

# Every-Other-Week Garbage Collection Pilot

## *Background & Findings*

Seattle City Council

Civil Rights, Utilities, Economic Development, &  
Arts Committee

*July 9, 2019*



# Current Services in Seattle

- SPU achieves fleet & cost savings with **every-other-week (EOW) recycling collection**
- Previous EOW consideration has been for **SF household garbage collection** – not multifamily or business garbage

CURRENT SERVICES			
	Garbage	Food & Yard	Recycle
Collection Frequency	Weekly	Weekly	EOW
Lbs/Mo/HH	85	75	80



# EOW Garbage Collection in Other Cities

- **Tacoma, Olympia, Renton, & Portland** have EOW garbage collection
- Many cities in **Ontario & Europe** have EOW garbage collection
- EOW garbage collection has often been considered & implemented **in conjunction with implementation of new weekly food & yard waste** collection
- Cities with municipal collection staff – like Tacoma & Olympia – have greater opportunities to achieve more direct savings in their own workforce
- Most other cities experienced some challenges in implementation & then positive customer reactions after an adjustment period



# SPU EOW Garbage Collection: Review over the Past Decade

- Prior SPU service RFP & contracts provided prices & services to consider EOW garbage collection shift for 2009, 2011, or 2013
- These options were in context of the **2009 shift to weekly yard waste** pickup with **all food scraps added**, shifting putrescible waste out of garbage
- Review included a **6-month pilot** in 2012 of EOW garbage collection in Seattle



# 2012 EOW Garbage Collection Pilot

- EOW single-family garbage collection considered to explore **potential financial, neighborhood, & environmental benefits & challenges**
- Pilot lasted **6 months** & involved **800 customers** in **4 Seattle neighborhoods**
- Full participation was required in each area with new fees & customer bill changes
- Diverse mix of neighborhoods to support Race & Social Justice review

