



**RIDGEFIELD CITY COUNCIL
MEETING AGENDA**

**Thursday, August 20, 2026
RACC - Columbia Assembly Room
510 Pioneer Street, Ridgefield, WA 98642**

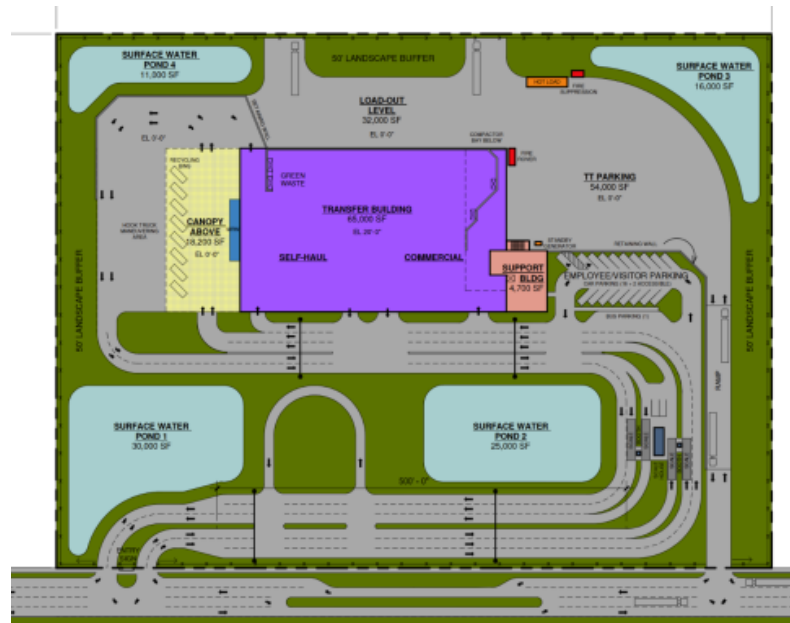
I. STUDY SESSION - 4:00 P.M.

- 1. Solid Waste Update - Ryan Thamert, Public Works Director**

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 1. Executive Session Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to Discuss Personnel Matters.**

III. ADJOURN



CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

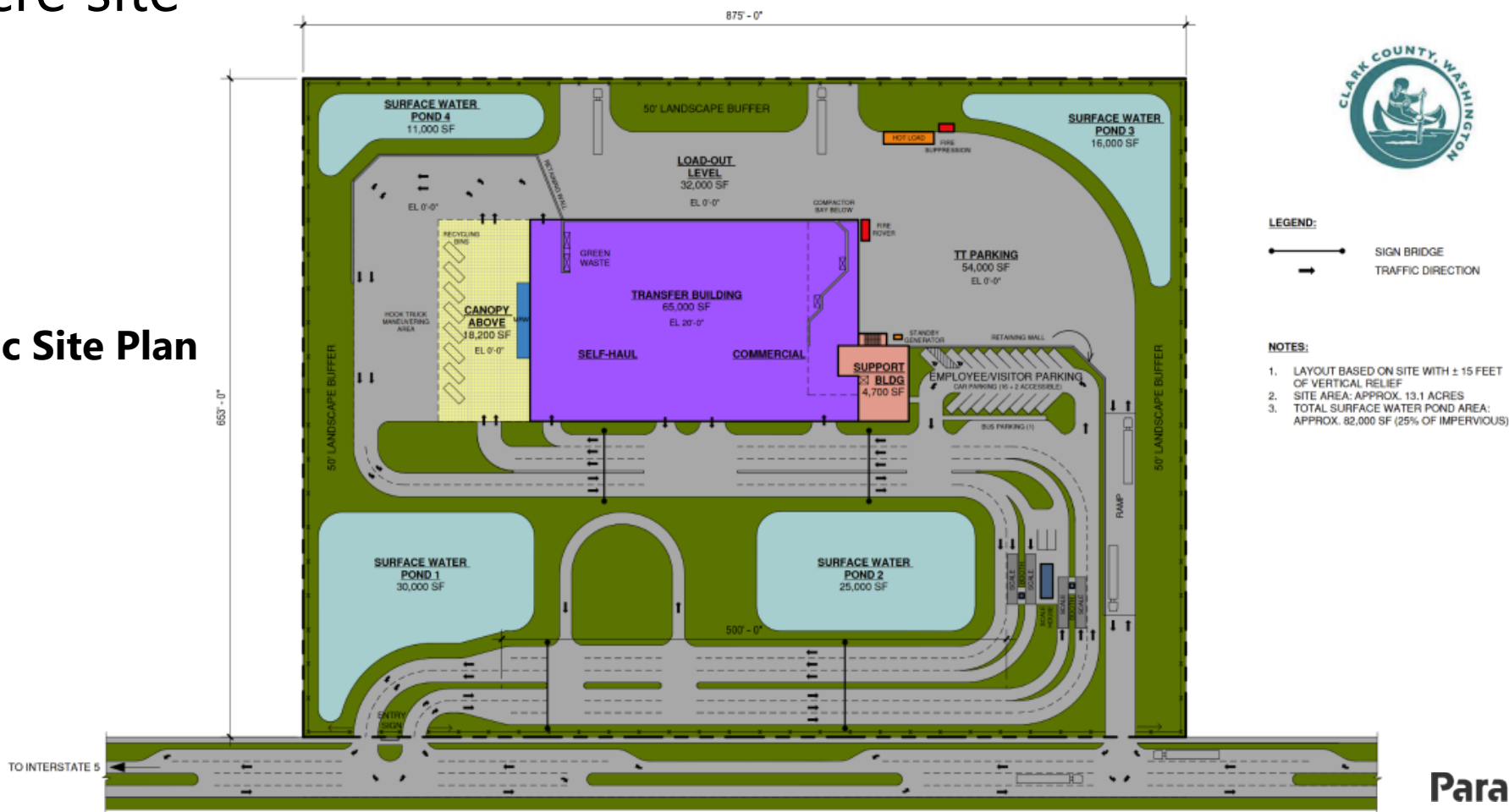
North County Recycling and Transfer Station Siting Broad Area Site Screening Report City of Ridgefield Briefing August 20, 2026



