Clark County

Solid Waste Management Plan

2015

Managing and coordinating our community's solid waste program

Final September 2015

Acknowledgments

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This document is also available on-line at www.clark.wa.gov/environment/
Note that text that is highlighted in **GREEN** is hyperlinked to the corresponding resource for your reference

All images & graphics from Clark County, unless otherwise noted

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Foreword

The Clark County *Solid Waste Management Plan* (Plan) was developed to provide decision-makers with goals and policies for implementing, evaluating and modifying existing and future solid waste management programs. The Plan is divided into chapters which discuss the different components of the solid waste system. The chapters have an assessment of existing conditions and recommended actions, as well as timeframes for implementation. The Plan also includes an update to discuss solid waste programs in relation to our community's economic development. This Plan coordinates the County's solid waste system and programs with the State of Washington's *Beyond Waste Plan*.

SWMP Update Schedule

Date	Task	Involvement
Jan. 2012 – May 2014	Update chapters per laws, business, etc.	Staff, stakeholders
	Review suggested language with SWAC	Staff, SWAC
	Review potential policy / code changes	Staff
	Review completed Draft chapters with Cities	Staff, City reps
September 2014	Prepare public information materials	Staff
October 2014	Submit compiled Draft to SWAC	Staff
October 2014	Preliminary Draft Plan to Cities	Staff, City reps
November - December 2014	Public Outreach	Staff, public, stakeholders
December 2014	SEPA review	Staff, DOE
January 2015	BOCC work session	Staff, BOCC, stakeholders
Start January 2015 (on-going)	Finalize updates to Interlocal Agreements	City reps, staff
January 2015 - April 2015 (120 days)	Preliminary Draft Plan to Dept. of Ecology & WUTC	Staff, WA DOE, WUTC
April 2015	Update Draft Plan per DOE comments	Staff
April 2015	SWAC recommendation to BOCC	SWAC, staff
April - May 2015	Formal adoption of Plan Update by cities	City reps
April 2015	Formal adoption of Plan Update by BOCC	BOCC public hearing
May 2015 (45 days)	Final Plan Update to WA DOE	Staff
May 2015	Finalize outreach materials for public use	Staff
June 2015	Final comments from WA DOE	Staff, DOE

Executive Summary

The purpose of the solid waste management activities in Clark County is to protect and preserve human health, environmental quality and natural resources through efficient, cost-effective programs and services.

The Solid Waste Management Plan (Plan) was prepared to provide a guide for solid waste activities in Clark County. The Plan addresses recent changes while also looking forward to the future needs of the County.

The contents of this Plan have been prepared in accordance with requirement and intent of RCW 70.95.090. This Plan also incorporates the County's Moderate Risk Management Plan as required by RCW 70.105.220. The Plan was developed through a team effort by Clary County, the cities and town, and the Solid Waste Advisory Commission (SWAC). The SWAC members represented the interests of their agencies, businesses and public interest groups. As members of the community they also represented the public's interest.

The Plan is divided into chapters which discuss the different components of the solid waste system. The chapters contain an assessment of existing conditions and recommended actions. The Plan contains a five-year implementation schedule (Chapter 19) that lists all of the recommended actions and timeframes for implementation. The Plan also contains a new chapter, *Waste to Wealth: Economic Development*. This chapter details the economic benefits associated with the County's solid waste system. Recommendations from this chapter emphasize business opportunities and future economic development. This Plan also coordinates the County's solid waste system and programs with the State of Washington's Beyond Waste Plan.

Clark County is incorporating into this Plan the hierarchy for solid waste handling as identified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This hierarchy adopted in the Plan is as follows:

1. Source Reduction and Reuse
2. Recycling and Composting
3. Energy Recovery
4. Treatment and Disposal

Goals and Objectives

The goals of the Plan are:

- Promote sustainable actions and behaviors that ensures resources and options for future generations
- Maintain a solid waste system that supports economic vitality and conserves, natural and fiscal resources
- Achieve a reasonable balance among public convenience, public expenses, public health, and the environment
- Maintain flexibility to anticipate future changes and needs
- Promote source reduction, reuse and recycling
- Increase local control of solid waste management
- Maintain accurate waste stream measurement and monitoring
- Encourage cooperative and coordinated efforts among government agencies, citizens, and the private sector for managing solid wastes

Established with this Plan are the overall objectives of the regional solid waste management system. These are separated into longer-term (5-year) system objectives and shorter-term (2 year) objectives. These provide an important context and emphasis for education and outreach approaches.

The longer-term system objectives are:

- Increase the recycling rate to 55% and the total diversion rate to 70%
- Reduce per person per day landfilled volumes (pounds) by 5%
- Reduce the amount of total waste generated per person per day by 5% (this includes what is landfilled, recycled and recovered)

The shorter-term program objectives are grouped into these board categories:

- Increase and strengthen our public/private partnerships
- Broaden volunteer programs
- Develop programs to engage targeted audiences
- Raise community awareness of solid waste programs
- Increase participation in core programs: Green Business, Green Neighbors, and Green Schools
- Enhance the solid waste management system

Chapter 5 Education and Outreach outlines the specific targets for these program objectives.

Overview of Changes

Many of the changes to chapters and recommendations are a result of condensing and streamlining the information in this Plan. For example, internet links have been included as references to reduce language and appendices; duplicate recommendations in various chapters have been eliminated; more general recommendations have been removed to focus on recommendations that are action oriented and quantifiable.

