

Chapter I

Plan Development

A. PLANNING BACKGROUND

This chapter of the 1992 *King County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan* (the Plan, Volumes I and II) describes the Plan's purpose, goals and objectives, legislative and planning authority, its relationship to other plans, a history of the planning effort, and the process and schedule.

1. Purpose

The 1989 Plan and this 1992 Plan update provide a strategy for achieving federal, state, and local goals for solid waste handling within most of King County. The 1989 Plan established a comprehensive program that emphasized reduction and recycling of the solid waste stream and disposal of nonrecyclable materials in environmentally safe landfills.

The 1992 Plan continues this emphasis, focusing on programs and services that prevent land, air, and water pollution and conserve the region's natural, economic, and energy resources. The 1992 Plan update reviews progress made since the 1989 Plan was implemented, reassesses the County's needs, and expands on the recommendations laid out in the 1989 Plan by increasing waste reduction and recycling activities in order to reduce waste and preserve capacity at the Cedar Hills landfill. The 1992 Plan update helps to implement adopted County Policy, which states:

"This County recognizes that there will be considerable difficulty in siting a new landfill at any time now or in the future. The county, therefore, finds that the Cedar Hills landfill is a valuable and irreplaceable resource and that aggressive and timely action must be taken to preserve and insure the safe use of this resource as long as possible for the future." (KCC 10.14).

2. Goals and Objectives

Goals of the Plan were determined in an extensive public and legislative process that resulted in amendments to RCW 70.95 and King County Code (KCC) 10.14. The goals are:

- To preserve the environment and public health of the County through the proper management of solid waste.
- To achieve a waste reduction and recycling rate of 35 percent in 1992, 50 percent by 1995, and 65 percent by 2000.
- To mitigate impacts of existing and future solid waste handling.
- To continue development of adequate disposal capacity that meets all regulatory requirements.

3. Planning Authority

King County prepares and maintains this comprehensive solid waste management plan pursuant to state and local enabling statutes that require its preparation. The most important of these are:

- RCW 70.95 (Solid Waste Management Reduction and Recycling Act) sets solid waste management priorities and assigns solid waste planning authority to local (county and city) governments and directs each county to prepare a plan in cooperation with the cities in its planning area.
- KCC Title 10 defines the County's role as the solid waste planning authority for the County and provides for interlocal agreements to implement these activities within cities and towns.

To carry out the planning process, King County entered into cooperative solid waste management agreements—or Interlocal Agreements (ILAs)—with cities in the planning area in 1988. The ILAs conform with RCW 39.34 (the state statute

