



King County

Solid Waste Division

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

King Street Center

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May 30, 2023

Amanda Maxwell and Mike Young
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

Dear Ms. Maxwell and Mr. Young:

This letter determines revenue-sharing plan compliance with RCW 81.77.185 by Republic Services for its service areas within King County. This letter expresses support for the proposed new plan from August 1, 2023 to July 31, 2025. This letter also reports King County's findings on Republic Services' performance under Part B of the current 2021-2023 Plan.

Support for New Plan (August 1, 2023 – July 31, 2025)

Republic Services and King County have come to an agreement on a new Plan and associated budget for service areas in King County for the period of August 1, 2023 through July 31, 2025. The Plan is consistent with the goals and recommended actions outlined in King County's Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan. A copy of the Plan, agreed upon and signed by both parties, will be forwarded to you by Republic Services.

King County believes the Plan demonstrates how the anticipated retained revenue will be used to increase recycling and reduce recycling contamination, as required by RCW 81.77.185.

"Recycling," as defined in RCW 70.95.030, means "transforming or remanufacturing waste materials into usable or marketable materials for use other than landfill disposal or incineration."

Current Plan Compliance Determination

King County is satisfied with the implementation of the 2021-2023 Plan tasks by Republic. Detailed summaries of program activities and associated costs have been provided to King County, and to the best of our knowledge, the expenditures reported by Republic Services are justifiable and appropriate. We recommend that WUTC allow Republic Services to retain revenues sufficient to reimburse the company for these expenditures, as well as the financial incentive described in the agreement for their continued participation in and support of the Recycle Right Communications Consortium activities. A copy of the 2021-2023 Plan is included as Attachment A. A summary of activities (Attachment B) and budget (Attachment C) completed by Republic Services is included.

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Work completed during this reporting period:

During the Plan period, August 1, 2021 through June 1, 2023, Republic Services completed

1. Project Management, Administration and Coordination

This task covered the costs of the Revenue Share Administrator and management of Republic staff who supported the work until the cost of labor was embedded into UTC rates for the King County tariff areas as of June 1, 2022

2. Data Collection and Reporting

Republic Services provided monthly reports of tonnages and customer counts to King County for all areas of King County, excluding Seattle, served by Republic Services

3. Single Family Contamination Reduction Education

This Plan task goal is to educate single-family residences to increase participation in recycling and composting while reducing contamination. In the current plan period, Republic Services continued to participate in and engage with the King County-led Recycle Right Communications Consortium on strategies for single-family education. In Year 2 of the Plan, Republic Services also printed cart tags with a no plastic bags and “empty, clean, and dry” message. A cart-tagging campaign in partnership with Cascadia Consulting is currently in progress with goals to 1) educate UTC customers that plastic bags, film, and wrap do not belong in the recycling and 2) to gather information about opportunities to increase diversion

4. Multifamily Contamination Reduction Education

This plan task goal is to conduct outreach and educational events at multifamily properties. There are currently 23 accounts in South King County and 82 in North King County. Property managers were provided technical assistance, multilingual flyers, contamination reduction ideas (such as slotted lids), and an opportunity to address service issues. One property added recycling service where previously there was none. Two properties scheduled and held in-person outreach events. One property requested and received additional fliers and tote bags. 19 multifamily properties to target for multilingual outreach activities including re-labeling waste containers, documentation of contamination, distribution of reusable tote bags, and door-to-door education

5. Understanding Contamination

This plan task goal is to conduct a behavioral study with non-participants in the recycling system to better understand recycling beliefs and behaviors. These results will eventually be applied to educational techniques to positively influence recycling outcomes. A CBO, St. Vincent de Paul/Centro Rendu, was partnered with to reach Spanish-speaking participants. English-speaking households were identified in sequence with the cart-tagging campaign.

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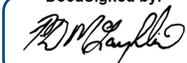
Work Planned for Remainder of RSA Period

- Amplifying Communications Consortium-developed messaging through via billboard advertisements in Maple Valley, Issaquah, and Kenmore.
- Finalize single-family cart-tagging campaign fieldwork and receive summary report from Cascadia Consulting.
- Receive final report from Spanish-language audience behavioral study. English-speaking household surveys are ongoing; the final report is expected in July 2023.
- Continue to distribute recycling-related media to multifamily residents and properties.
- Additionally available funds towards the end of the agreement period were leveraged to purchase media buys through the consultant C+C. King County and Republic Services will meet with C+C to discuss the distribution of these media buys and subsequent metrics in the coming weeks.

Performance Bonus Eligibility for Current Plan

The 2021-2023 Plan specifies that Republic Services may retain five percent of program expenditures if Republic Services attends regional meetings facilitated and organized by King County and if expenditures support and leverage County outreach, planning, and implementation for contamination reduction. Republic Services has attended Recycling Right Communications Consortium meetings (a monthly meeting led by King County that includes neighboring jurisdictions and local haulers to collaborate on recycling and contamination reduction messaging) during the Plan period, and expenditures-to-date support messaging and outcomes aligned with the Consortium. The company meets eligibility criteria for the 5% bonus.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments and support for the revenue sharing plans developed by Republic Services and King County. If you have questions, please contact Eliza Kruszynski, Project Manager, at 206-848-0859 or ekruszynski@kingcounty.gov.

Sincerely,
DocuSigned by:

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Pat D. McLaughlin
Division Director

Enclosure

cc: Rich Rinehart, General Manager, Republic Services of Bellevue
John Olivares, General Manager, Republic Services of Kent
Natalie Caulkins, Revenue Sharing Program Administrator, Republic Services
Andy Smith, RES Interim Manager, Solid Waste Division
Eliza Kruszynski, Project/Program Manager, Solid Waste Division