Chapter 19 Implementation Schedule is a summary of all of the recommendations for the Plan. The implementation dates for each recommendation are shown on this schedule. Many of the recommendations are on-going and are currently in place.

Some of the changes include:

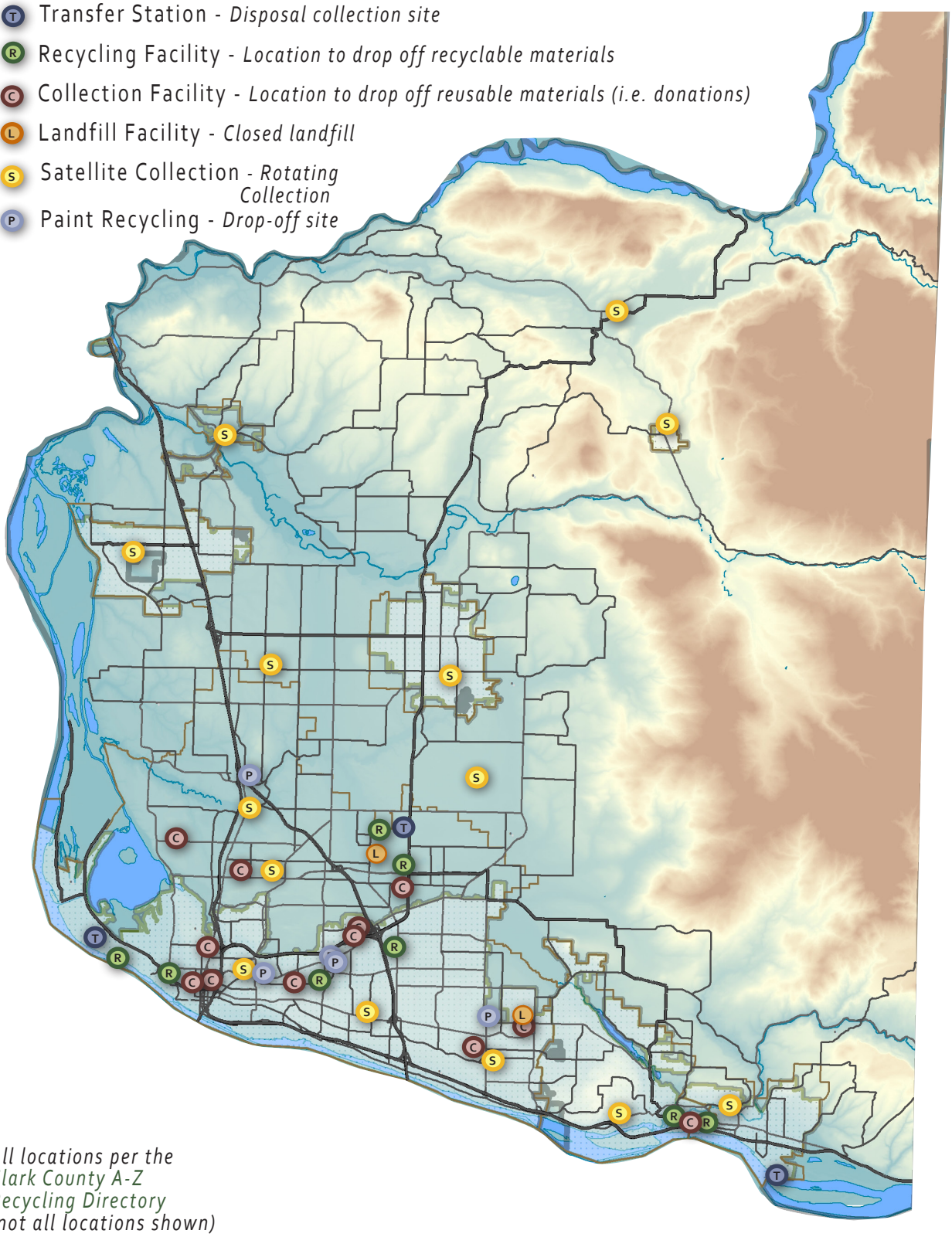
- ☑ ***Chapter 3 Sustainable Choices*** has been revised to provide more focus on sustainable materials management within the solid waste system.
- ☑ ***Chapter 5 Education and Outreach*** has been revised to focus on the process of how programs and outreach materials are developed and evaluated. This chapter discusses the goals and objective as well as measuring program effectiveness. Implementation of our three core programs (Green Businesses, Green Neighbors and Green Schools) is emphasized; current and ongoing programs are itemized. More emphasis has been placed on social media and community based social marketing.
- ☑ ***Chapter 7 Landfill Disposal*** has new recommendations for master planning the Leichner Landfill site and decommissioning the Rufener Landfill site.
- ☑ ***Chapter 13 Organic Wastes*** has several new recommendations including conducting a feasibility study on organic material processing capacity.
- ☑ Finally, ***a new chapter on Economic Development*** has been added to the Plan. This chapter and recommendations are designed to facilitate business growth within waste related industries.

Clark County Solid Waste Facilities

Clark County continues to expand the locations of facilities that collect various waste products for recycling, reuse and disposal. Other regional (southwest Washington / metropolitan Portland) facilities are available, as described in Chapter 12.

Legend:

- Transfer Station - *Disposal collection site*
- Recycling Facility - *Location to drop off recyclable materials*
- Collection Facility - *Location to drop off reusable materials (i.e. donations)*
- Landfill Facility - *Closed landfill*
- Satellite Collection - *Rotating Collection*
- Paint Recycling - *Drop-off site*



All locations per the Clark County A-Z Recycling Directory (not all locations shown)