

# Acronyms

ADC	alternative daily cover
BIA	business improvement area
BPI	Biodegradable Products Institute
BYO	bring your own
C&D	construction and demolition
CAP	Clear Alleys Program
CBO	community-based organization
CBSM	community-based social marketing
CCB	Customer Care and Billing (a database)
CFC	chlorofluorocarbons
CFL	compact fluorescents lights
CIP	capital improvement program
COOP	<i>Continuity of Operations Plan</i>
CROP	<i>Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plan</i>
DRS	deposit return system
ECOSS	(formerly) Environmental Coalition of South Seattle
EJSE	Environmental Justice and Service Equity
EOP	<i>Emergency Operations Plan</i>
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPR	extended producer responsibility
EPS	expanded polystyrene (includes Styrofoam™)
FAS	Finance and Administrative Services
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
G&A	general and administrative
GHG	greenhouse gas
GIS	geographical information systems

**Acronyms**

HHW	household hazardous waste
HID	high-intensity discharge
IT	information technology
LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
MRF	materials recovery facility
MRW	moderate risk waste
MSW	municipal solid waste
NGO	nongovernmental organization
NTS	North Transfer Station
NWPSC	Northwest Product Stewardship Council
O&M	operations and maintenance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PAC	Packaging Consortium
PAYT	pay-as-you-throw
PCC	Pacific Coast Collaborative (different from PCC Community Markets)
PET	polyethylene terephthalate
PHSKC	Public Health – Seattle & King County
PNW	Pacific Northwest
PPP	packaging and paper products
PRO	producer responsibility organization
PSI	Product Stewardship Institute
PSCR	Puget Sound Regional Council
PVC	polyvinyl chloride
RAI	Refuge Artisan Initiative
RCW	Revised Code of Washington
ReFED	Rethink Food Waste through Economics and Data
RPA	Recycling Potential Assessment (model)
RRTF	Responsible Recycling Task Force
RSJI	Race and Social Justice Initiative
RV	recreational vehicle
SDCI	Seattle Department of Construction & Inspections
SDM	Seattle Discards Model

**Acronyms**

SDOT	Seattle Department of Transportation
SMC	Seattle Municipal Code
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
SODO	South of Downtown
SPC	Sustainable Packaging Coalition
SPS	Seattle Public Schools
SPU	Seattle Public Utilities
SQG	small quantity generator
STS	South Transfer Station
SWAC	Solid Waste Advisory Committee
SWLOB	Solid Waste Line of Business
TANF	Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program
WAC	Washington Administrative Code
WIC	Women, Infants and Children Program
WRAP	Waste and Resources Action Program
WSDOT	Washington State Department of Transportation

# Glossary

TERM	DEFINITION
alternative daily cover (ADC)	Materials used instead of soil to cover the surface of a landfill where waste is actively being deposited.
anaerobic digestion	The process by which organic material is broken down by micro-organisms in the absence of oxygen. This process results in emission of a CO <sub>2</sub> and methane-rich biogas that can be collected and used as an energy source. The digestate can then be landfilled or composted.
beneficial use	The use of solid waste as an ingredient in a manufacturing process, or as an effective substitute for natural or commercial products in a manner that does not pose a threat to human health or the environment. Avoidance of processing or disposal cost alone does not constitute beneficial use. One example is using clean wood as industrial boiler fuel in a manner that does not pose a threat to human health or the environment.
biosolids	Municipal sewage sludge that is a primarily organic, semisolid product resulting from the wastewater treatment process and can be beneficially recycled.
circular economy	In a circular economy, end waste products become inputs for new production instead of ending with disposal in a linear economy.
clean wood waste	Solid waste consisting of wood pieces generated as byproducts from manufacturing of wood products, hauling and storing of raw materials, tree limbs greater than four (4) inches in diameter and wood demolition waste (lumber, plywood, etc.) thrown away in the course of remodeling or construction, and waste approved for wood-waste recycling. It excludes clean yard waste, treated lumber, wood pieces, or particles containing chemical preservatives, composition roofing, roofing paper, insulation, sheetrock, and glass.

## Glossary

TERM	DEFINITION
commercial	Nonresidential locations from which solid waste is collected by the City's contractor. It includes the nonresidential portion of mixed-use buildings. Examples include stores, offices, restaurants, warehouses, and other non-manufacturing facilities.
commercial waste	All types of solid waste generated by stores, offices, restaurants, warehouses, and other non-manufacturing activities, excluding residential and industrial wastes.
commingled recycling	A method of recovery and/or collection where recyclable commodities are mixed together and sorted at a material recovery facility (MRF).
compostable	A product that completely breaks down into a stable product due to the action of microorganisms in a controlled, aerobic commercial process that results in a material safe and desirable as a soil amendment meeting the compost quality standards found under WAC 173-350-220 for metals, physical parameters, pathogens, manufactured inert material, and other testing parameters set by the local Health Department, has been found to degrade satisfactorily at the composting facility receiving the material, meets standard specification ASTM D6400, and has been certified as compostable by the Biodegradable Products Institute or similar national or international certification authority.
compostable waste	Any organic waste materials that are source separated for processing or composting, such as yard waste and food waste.
composting	The biological degradation and transformation of organic solid waste under controlled conditions designed to promote aerobic decomposition. Natural decay of organic solid waste under uncontrolled conditions is not composting.
conditionally exempt small quantity generator (CESQG)	A dangerous waste generator whose dangerous wastes are not subject to regulation under Chapter 70A.300 RCW, Hazardous Waste Management, solely because the waste is generated or accumulated in quantities below the threshold for regulation and meets the conditions prescribed in WAC 173-303-070 (8)(b).