Overview of Siting Study

Objective is to site a 1,500-ton-per-day transfer station on a 20 usable acre site

Non-Site-Specific Site Plan





Major Tasks Supporting Broad Area Site Screening

Task 1 – Information gathering

- Project GIS map created
- Site fact sheets developed for 7 promising sites

Task 2 – Facility Programming

- Facility requirements defined
- Non-site-specific site plan developed
- Minimum usable acreage established

Task 3 – Facility Site Screening Criteria and Scoring System

- 35 siting criteria and scoring system established

Task 4 – Public and interested party outreach pursued



Task 5 – Broad Area Site Screening (BASS)

158 possible sites were identified in initial screening

- Aggregating up to 5 parcels per site

Initial list was reduced to 15 sites using primary screening criteria

- Not residentially zoned
- Not in flood zone
- No less than 20 usable acres
- Within 1 mile of essential utilities
- Compliant with FAA regulations



Task 5 – Broad Area Site Screening (BASS)

The 15 site list was reduced to 7 sites through detailed site review and screening process

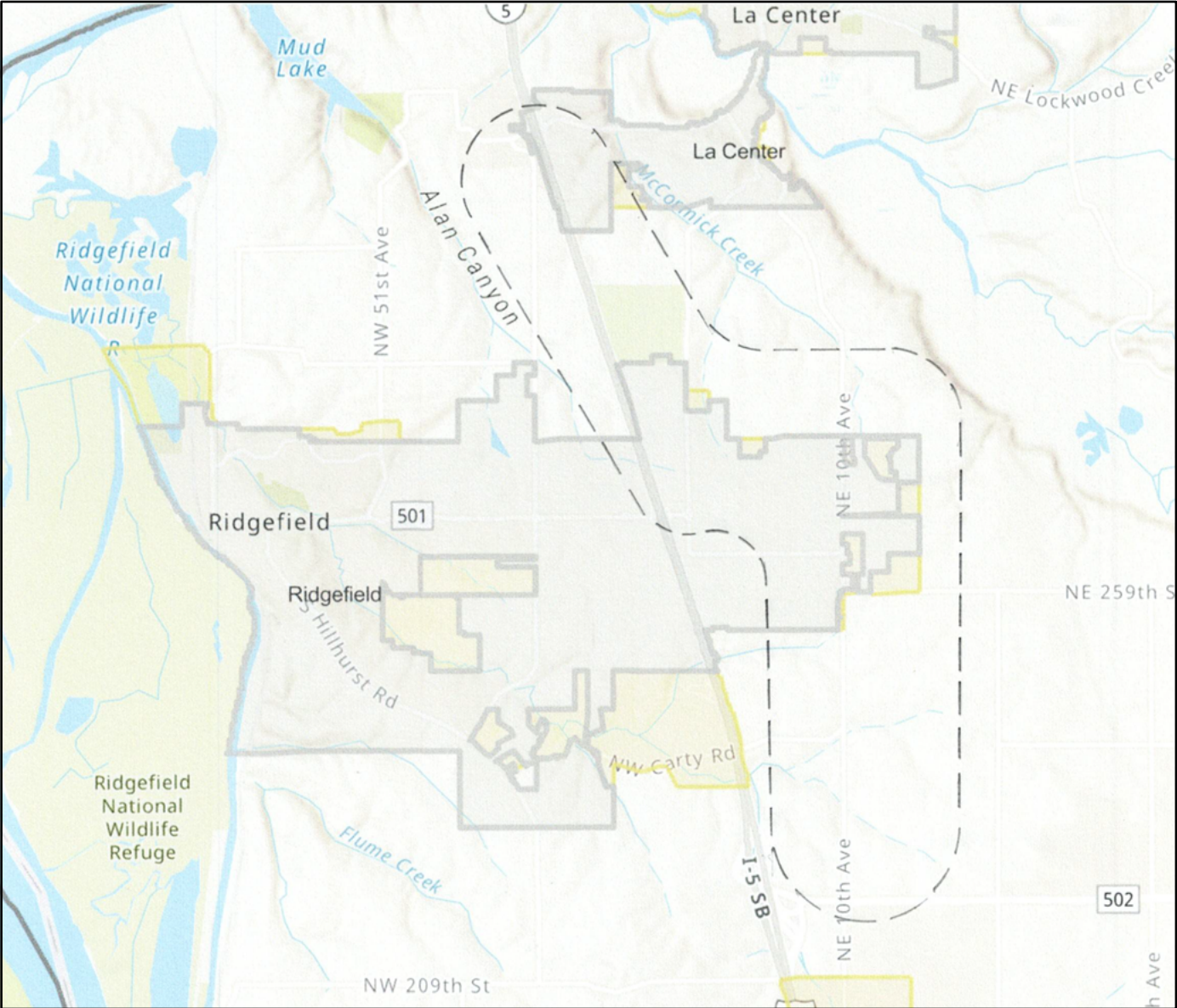
- Desk top studies were conducted for wetlands/habitat, geotechnical, cultural and historic resources and traffic
- Two sites are located within City of Ridgefield

Sites with “potentially” willing sellers were identified (5 out of 7)



7 Sites of Interest Identified

