
MSWAC

Metropolitan Solid Waste Advisory Committee

King Street Center ▪ 201 South Jackson Street, Suite 5701 ▪ Seattle, WA 98104-3855

March --, 2022

To: King County Executive Dow Constantine
King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski
King County Councilmember Girmay Zahilay
King County Councilmember Sarah Perry
King County Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles
King County Councilmember Dave Upthegrove
King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci
King County Councilmember Pete Von Reichbauer
King County Councilmember Joe McDermott
King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn

CC: Christie True, DNRP Director
Pat D. McLaughlin, Solid Waste Division Director

RE: King County Proposed Ordinance 2021-0267

The Metropolitan Solid Waste Advisory Committee (MSWAC) collaborated with the King County Solid Waste Division to update the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (Plan) that was adopted by a majority of cities and the King County Council in 2019. The next update of the Plan will include a recommendation on the long-term disposal choice for after Cedar Hills is expanded and reaches its capacity.

At its January 2022 meeting, the Regional Policy Committee considered Proposed Ordinance 2021-0267 which would create an advisory committee to make recommendations about using Waste-to-Energy (WTE) technology for the disposal of the region's municipal solid waste.

MSWAC understands WTE is under consideration as one option for the next long-term disposal option. Over the years, at least two consultant studies have been analyzed the viability of WTE technology. While those studies were conducted by third party experts with deep insights to the subject matter, they did not reach the same conclusions. Nonetheless, it is undisputed that any disposal alternative will be more expensive than our current local management of waste at Cedar Hills Landfill.

Our region has come to recognize that our most pressing work is to divert the hundreds of thousands of tons of recyclable materials that are being buried - instead of channeled back into the economy. Doing so not only creates jobs and is beneficial to the environment but also reduces the burden on the next long term disposal option and potentially save tens of millions of dollars.

This Proposed Ordinance was discussed during the January 2022 MSWAC meeting, and this committee unanimously voted to communicate with the King County Council that we are ready and able to provide advice on the next generation of disposal for King County in alignment with the purpose of MSWAC as provided for in the King County Code. The creation of an additional advisory committee for this purpose is not necessary.

We thank the Executive and County Council for considering our input.

Signed on behalf of MSWAC,

Penny Sweet
Chair, Metropolitan Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Mayor, City of Kirkland

Linda Knight
Vice-Chair, Metropolitan Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Solid Waste Coordinator, City of Renton