**Glossary**

TERM	DEFINITION
construction and demolition debris (C&D)	The waste material that results from construction, remodeling, repair or demolition of buildings, roads or other structures and requires removal from the site of construction and demolition. Consists of, but is not limited, to the following materials: wood, concrete, asphalt, gypsum wallboard, glass, scrap metal, and other building materials.
construction, demolition and landclearing debris (CDL)	Includes all accepted C&D material and natural vegetation and minerals, such as stumps, brush, blackberry vines, tree branches, and associated dirt, sand, tree bark, sod, and rocks.
contamination	Materials not accepted for commingled recycling or for composting that are set out for collection with recyclable or compostable materials.
dangerous waste	Solid wastes designated in WAC 173-303-070 through WAC 173-303-103 as dangerous or extremely hazardous waste. Dangerous waste is discarded, useless, unwanted, or abandoned substances, including but not limited to certain pesticides, or any residues or containers of such substances that are disposed of in such quantity or concentration as to pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health, wildlife, or the environment because such wastes or constituents or combinations of such wastes: a) have short-lives, toxic properties that may cause death, injury, or illness or have mutagenic, teratogenic, or carcinogenic properties, or: b) are corrosive, explosive, flammable, or may generate pressure through decomposition or other means.
deconstruction	Taking apart a structure in an orderly and systematic manner to maximize salvage, reuse, and recycling.
deposit return system (DRS)	DRS programs place a small monetary deposit on a product, paid by the consumer at the time of purchase, which is refunded when the consumer returns the product packaging to a designated return location for reuse. Also called container deposit systems.
designated recyclables	Wastes separated for recycling or reuse, such as paper, metals and plastics that are identified as recyclable material pursuant to a local comprehensive solid waste plan.

**Glossary**

TERM	DEFINITION
detachable container	Also referred to as dumpster, it is a watertight, all-metal container, not less than one-half (½) cubic yard in capacity and equipped with a tight-fitting metal or other City-approved cover. The term also applies to containers of other material of similar size when approved by the Director of Seattle Public Utilities. Containers two (2) cubic yards and under are equipped with at least three (3) wheels.
discards	Items or materials cast aside because they are no longer wanted or needed.
disposable food serviceware	Non-compostable and non-recyclable containers, plates, "clamshells," serving trays, meat and vegetable trays, hot and cold beverage cups, wrappers, and utensils that are intended only for one-time use, including so-called biodegradable products where any portion is not compostable.
diversion	Materials that are taken out of the municipal solid waste stream by any method of recycling, composting and organics processing, energy production, or beneficial use that prevents disposition of material in landfills or incinerators.
drop box	Also referred to as "rolloff" or "lugger" or "dino," it is a metal container, of three (3) to forty (40) cubic-yard-capacity, capable of being mechanically loaded onto a collection vehicle for transport to a disposal facility.
Dumpster	Also called detachable container.
electronic waste (e-waste)	Waste products produced as a result of spent, unusable, or unwanted electronics. Examples include computer monitors, televisions, cellphones, and computers.
end market (for recycling)	A manufacturer or recycling center which accepts recyclable materials to use as feedstock in a manufacturing process.
environmental justice	The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

## Glossary

TERM	DEFINITION
extended producer responsibility (EPR)	A mandatory type of product stewardship that includes, at a minimum, the requirement that the manufacturer's responsibility for its product extends to post-consumer management of that product and its packaging. There are two related features of EPR policy: (1) shifting financial and management responsibility, with government oversight, upstream to the manufacturer and away from the public sector; and (2) providing incentives to manufacturers to incorporate environmental considerations into the design of their products and packaging.
flow control	A local or state government having the authority to direct municipal solid waste (MSW) to certain facilities.
food rescue	Capturing surplus food that would otherwise go to waste from grocery stores, food service businesses, and other venues by diverting it to local food banks and meal programs. Food rescue is sometimes called edible food recovery.
garbage	All discarded putrescible waste matter, including small dead animals weighing not over fifteen (15) pounds, but not including sewage or sewage sludge or human or animal excrement or yard waste.
grasscycling	Leaving grass clippings on the lawn after mowing to decompose and provide nutrients; also known as mulch mowing.
green building	The practice of creating structures and using processes that are environmentally responsible, resource-efficient, comfortable, and healthy throughout a building's life cycle from siting to design, construction, operation, maintenance, renovation and deconstruction.
green purchasing	Also known as environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP) or responsible purchasing. The procurement of products or services that cause less harm to human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose.