----- Short listed site area boundary





Task 5 – Broad Area Site Screening Scoring

The 7 sites were evaluated and scored against 35 siting criteria

Table 2. Broad Area Site Screen Scoring

Categories	Maximum Possible Score	BS-11 ^a	BS-12/13 ^b	BS-116 ^b	BS-117 ^b	BS-127 ^a	BS-137 ^b	BS-141 ^b
Site Characteristics/ Engineering	460	386	362	366	284	366	374	342
Natural Environment	240	160	160	144	144	176	176	160
Land Use	300	192	204	204	180	216	192	156
Total	1,000	738	726	714	608	758	742	658

a Ridgefield site.

b Willing seller.



BASS Results & Recommendations

- Four sites have reasonably similar scoring: 12/13, 116, 137 and 141 and are **recommended for further consideration**
- Two sites (11 and 127) are located within the City of Ridgefield, are zoned commercial/employment and are **not recommended for further consideration**
- Site 117 scored the lowest, has the second highest cost of varying cost centers, and is **not recommended for further consideration**



BASS Results & Recommendations

- Further site study in a focused area site screening is not likely to score sites 12/13, 116, 137 and 141 differently
- **Recommend** further investigation of the interest level of the sellers for sites 12/13, 116, 137 and 141
- **Recommend** moving to an environmental assessment (EIS) for the two sites with the strongest likelihood of willing sellers

Thank you!
Questions?

