

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE*

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** Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.*

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: A RESOLUTION adopting Seattle's 2022 Solid Waste Plan Update: Moving Upstream to Zero Waste; revising the 2011 Revision: Picking Up The Pace Toward Zero Waste; and superseding certain requirements adopted by Resolution 30990.

Summary and Background of the Legislation:

State law requires local governments review and revise, if necessary, their comprehensive solid waste management plans every five years. This legislation would adopt Seattle Public Utilities' 2022 Solid Waste Plan Update: Moving Upstream to Zero Waste ("2022 Plan Update"), which updates the long-range plan governing Seattle's management of solid waste. It would also supersede the recycling goals established in Resolution 309990 to recycle 70 percent of the municipal solid waste produced within the city by 2022 and 70 percent of the construction and demolition waste produced in Seattle by the year 2020.

This plan update will guide how Seattle manages and finances its solid waste services and facilities over the next six years, and projects system management needs over 20 years. The 2022 Plan Update:

- Describes the solid waste system and how Seattle provides waste collection, recycling, composting, and disposal services to about 750,000 people in the city.
- Highlights historic solid waste trends, including progress toward the Plan's goals, and identifies solid waste system projections.
- Describes how Seattle advances waste prevention and diversion from landfill through policy, customer outreach and education, investments in the circular economy, and enforcing solid waste rules, regulations, and contracts.
- Recommends 39 actions for Seattle to continue innovating in solid waste management.
- Suggests new goals consistent with Seattle's growing emphasis on reducing waste at the source.

As a leader in solid waste management, Seattle has advanced a Zero Waste vision of environmentally progressive programs and planning. To move "upstream" toward Zero Waste, SPU is looking at the whole life cycle of how products and packaging are made so it can eliminate waste and toxic materials, prevent pollution, reduce carbon emissions, and conserve natural resources. Key highlights of the 2022 Plan Update include:

- Emphasizing racial equity and building resiliency in our approach to solid waste management.

- Aligning with Zero Waste policy in SPU’s approved Strategic Business Plan, Seattle’s Climate Action Plan, and Washington State’s Solid and Hazardous Waste Plan - “Moving Washington Beyond Waste and Toxics.”
- Explaining SPU’s life cycle philosophy of solid waste management that focuses “upstream” on minimizing waste at the source to reduce harmful impacts and accelerate the transition to a circular economy.
- Outlining the limitations of the recycling rate as a measure of waste prevention and
- developing metrics and targets to measure climate, programmatic, and policy impacts.

The 2022 Plan Update focuses on the City’s management goals related to solid waste management and recommended activities to achieve those goals in a safe and economical way. More specifically, the 2022 Plan Update describes how the City would manage its solid waste by preventing waste, increasing recycling and composting, and improving services over the next 20 years. Plan implementation would require future evaluation and development of programs and capital projects designed to address SPU’s solid waste issues and needs.

Before it can be implemented, the 2022 Plan Update must be adopted by the Seattle City Council and approved by the Washington State Department of Ecology.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? Yes No

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget? Yes No

Does the legislation have other financial impacts to The City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above, including direct or indirect, short-term or long-term costs?
No.

Are there financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation?
No.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- a. Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**
The legislation would adopt the 2022 Plan Update, which guides how Seattle will manage and finance its solid waste services and facilities over the next six years, and projects system management needs over 20 years. Implementing some of the recommendations in the 2022 Plan Update will require coordination with other City departments.

b. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?

No. SPU conducted a public comment review of the draft 2022 Plan Update from April 11-May 6, 2022. Results of that review appear in Appendix D Stakeholder Engagement Summary.

c. Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?

No. On April 11, 2022, a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) for the Plan was published in the Daily Journal of Commerce. The DNS was also entered in the Washington State Department of Ecology's SEPA Register (<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/separ/Main/SEPA/Record.aspx?SEPANumber=202201664>). SPU also issued a press release and published an announcement of the public comment period to the Daily Journal of Commerce.

d. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?

No.

e. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? What is the Language Access plan for any communications to the public?

To ensure consideration of racial equity throughout the comprehensive planning process, SPU worked with its Environmental Justice and Service Equity (EJSE) Team to:

- Conduct a Racial Equity Toolkit in the early development of the 2022 Plan Update, to ensure a racial equity vision was created and outcomes from this vision were identified and embedded into all phases of the planning process.
- Consider disproportionate impacts of systemic and institutional racism on People of Color, low-income individuals, immigrants and refugees, and English language learners. Impacts were considered throughout the planning process, including when considering risk and resiliency and developing new metrics to support SPU's future waste management programs and processes.
- Apply the Racial Equity Toolkit as a guiding framework for stakeholder engagement, including audiences engaged, strategies and tactics were employed, and how input was received and used.

A key outcome of applying the Racial Equity Toolkit in developing the 2022 Plan Update was to develop a recommendation to make racial equity a core tenet of solid waste planning in Seattle:

Lead with race and incorporate racial justice in solid waste programs, education, and outreach in support of SPU's commitment to providing racially equitable, inclusive, and culturally competent services.

Public engagement of the *2022 Plan Update* included reaching out to the community-based organization partners to communicate with historically underserved communities in culturally relevant ways. These partners chose the best format to share this information

within their communities and provided opportunities for comment on the *2022 Plan Update* via an online form. SPU offered interpretation services to comment on the *2022 Plan Update*.

The utility’s paid advertisements focused on working with ethnic media to provide additional outreach to underserved communities (described on page D.11 of the Plan). The ads reached over 330,000 people.

f. Climate Change Implications

1. Emissions: Is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way?

Implementation of waste prevention and diversion programs and policies addressed in the 2022 Plan Update would address global emissions associated with the production and consumption of goods and food. In particular, waste prevention strategies provide better results for reducing pollution and resource use, the reason why Seattle is looking “upstream” at how products and packaging are made to potentially prevent or reduce waste from the start.

Examples of climate mitigation-based key Zero Waste actions in the Plan Update include:

- Supply chain improvements – Prioritizing reducing greenhouse gas emissions and additional benefits in all purchasing.
- Natural asset investment – Investing in Seattle’s natural assets—including urban and watershed soils and forests—to absorb and sequester carbon from the atmosphere. This includes our composting programs.
- Waste Prevention & Diversion – Preventing and diverting waste through policy and programs that address food waste, plastics and packaging, textiles, building salvage, composting, and product stewardship.
- Circular economy – Fostering entrepreneurship, innovation, and workforce development while reducing citywide carbon emissions.

2. Resiliency: Will the action(s) proposed by this legislation increase or decrease Seattle’s resiliency (or ability to adapt) to climate change in a material way? If so, explain. If it is likely to decrease resiliency in a material way, describe what will or could be done to mitigate the effects.

Collective action by governments, non-government organizations, and communities is required to respond to climate change and increase resiliency. SPU is focusing on waste prevention strategies and metrics in solid waste programs and policies to advance Zero Waste and accelerate the transition to a circular economy.

In the current “linear” economy, a great deal of waste is created: resources are extracted from the Earth to make products and eventually throw them away. A local circular economy will foster entrepreneurship, innovation, and workforce development while reducing citywide carbon emissions.

- g. If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s)?**

NA