

Waste Prevention & Recycling Report

RECYCLE

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CRUEDA Committee Presentation
August 13, 2019

2018 Waste Prevention & Recycling Report

Annual progress report

- Details City's :
 - ✓ Progress towards recycling rate targets
 - ✓ 2018 program highlights
 - ✓ 2019 planned activities

Separate Recycling Rates are calculated for:

- Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) – SF, MF, Commercial, & Self-haul
- Construction & Demolition (C&D)

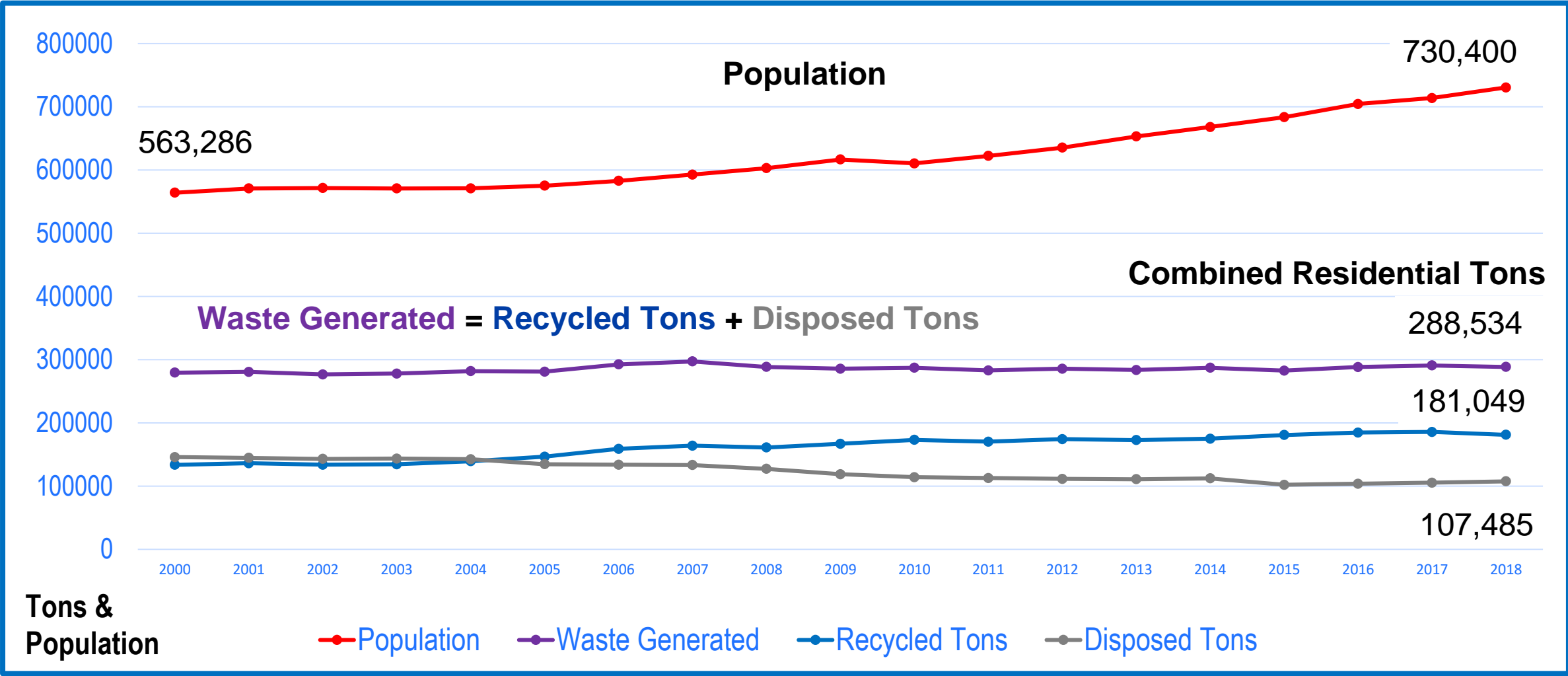


2018 Key Findings - MSW

- City-wide Recycling Rate was 56.54%, a decline of 0.49% from 2017 (57.03%)
- Combined MSW Sectors (SF, MF, Commercial, & Self-haul)
 - Total MSW Generation – 797K tons; Down 0.4%
 - Total Garbage Disposed – 346K tons; Up 0.7%
 - ❖ *(21% below City's Zerowaste Target of 2006 tonnage to landfill = 438K tons of MSW)*
 - Total Recycling – 451K tons; Down 1.3%
- Residential (SF + MF) MSW
 - Total Residential Waste Generation – 289K tons; Down 0.8%
 - ❖ **Residential Per Capita Waste Generation = 2.16 lbs/person/day; record low**
 - Residential Waste Disposed – 107K tons
 - ❖ Residential Per Capita Disposal = 0.81 lbs/person/day; maintained
 - Residential Recycling – 181K tons
 - ❖ Residential Per Capita Recycling = 1.36 lbs/person/day; down



2000-2018 Population & Residential Tons



Possible Factors Impacting 2018 Recycling Rates

- **Adjustment to backyard composting calculation** resulted in a 2,500-ton reduction in residential recycling tonnage
- **Light-weighting of recyclable materials:** though the volume diverted remains the same or increases, overall weight declines
- **Improved messaging** on how to properly recycle may increase disposal tonnage: *“When in doubt, throw it out”*
- **China’s Blue Skies** media coverage & reports of other jurisdictions’ landfilling recyclables may impact customers’ perceptions & recycling participation

Some Takeaways

- Seattle was positioned well to respond quickly to China's restrictions:
 - ❖ **No recyclables landfilled**
 - ❖ **New** domestic & international **markets** secured
 - ❖ **Improved material quality** through coordinated regional campaign
 - ❖ **Increased commercial organics** recycling & food diversion programs
- Recycling rate declined by < 1/2 percentage point; other cities will see more significant declines due to landfilling of recyclables
- **City-wide waste generation** (garbage, recycling, & composting) **declined**
- Waste prevention & product stewardship benefits are being realized



2019 Actions

- **Targeting contamination** & improving the quality of recyclables
- Working to **expand & improve domestic markets** for recyclables
- **Expanding outreach & educational** efforts re: how to recycle properly
- Working with property owners & managers to **increase accessibility**
- **Expanding programs for food** rescue & diversion
- Developing **consistent & culturally relevant messages**
- **Partnering** with community groups & regional partners



Questions?