ParametriX



Cowlitz County/Woodland & Longview Transfer Stations

Reference Travel Distances to Consider

- Battle Ground to Woodland - 16 miles (32 miles R/T)
- Battle Ground to Longview - 35 miles (70 miles R/T)
- Ridgefield to Woodland - 9 miles (18 miles R/T)
- Ridgefield to Longview - 28 miles (56 miles R/T)
- Washougal to Republic Services Portland - 15 miles (30 miles R/T)
- Vancouver to Portland Metro Central - 11 miles (22 miles R/T)
- Ridgefield City Center to West Van – 14 miles
- Ridgefield City Center to CTR – 18 miles
- Snohomish County SWRTS to King County SRTS - 4.4 miles



Cowlitz County/Woodland & Longview Transfer Stations

Transfer Station Location Considerations:

- ☐ Customer access and convenience a main consideration
- ☐ Transfer Station Siting Rule of Thumb – 10 miles minimum separation
- ☐ Traffic conditions a major consideration for locating transfer stations
- ☐ Counties are solely responsible for planning and financing essential solid waste facilities for their citizens
- ☐ Regionalization of solid waste facilities and services in Washington has not occurred for good reasons
- ☐ Regionalization (multi-county) can work for essential public services in areas with sufficient population such as Portland Metro

Cost-Benefit Analysis Transfer Station Ownership

Solid Waste and Recycling Division

Presenter: Joelle Loescher

City of Ridgefield | August 20, 2026



Scope of Cost-Benefit Analysis

Financial cost and benefits of three ownership, operation and maintenance options:

- **Option 1** – Private ownership, operation and maintenance with negotiated O&M costs (status quo)
- **Option 2** – Public ownership with competitively procured operation and maintenance
- **Option 3** – Public ownership, operation and maintenance



Background

- July 26, 2023, Clark County Council directed staff to complete a deeper financial evaluation of public ownership options
- Master Service Agreement (MSA) allows the County to acquire Central Transfer Station, West Van Transfer Station, and any future station(s), for \$1; this excludes the existing Washougal station
- Clark County and the City of Vancouver interlocal agreement commits partners to form a regional solid waste entity by December 31, 2029
- FCS Group and Parametrix completed the detailed Cost-Benefit Analysis



Included in the Cost-Benefit Analysis

Costs that vary across options include:

- Operation staffing levels/costs
- Maintenance staffing levels/costs
- Public administration/management labor costs
- Contractor administration/management labor costs
- Contractor profit



Cost-Benefit Non-Financial Considerations

- Customer satisfaction
- System stakeholder satisfaction & expectations
- System planning and control
- System flexibility and responsiveness
- Enterprise management experience required
- Risks and liabilities



Analysis Take Aways & Current Status

- Ownership cost differences between the options are relatively small (generally within a 10% margin)
- Public ownership scenarios appear more cost-effective than continued private ownership
- Contractor profit margins are a significant cost driver in private operation scenarios
- Non-financial factors, including transparency, operational control, customer service and system flexibility, will be key considerations moving forward
- A facilitator consultant has been selected to support regional entity planning and evaluation



Looking Ahead

- Governance consultant contract anticipated for Council approval in July/August 2026
- The Regional Solid Waste System Steering Committee will evaluate governance options under RCW 39.34.
- Regional entity expected to own and operate transfer stations in partnership with multiple jurisdictions
- Transition planning will include staffing, operations, rate setting and risk management considerations
- Council ownership decision window occurs between 2029–2030, ahead of MSA expiration in 2032



Next Steps

- Receive and acknowledge the Transfer Station Ownership Cost Benefit Analysis results
- Direct staff to continue evaluation of non-financial and governance considerations
- Confirm alignment with the upcoming facilitation consultant contract work
- Provide direction on milestones and deliverables needed for the 2029–2030 ownership decision
- Maintain progress toward the December 31, 2029, regional governance framework deadline



Thank you!

