



2022 Solid Waste Plan Update

Moving Upstream to Zero Waste

Transportation and SPU Committee | February 21, 2023



Agenda

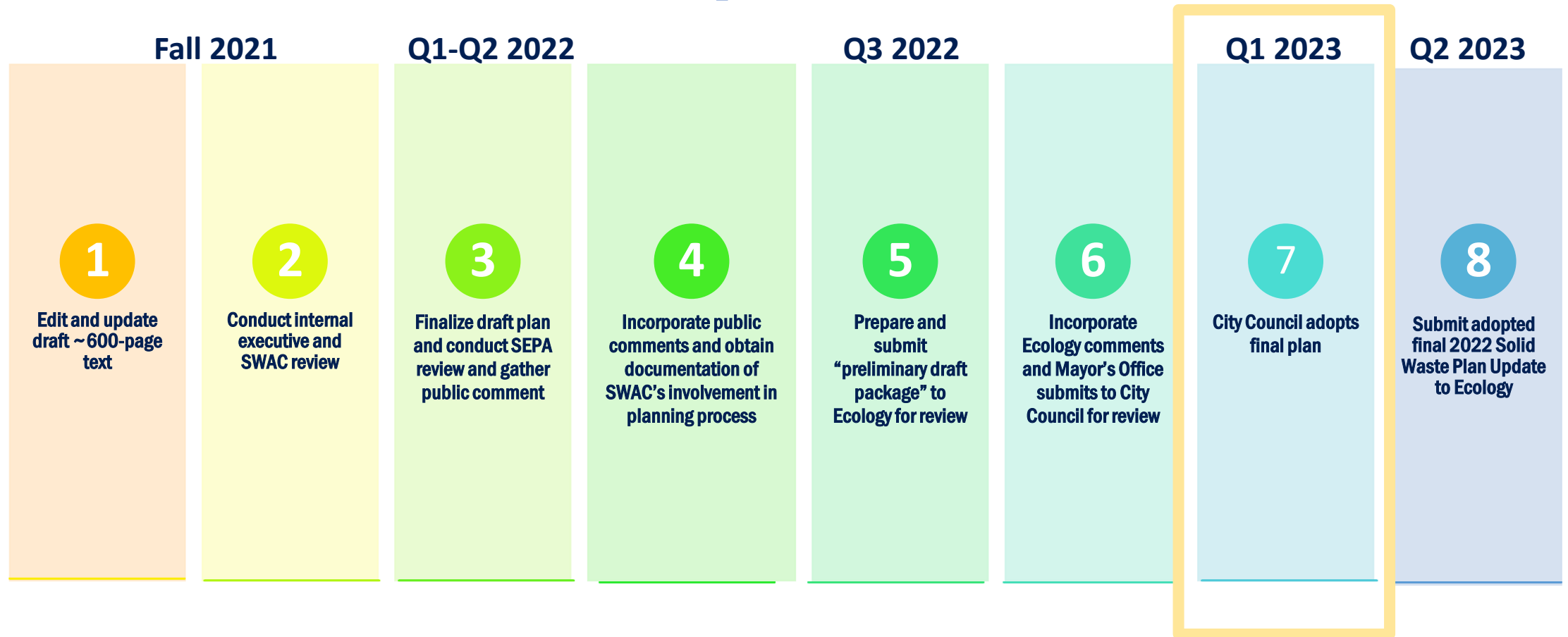
- **2022 Solid Waste Plan Update**
- **Why We Are Here**
- **Milestones for Solid Waste Plan**
- **Solid Waste Plan Overview**
- **What it Means to Move Upstream**
- **Moving Upstream Requires Rethinking Our Metrics**
- **Next Steps**

Why We Are Here:

- Seeking Full Council's Adoption of the 2022 Solid Waste Plan Update Next Month
- The State Department of Ecology has reviewed, and their comments have been addressed.
- Extensive public involvement, including City's Solid Waste Advisory Committee, public comment period, and ongoing engagement with Community Connection Partners
- The State Department of Ecology approves after Council adoption