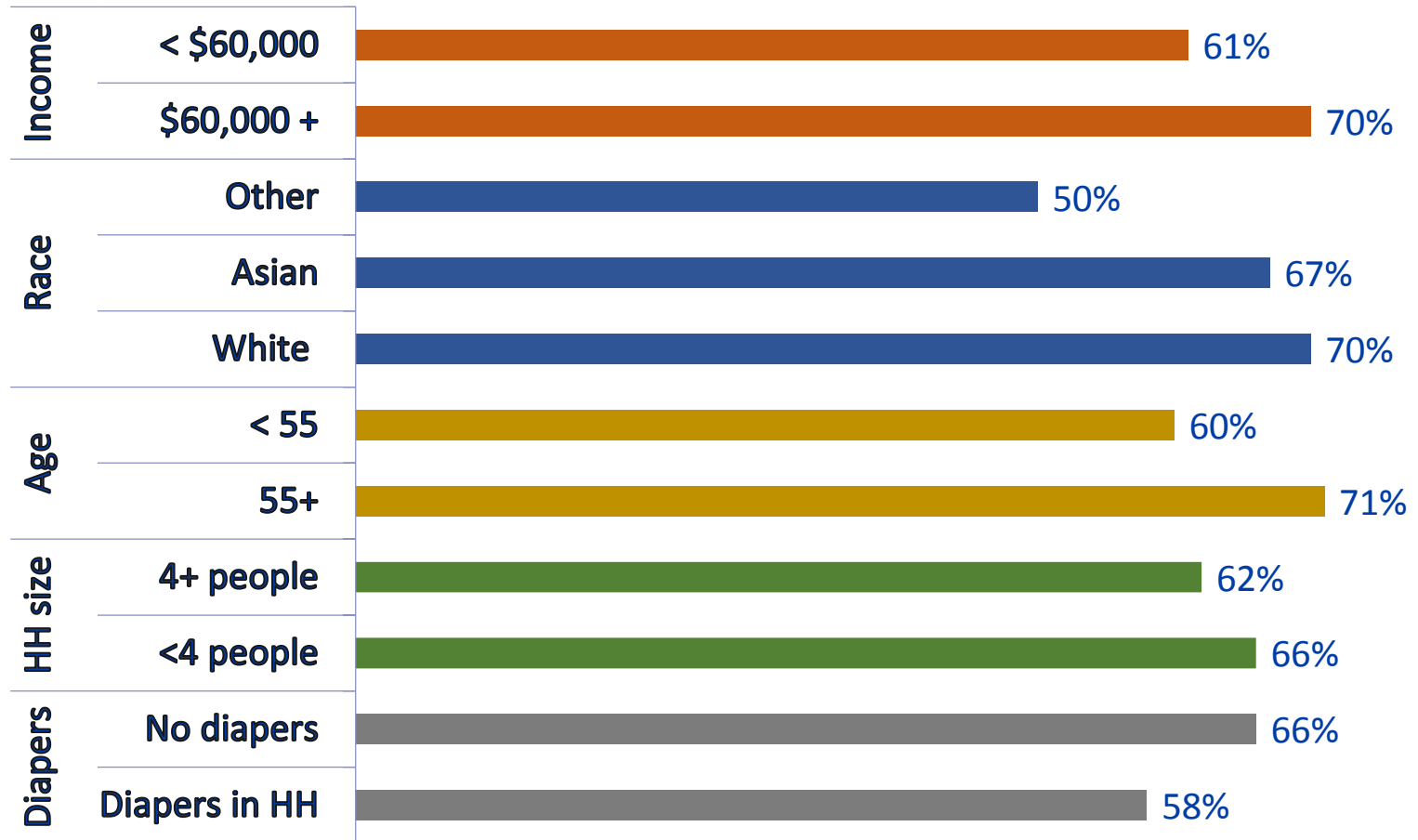


# Pilot Participant Satisfaction

- Customer satisfaction increased with experience in the Pilot
- **63% participants were satisfied** after the Pilot
  - Lower than Citywide support for weekly service at 89%
- Only **53% participants recommended** EOW implementation citywide
- **Bill savings were minor**
- **Service reduction perception**
- In other cities, satisfaction dipped initially during a transition to EOW but then rebounded



# Pilot Satisfaction Demographics



# Pilot Participant Feedback

- Satisfied participants appreciated **efficiency improvements, cost cutting, & fleet reduction, &** did not perceive significant negative impacts
- Less satisfied participants had concerns regarding having **garbage for too long, & potential for smell & odor**





# Fleet Benefits

- **~35% reduction** in fleet & related **emissions** for the **household garbage service** component
- Emission reductions are not 50% for garbage pickup because higher garbage volumes per stop translate to fewer households served per route
- Gains might represent **~15% reduction for the total contracted fleet emissions**, with related regional & global benefit
- **~25% reduction in solid waste truck traffic** on neighborhood streets



# Recycling Benefits

- **Reduced garbage & increased recycling & food waste diversion**
- Estimated EOW garbage collection would produce **9,000 new tons of diversion in 2012**
- **Diversion estimates would be lower today** due to success of 2015 food waste diversion outreach & requirement



# Financial Benefits

- **No price options** in 2019-2029 service contracts to shift to citywide EOW garbage collection
- Earlier cost reviews suggest potential ***operational savings of up to 30%*** on garbage collection costs
- If new service prices are negotiated, **amortization of the new fleet** would also need to be addressed
- Customer garbage **bill savings in most EOW scenarios are <10%** because garbage bills also cover disposal, recycling, F&YW, customer service, administration, taxes, etc.



# Future Options for EOW Garbage Collection

- SPU plans **weekly garbage for near future**
- Weekly garbage, with supporting fleet investment, is **specified in new Seattle service contracts** for 2019-2029
- Seattle could consider providing **voluntary, subscription EOW** garbage collection
- Voluntary EOW option might require **additional revenue** from all other customers to subsidize reasonable bill savings for the EOW households



# Questions?

