP representative responded,** “We have noticed a direct correlation between customer traffic and direct mail so we will be continuing to send out mailers. We also utilize intercept surveys and service level studies.”

## 5. Construction & Demolition Waste Diversion Overview

Katie Kennedy provided an overview of SPU’s construction & demolition diversion programs and policies.

- Focus on wood
  - 99% of recovered C&D wood waste is used as boiler fuel (“hog fuel”).
  - The amount of wood in the C&D waste stream changes over time (e.g., low in 2009-2010 and high in 2016-2017).
  - C&D disposal bans are in place for the following materials:
    - Asphalt/paving
    - Bricks
    - Cardboard
    - Concrete
    - Metal
    - New Gypsum scrap
    - Clean wood

- From an emissions perspective, landfilling recovered wood waste (vs using as an alternative energy source in lieu of electricity or natural gas) would result in a net reduction in emissions.
- Reuse is the best option, which can be done through salvage efforts. There are currently 3 contractors who provide salvage/deconstruction services.
- Deconstruction is a great way to reclaim valuable wood, but requires additional labor and cost.
- SPU is drafting a pilot deconstruction rebate program which is anticipated to provide \$4,000 per deconstruction project for eligible homes.
- **A SWAC member asked,** “What are the regulations around burning hog fuel?”
- **A SPU representative responded,** “The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency manages air emission/particulates. Burning biomass for fuel is protected by recent climate legislation as it is recognized as a source of energy.”
- **A SWAC member asked,** “Regarding carbon capture when wood gets sent to landfill, is SPU working to remove wood from what gets sent to landfill?”
- **A SPU representative responded,** “SPU is not focused on reducing how much wood goes to landfill. The C&D industry works to capture wood waste for use as hog fuel. Reuse is the best option.”
- **A SWAC member asked,** “Any other alternative other than landfill and hog fuel?”
- **A SPU representative responded,** “I am not sure off the top of my head but maybe compost or turning it into mulch. There have been mixed results with those markets over the years, but it is possible.”
- **A SWAC member asked,** “Regarding the \$4,000 rebate—how much of an incentive is it? Is it still a significant additional expense for a homeowner?”
- **A SPU representative responded,** “Portland has a deconstruction requirement which puts deconstruction at the same cost as demolition, or within \$3,000, for homeowners. Seattle doesn’t have that, but we think it’s around \$15,000 to deconstruct on top of \$15-20,000 to demolish. So, \$4,000 might make it so that homeowners can meet a bid, but it won’t cover 100% of the cost for deconstruction/salvage.”
- **A SWAC member asked,** “In Seattle, homeowners tend to change their roofs every 20-30 years. Does it make sense to move to other roofing materials to reduce waste production?”
- **A SPU representative responded,** “I can’t speak to roofs but there is movement towards design for disassembly.”

## 6. SWAC Chat

SWAC member and guest networking.

**Adjourned 7:30.**