Bin There, Done That?
Challenges in Recycling (and waste)

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Sumner School District
RETHINK
Structure and History of the Solid Waste and Recycling Industry in Washington State

The Garbage Haulers, led by LeMay, Rabanco, and Rubatino started meeting in the Poodle Dog during the 1950’s

Waste Not Washington Act of 1989 creates modern recycling programs, but guarantees continued protection for haulers. Washington garbage costs are inflated by inefficient and anticompetitive hauling practices, taxes, and fees to support subsidies.

Haulers haven’t had to compete for the last 54 years.
Collection Costs – Biggest Piece of the Budget Pie

Average Annual MSW Management System Spending

- Collection: 50%
- Facilities: 19%
- Landfill: 12%
- General & Administrative: 15%
- Transfer: 4%

Source: SWANA study on integrated solid waste management system costs, as presented in “Getting More for Less” collection efficiency workbook.
Who are the Garbage Regulators for WA State?

1. Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) or

2. Cities
   - Either regulator negotiates a contract with the “franchise hauler” for areas
   - Businesses are required to use the “franchise hauler” or city-contracted hauler
   - Some cities issue RFPs (competitive bid process) and then negotiating a contract
Who Regulates Garbage Hauling in the Sumner School District?

- City of Sumner
- City of Bonney Lake
- Pierce County and the UTC

- Find your local contracts – what are the options?
- Are the fees on District invoices the same as the approved rate schedule?
- Cities can specify different services than in the adjoining UTC service areas.
- Do you have the option to do something different?
Garbage Collection - Waste 101

Every business is served by a single garbage hauler with exclusive rights to collect garbage in specific geographic areas.
# Solid Waste Bill Review

- Accurate dates and # of hauls?
- Proper taxes and fees?
- Gate unlocking?
- Accurate mileage charges?
- Container rental?
- Return trip charge?
- Franchise Fee
- Utility Tax?
- Tandem/overweight/excess?
- Surcharges?

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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Garbage & Recycling Invoices

What’s on a typical invoice?
- Container rental fees
- Collection fees and extra pick-ups or overflow charges
- Hazardous waste fee
- State solid waste collection tax
- City utility tax - from some cities

What’s not on a typical invoice?
- Garbage volumes
- Recycling volumes

Invoice review (see sample copies)
- Note: Recycling fees are not subject to some taxes (hazardous waste fee, state solid waste collection tax)
**What's in a Tip Fee?**

**Pierce County Rates are the Highest in the State, #1 since 2008 (#4 or higher since 1996)**

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Through 2/28/11</th>
<th>3/1/15</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transfer Facilities, Recycling, Transportation</td>
<td>$41.20</td>
<td>$44.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>County Diversion Program</td>
<td>$15.83</td>
<td>$30.44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disposal Services</td>
<td>$47.45</td>
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<td>Community Solid Waste Reduction and Support Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>County Program Cost Component</td>
<td>$8.45</td>
<td>$11.75</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>System Base Rate Per Ton, after Tax</strong></td>
<td><strong>$112.94</strong></td>
<td><strong>$150.19</strong></td>
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33% increase in pricing over four years- not a bad business to be in!
REDUCE
Self-Haul is still an option!

Sumner High Community Based Transition Students collect cardboard from over half of our sites, earning revenue for their program activities, while the District saves on collection costs and the material supports our hometown Sonoco paper mill.
Picking the right container – Reduced Trips = Reduced $$$
The bigger the box, the less frequent the haul!

Roll-Off Container Sizes

10 Yard - 16'L x 8'W x 3'H
15 Yard - 13'L x 8'W x 6'H
20 Yard - 16'L x 8'W x 5'H
30 Yard - 18'L x 8'W x 6'H
40 Yard - 20'L x 8'W x 7'H
**Sumner School District Accomplishments - Solid Waste and Recycling**

- Renegotiated terms of service
- Right-sized solid waste capacity at each facility.
- Converted all facilities to single stream recycling.
- Selected a ‘best fit’ option for recycling service at each site.
- Food Waste Recycling
- Landscape Waste Composting
- Student Recycling Program
- Summer Shutdown Plan
And if Bigger is Better,

- After increasing container size from 30 yards to 40 yards, average payload rose from 2.04 to 3.22 tons, a 58% increase.

- The number of hauls reduced, saving $220 per haul in fixed cost.

- The cost of the ramp ($3367) was paid back in 5 months or 15 hauls.

- Possible to “Own” containers, avoids lease costs per month.
Garbage Compactors

❖ Advantages
  ❖ May save money over time
  ❖ Materials/odors are contained
  ❖ May save space via more capacity per square foot

❖ Issues
  ❖ Leakage (must have sanitary sewer drains)
  ❖ Require centralized disposal at large facilities.
  ❖ May not save many hauls vs large rolloffs
  ❖ EXPENSIVE
  ❖ Maintenance required.
  ❖ Shorter life than roll off containers.
First Year
Solid Waste Savings?
About $45,000

- Costs dropped $19,161 compared to baseline, or 9.3%.
- This was during a period with rate increases of 5% to 11%, varied by service.
- Avoided cost increases were over $26,000 in the first year.
Can you spot the rate increase?

April's annual rate increase was just a bump in the road to savings!
Annual trend dropped from $442/mo in Jan 2011 to $302 in Jan 2015
RECYCLE
Figure 3.1: Composition of Waste Disposed by the Public School System (% by weight)
Ever put a compost bin IN a lunchroom?

Parents do the darndest things, but we managed to make a go of it…
Food Scraps

- Densest material in waste stream
- Great local market
- Closed recycling loop
Research the Market Before Adding Food Waste Collection

Research the following conditions:

- The need for the service
- Your stakeholders’ willingness to participate
- Your ability to access the service
- Long-term viability of the market
Why Reduce, Reuse and Recycle?

- Reduce disposal costs
- Reduce acquisition costs
- Enhance public image
- Satisfy staff, student or parent requests
- Create 6 recycling jobs, or 1 garbage job?
- Reduce need for landfill space
- Reduce pollution
- Conserve natural resources
- Conserve energy
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduce costs to the General Fund!