Milestones for the 2022 Solid Waste Plan Update



Solid Waste Plan Overview

- How Seattle will manage solid waste for the next 6 years, with an outlook towards the next 20 years
- Last Plan Revision adopted 2013
- Plan Update documents existing conditions and projects future trends
- Recommends 39 actions
- Suggests creating improved metrics and targets and moving away from focus on a recycling rate in alignment with industry – Ecology has moved away from reporting recycling rate starting in 2016

City of Seattle

2022 Solid Waste Plan Update
Moving Upstream to Zero Waste (2022-2027)

December 2022



Key Highlights:



Emphasizes **racial equity** and building **resilience** in solid waste management



Aligns **key Zero Waste policy** with SPU's Strategic Business Plan, Washington's "Beyond Waste" Plan, and Seattle's Climate Action Plan



Takes a life-cycle view of materials that focuses "**upstream**" to minimize waste at the source to reduce harmful impacts



Discusses **limitations of the recycling rate** to measure waste prevention and offers alternatives

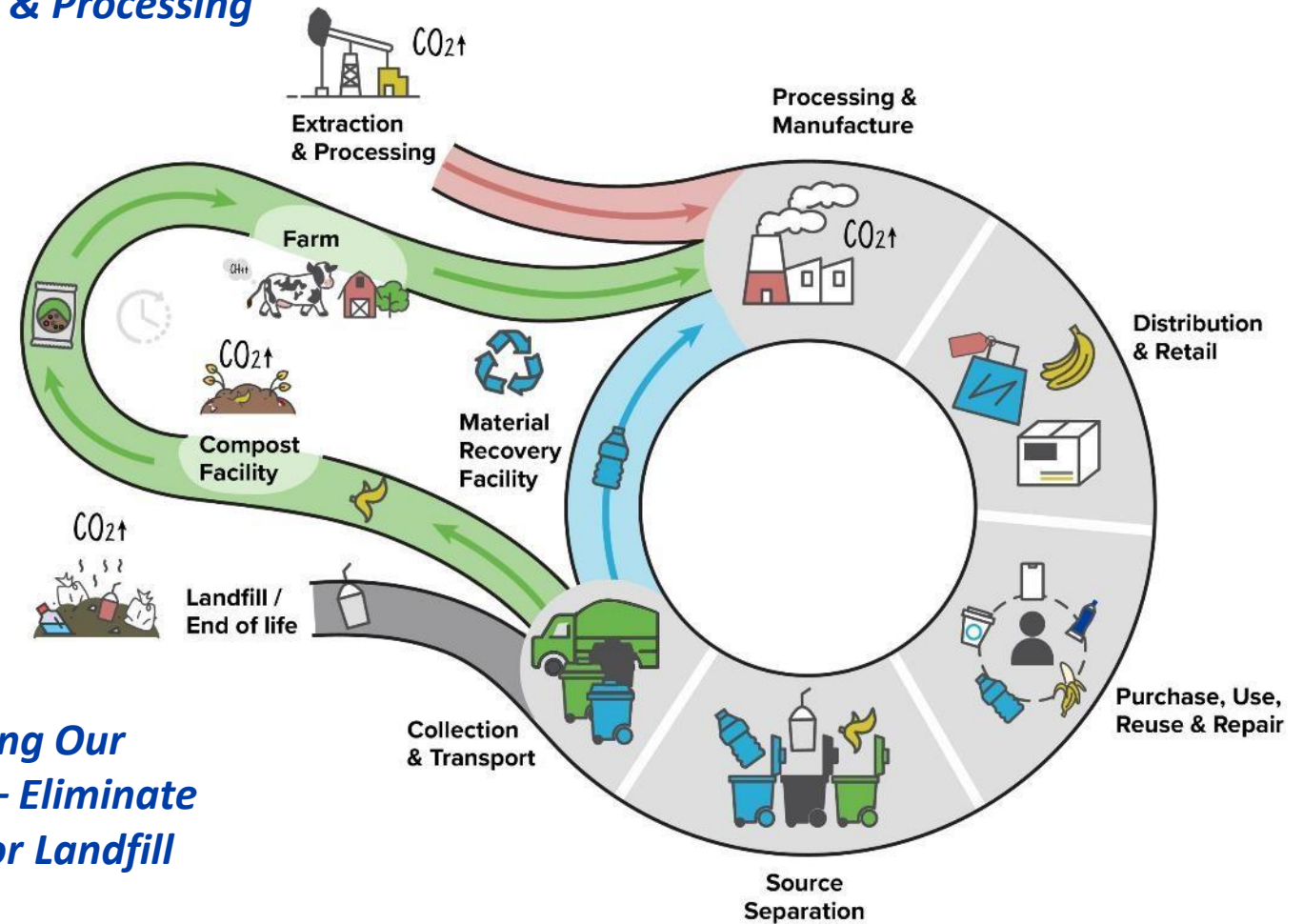


Calls for **development of metrics and targets** to measure climate, programmatic, and policy impacts

What we mean by Moving Upstream & Supporting Circularity

Advance Zero Waste by supporting & promoting policies & practices that create a circular economy & reduce Seattle waste & carbon pollution as rapidly as possible.