Comments and questions



Solid Waste & Recycling Division

Annual Update

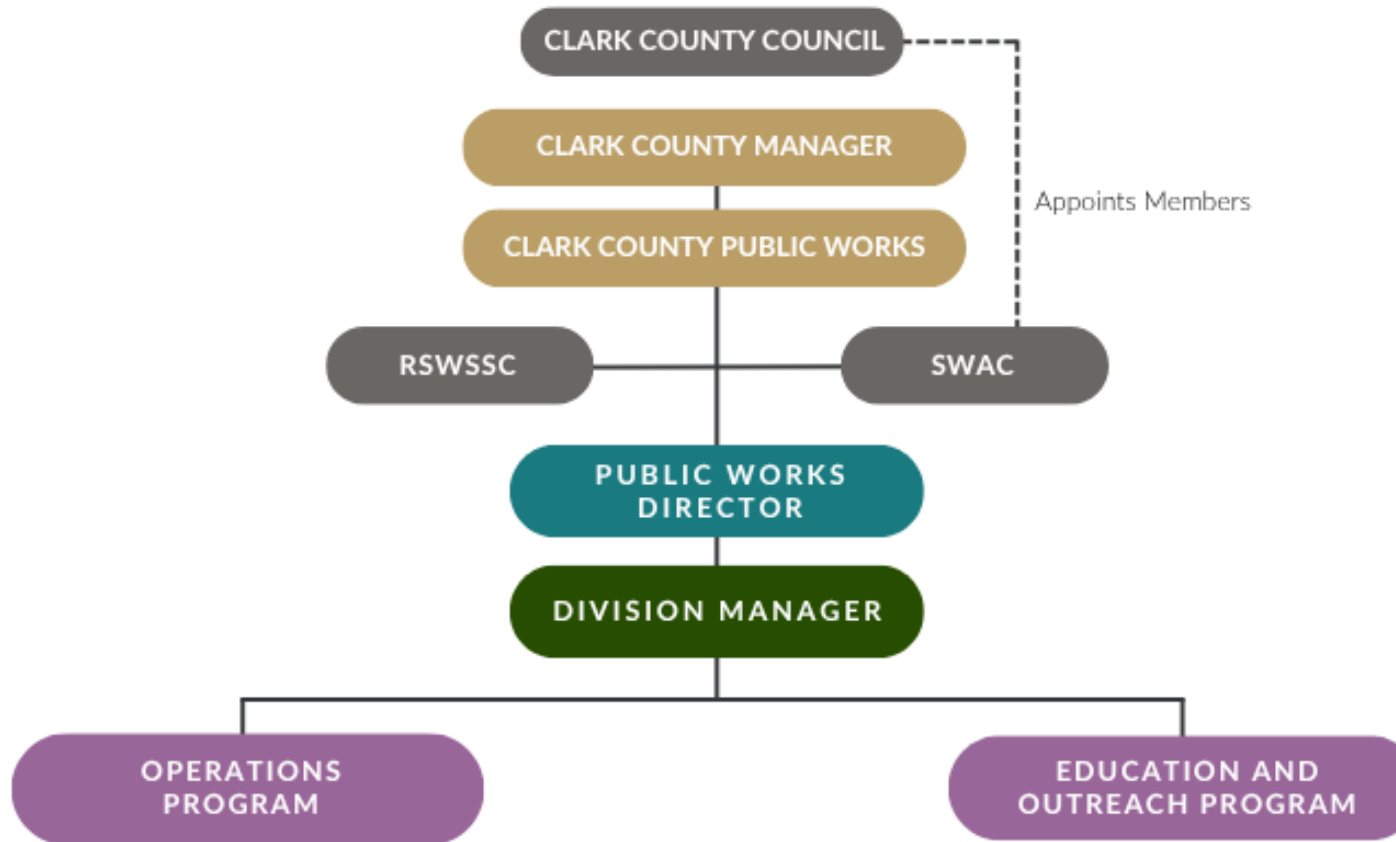
Joelle Loescher, Solid Waste & Recycling Division Manager

City of Ridgefield | August 20, 2026



Organizational Chart

SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING DIVISION ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



SWR Annual Update

- The Solid Waste & Recycling Division continues to serve as the lead agency for solid waste planning and implementation of the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (CSWMP)
- This update highlights the regional solid waste system, provides an overview of Solid Waste & Recycling Division activities, and summarizes ongoing initiatives and upcoming priorities



Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

– Transfer Station Improvement

- The CIP is an ongoing program to improve the solid waste system, addressing aging infrastructure, rising service demands, and evolving waste streams
- Oversight of the CIP is established through a collaborative Master Services Agreement (MSA), between CC, COV, and CRC
- CIP Projects have been identified through the Regional Solid Waste System Study (2024), Triennial Inspections (2023-2024), and CSWMP

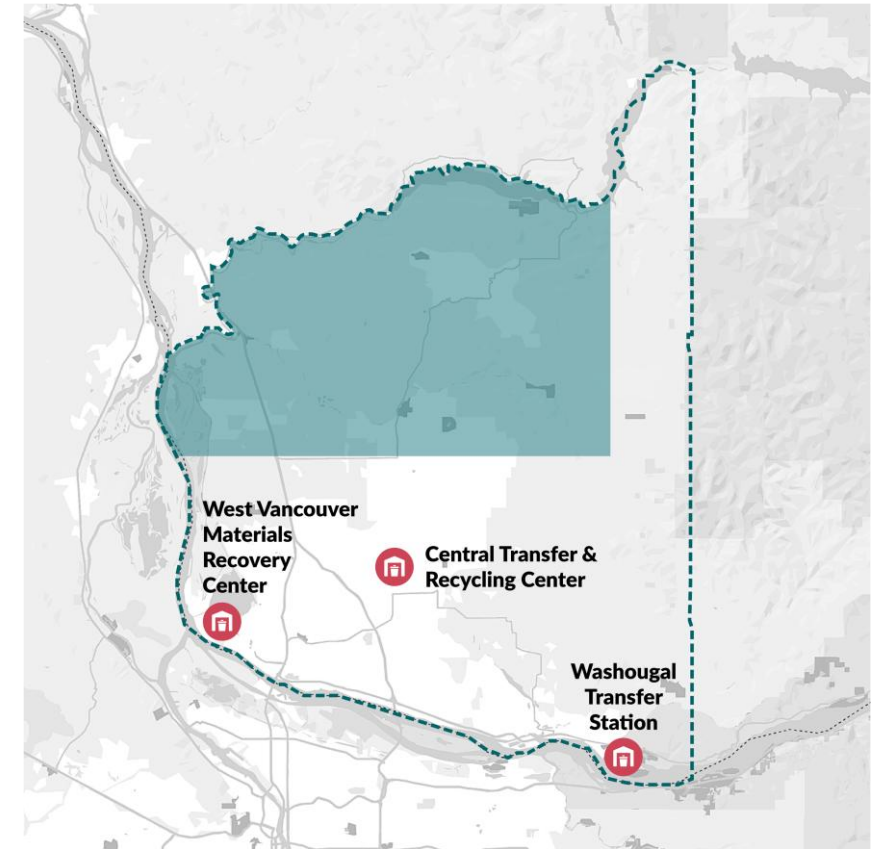


North County Transfer Station Siting Study

- Phase I – Broad Area Site Screening
 - Establish siting criteria, identify suitable properties, and conduct a thorough evaluation of potential sites
 - Screen a short-list of feasible sites

Future:

- Phase II – Focused Site Screening
 - Refine short list to two sites for environmental review



Regional Recycle Right App

- Offer Clark County residents an easy way to manage their waste and recycling
 - Customized calendar reminders
 - Specialized pick-up requests
 - How to recycle various items and dispose of garbage responsibly
- Improvements planned for fall 2027
 - Expanded educational tools
 - Games and quizzes to promote proper recycling practices



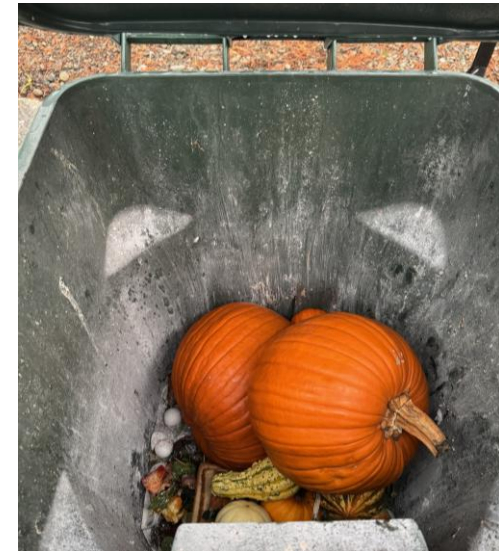
Waste Characterization Study

- Study is available at <https://clark.wa.gov/media/document/225106>
- Results will be used to:
 - Identify and evaluate trends in the regional solid waste system
 - Support decisions on rate setting
 - Improve transparency with policy makers, community partners, and the public
 - Evaluate the effectiveness of existing recycling education programs
 - Identify future waste prevention and recycling programming opportunities



