



MEMORANDUM

DATE: 11/1/22

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Rebecca Small, CMO
Aaron Lande, CMO

RE: **Climate Action Framework – Solid Waste & Wastewater Memo**

Purpose:

The purpose of this Memo is to provide Council with an early review of the **Solid Waste & Wastewater** section of the draft final Climate Action Framework (CAF); to note where action descriptions have been edited for clarity or succinctness; and to highlight how action descriptions have been changed in response to feedback from Council, the community, or City staff.

Background:

In preparation for the public hearing and final adoption of the Climate Action Framework on December 5th, and in response to Council's request for ample time to review the final CAF document prior to that adoption date, staff will be providing Council with a series of 6 memos to preview the content of the CAF.

Each memo will focus on one of the 6 sections of the CAF (Governance, Building Energy, Transportation & Land Use, Natural Systems, Equity and the Green Economy, and Solid Waste and Wastewater). Memos will present the sections' actions as currently worded for the final version that will come before Council in December alongside the draft text Council reviewed in August, along with an explanation for any changes made and how it reflects Council direction.

Schedule:

These memos will be included as informational items in Council's weekly packet, starting Tuesday, October 11th. Councilmembers are encouraged to follow up with Rebecca Small and Aaron Lande with any questions or suggestions for how to clarify the proposed language. Ms. Small and Mr. Lande will also be available to answer questions during the November 7th and 21st Council Meetings under City Manager Communications. The complete revised CAF will be included in the November 22nd Council packet, two weeks prior to the December 5th public hearing as requested, to allow for a comprehensive review of the entire document.



Climate Action Framework – Solid Waste and Wastewater

Introductory text

We will reduce per capita waste by reusing, repairing, recycling, and composting more. We will reduce per capita water usage and operate our wastewater treatment more efficiently.

Strategy SW-1. Require recycling and organic material management

Require city-wide recycling and/or organics collection in a manner that will not economically or otherwise burden overburdened communities.

Action	Revised (Final) Action Description	Original Wording as of 06/06/22	Changes explained
1	City-wide composting and organics management Along with other organics management actions, divert organic waste to landfill by 75% by 2030. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">By City ordinance, require organics collection services in compliance with RCW 43.19A.150.	City-wide composting and organics management Require city-wide organics collection in compliance with WA HB 1799. Along with other organics management actions, reduce organic waste to landfill by 100% by 2030.	Updated legislative reference and included mention of City ordinance. Changed goal from 100% to 75% to be consistent with statewide requirement and to reflect direction from leadership in City’s Solid Waste department on the feasibility of targets.
2	Municipal recycling & composting collection Require food waste composting and glass and co-mingled recycling at City buildings.	Municipal recycling & composting Require food waste composting and glass and co-mingled recycling at City buildings.	No changes.
3	Recycled materials markets Pursue regional partnerships to bolster the market for recycled materials to minimize the use of raw materials and accommodate increased flows from the implementation of waste diversion actions.	Recycled materials markets Pursue regional partnerships to bolster the market for recycled materials to accommodate increased flows from implementation of waste diversion actions. This action may include eco-industrial development, in which a waste stream from one firm becomes the raw material for another, thus minimizing the use of raw materials.	Minor edits to simplify and remove jargon.
4	Waste diversion community participation Work with haulers, material recovery facilities and transfer stations to increase and improve community participation in recycling and organics. Create incentives and disincentives for reducing contamination in recycling and organics loads in compliance with state mandates to improve quality materials.	Waste diversion community participation Work with haulers, material recovery facility and transfer stations to increase and improve community participation in recycling and organics. Create incentives and disincentives for reducing contamination in recycling and organics loads in compliance with state mandates to improve quality materials.	No changes
5	Construction & demolition incentives Promote waste reduction from construction & demolition. This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Promote deconstruction and recycling through City ordinances and/or incentives.Deconstruct municipal facilities that would normally be demolished and document as a case study to show how this practice supports sustainability and CAF goals.	Construction & demolition incentives Promote waste reduction from construction & demolition. This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Promote deconstruction and recycling through City ordinance and/or incentives.Lead by example: deconstruct municipal facilities that would normally be demolished and document as a case study to show how the environmental benefit contributes to sustainability goals and CAP 2.0. Lead by example: construct new municipal facilities using Designs for Disassembly,	Minor editing to simplify and clarify the description.

Action	Revised (Final) Action Description	Original Wording as of 06/06/22	Changes explained
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Construct new municipal facilities using Designs for Disassembly principles that allow building components to be extracted from buildings in a reusable form.	which is a suite of principles that allow building components to be extracted from buildings in a reusable form.	

Strategy SW-2. Zero out wastewater emissions

Zero out emissions from wastewater treatment by incorporating enhanced energy efficiency, methane capture, and renewable fuels into new and existing systems.

Action	Revised (Final) Action Description	Original Wording as of 06/06/22	Changes explained
6	Solids management and resource recovery plan Develop a solids management and resource recovery plan for wastewater facilities to generate renewable energy and beneficial materials. Explore the possibility of incorporating diverted food and organic waste into wastewater facility solids processing.	Solids management and resource recovery plan Develop a solids management and resource recovery plan for wastewater facilities to generate renewable energy and beneficial materials. Explore the possibility of incorporating diverted food and organic waste into wastewater facility solids processing.	No changes

Impact of changes made

One significant change was made to this section – the City’s goal for the amount of organic material that would be diverted from landfills to composting facilities was decreased from 100% by 2030 down to 75%. This change was made as a result of conversations with the Supervisor of Solid Waste and reflects what is considered an ambitious yet technically feasible composting goal from an expert, informed perspective familiar with the Vancouver region’s composting program infrastructure and funding landscape. It also aligns the City goal with the target set by the State in RCW 43.19A.150. While this change will result in the City’s GHG emissions model showing lower GHG reductions for this action, it is not expected to impact the amount of GHG reductions that could have been achieved since the original goal proposed is not considered technically feasible.

In addition to the above-stated Solid Waste strategies, City Staff are preparing a Compost Procurement ordinance and Compost Procurement Policy as required by HB-1799, now codified in RCW 43.19A.150. Staff will pair the Compost Procurement ordinance readings and presentation in the CAF Public Hearing planned for December 5.