Achieving Our Vision – Eliminate Need for Extraction & Processing



Achieving Our Vision – Eliminate Need for Landfill

Waste Prevention & Upstream



Consumer Food Waste Prevention



Commercial Food Waste Prevention



Food Rescue



Reusable Food Service Ware



Commercial Bag Requirements



Building Salvage



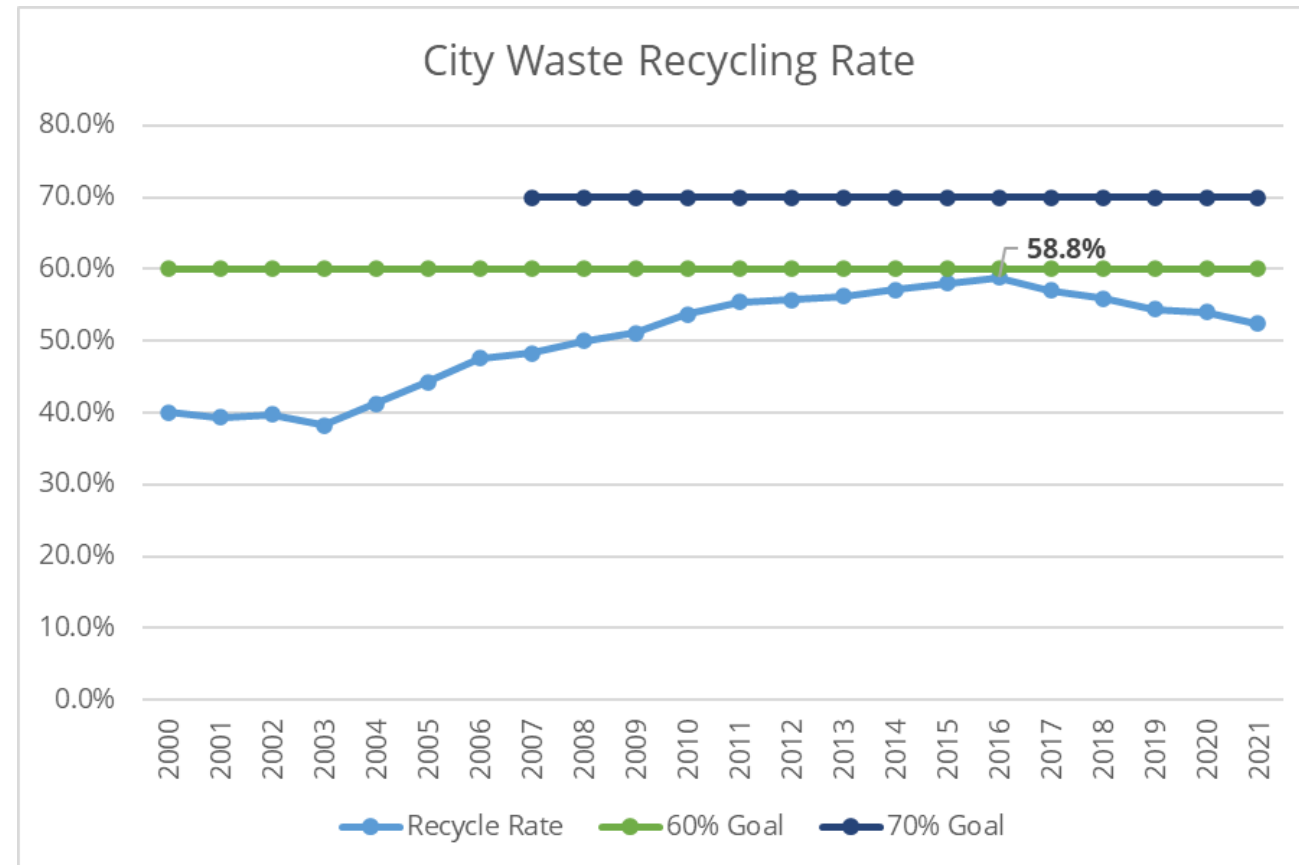
Community & Business Grants



Onsite Composting & NYC

Moving Upstream Requires Rethinking Our Metrics

- Aspired to 70% recycling
- Costly to meet, with diminishing returns
- Measures material diverted from landfill, but not waste prevention or climate impacts
- Cannot account for innovation or market disruptions
- Aligns with industry, regulators - Ecology moved away from using recycling rate as key solid waste metric in 2016
- We get closer to zero waste by producing and using less, not just recycling more



How Do We Propose to Measure Success?



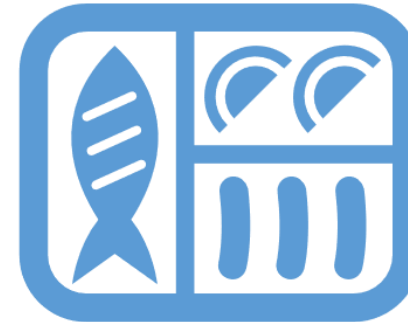
Research proposed metrics in the 2022 Plan Update, and if feasible to measure, develop targets



Standardize measurement of residential and nonresidential waste generation and disposal in a landfill



Develop new targets for limits on and/or reductions in overall waste generation and disposal in a landfill



Determine how to measure reductions in food waste



Research options to measure environmental, social, and economic benefits of avoided or prevented waste

Examples of Proposed Metrics and Targets

Metric	Potential 2030 Target
Landfilled tons	Reduce to 2015 level
Generated tons	Less than 25% increase from 2015 level
Generation per household	Pounds per day generated
Generation per-employee or per-\$1,000 B&O tax	Pounds per day generated



Key Takeaways from 2022 Solid Waste Plan Update

- Seattle has been an international leader in solid waste management for decades using incentives, programs, and policy.
- Seattle is increasing focus on the life-cycle of materials to eliminate waste and toxins, prevent pollution, reduce carbon emissions, and conserve natural resources as far “upstream” as possible.
- We get closer to Zero Waste by producing and using less, not just recycling more. Seattle’s 2022 Solid Waste Plan Update emphasizes waste prevention for the greatest environmental impact.
- Like other leaders in the solid waste industry, Seattle is rethinking long-standing solid waste goals and working to develop new ways of measuring climate, policy, and programmatic impacts, especially in waste prevention.



Next Steps

**March 7 – TSPU Committee
Consideration and Possible Vote**

March 14 – Full Council Consideration

Ecology Review for Final Approval

Questions?