We Compost Program

- Increases household access to composting
- Offers food scrap drop-off hubs throughout Clark County
- In 2025, over 186,000 pounds of food scraps were diverted from landfill
- This spring, the 18th hub was added in the Salmon Creek area



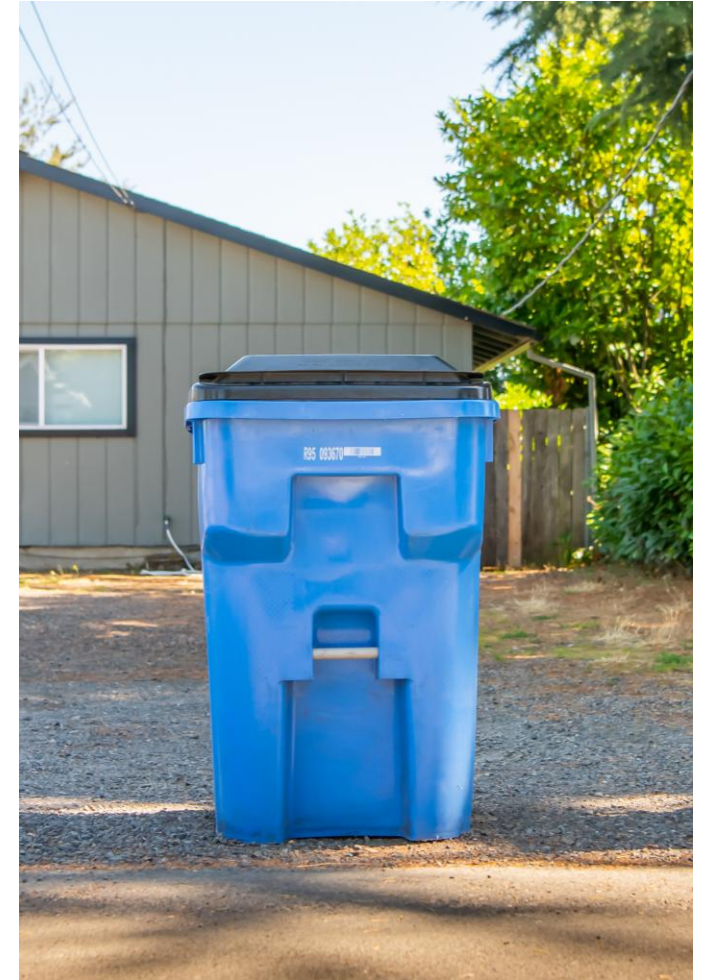
Battery Disposal

- In July 2027, residents will have expanded access to safe, free battery drop-off sites throughout the county
- The Battery Network, operating under the Battery Stewardship Law, will be adding new locations for disposing of small household batteries



Recycling Reform Act Legislative Update

- After 2030, recycling services will be offered to all households with curbside garbage service
- Drop-off access will be improved
- This will expand service for rural communities and apartment complexes



Cost-Benefit Analysis/Public Ownership

- Financial cost and benefits of three ownership, operations, and maintenance options
 - Private ownership, operation, and maintenance (current)
 - Public ownership with competitively procured operation and maintenance
 - Public ownership, operation, and maintenance
- Will be discussed at a future council meeting



SWR Division - \$1.43

- A \$1.43 County Health Fee was incorporated into the tipping fee structure beginning in 2017
 - The fee supported County public health-related solid waste activities and programs
 - The fee is scheduled to end in 2026
- Impact to Customers
 - No anticipated rate impact to customers or residents from ending the fee
 - Solid waste services and transfer station operations will continue as normal



Thank you!

Comments and questions

Clark County Public Service Center

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