## Glossary

TERM	DEFINITION
household hazardous waste (HHW)	Discarded liquid, solid, contained gas, or sludge, including any material, substance, product, commodity or waste used or generated in the household, regardless of quantity, that exhibits any of the characteristics or criteria of dangerous waste set forth in Chapter 173.303 WAC.
landfill	A disposal facility or part of a facility at which solid waste is permanently placed in or on land, including facilities that use solid waste as a component of fill.
leachate	A liquid that is formed when rain water filters through wastes placed in a landfill. When this liquid comes in contact with buried wastes, it leaches, or draws out, chemicals or constituents from those wastes.
light-weighting	The trend of packaging becoming lighter due to improved container design and engineering, which has made weight-based recycling rates less reliable as a measure of recycling practices because the weight of recyclables can decrease even when higher numbers of containers are recycled.
litter	Solid waste such as, but not limited to, disposable packages and containers dropped, discarded or otherwise disposed of upon any property.
material recovery facility (MRF)	Any facility that collects, sorts, processes, compacts, repackages, or bales for transport source-separated solid waste for recycling.
moderate risk waste (MRW)	Solid waste that is limited to conditionally exempt small quantity generator (CESQG) waste and household hazardous waste (HHW) as defined in Chapter WAC 173-350.
municipal solid waste (MSW)	Solid waste excluding unacceptable wastes, recyclable materials, compostable wastes, and CDL.
nonresidential waste	Solid waste that does not come from residential sources.
organics (organic materials)	Organic materials that include landscaping and yard waste, food waste, wood, and soiled/low-grade paper. While manures, crop residues, and biosolids are also organic materials, the <i>2022 Solid Waste Plan Update</i> addresses primarily organics that can be collected and processed through local processing facilities or backyard composting.

**Glossary**

TERM	DEFINITION
product stewardship	An environmental management strategy that means whoever designs, produces, sells, or uses a product takes responsibility for minimizing the health, safety, environmental, and social impacts of a product and its packaging throughout all life cycle stages, while also maximizing economic benefits, including end-of-life management. The manufacturer, or producer, of the product has the greatest ability to minimize adverse impacts, but other stakeholders, such as suppliers, retailers, and consumers, also play a role. Stewardship can be either voluntary or required by law.
public place	Includes streets, avenues, ways, boulevards, drives, places, alleys, sidewalks and planting (parking) strips, squares, triangles, and rights-of-way, whether open to the use of the public or not, and the space above or beneath the surface of the same.
racial equity	Racial equity is the condition that would be achieved if racial identity no longer predicted, in a statistical sense, how a person fares. Equity is the outcome, not just access to opportunity. As one part of racial justice, racial equity includes work to address root causes of inequities.
recycle / recycling	Transforming or remanufacturing waste materials into usable or marketable materials for use other than incineration (including incineration for energy recovery) or other methods of disposal
recycling rate	A weight-based metric that measures the percentage of generated waste that is diverted from the landfill by recycling and composting. Seattle also includes available reuse data in the calculation of its recycling rate
residential	Any house, dwelling, multiunit residence, apartment house, trailer court or any building put to residential use. The term does not include mixed use buildings.
residuals	Materials left over after sorting or processing that are not included in commodity bales or finished organic products. Residuals can include recyclable or compostable materials as well as contaminants.

**Glossary**

TERM	DEFINITION
resiliency	The ability to plan, adapt, and respond to disruptions, changes, and opportunities. For SPU, resiliency means the capacity to recover in the face of sudden or gradual stressors that impact utility services and the community.
Responsible Recycling Framework	A framework developed by the King County Responsible Recycling Task Force consisting of seven elements or practices that help define, support, and lead to a commingled curbside recycling system that produces recyclable materials that are clean and suitable for remanufacture and do not contribute to environmental pollution or endanger human health and safety.
reuse	Using an object or material again, either for its original purpose or for a similar purpose, without significantly altering the physical form of the object or material.
salvage	Recovery of valuable or useful C&D materials for reuse.
self-haul	When generators of solid waste transport their own materials to one of Seattle’s transfer stations rather than using the hauling services of the Seattle’s contracted haulers or a third-party. Self-haul includes residents and businesses who bring waste they create for drop-off at City-owned transfer stations. It also includes waste from nonresidential generators that do not use the City’s solid waste contractors, including the Seattle Housing Authority, University of Washington, and military establishments
small quantity generator (SQG)	A business that generates of any discarded liquid, solid, contained gas or sludge, including any material, substance, product, commodity or waste that exhibits any of the characteristics or criteria of dangerous waste set forth in Chapter 173.303 WAC, but which is exempt from regulation as dangerous waste.
soil amendment	Any material, such as compost, added to soil to improve its physical, biological, and chemical properties.

## Glossary

TERM	DEFINITION
solid waste	All putrescible waste and non-putrescible waste, solid, semisolid and liquid wastes, including but not limited to garbage, rubbish, yard waste, ashes, industrial wastes, infectious wastes, swill, construction, demolition and landclearing wastes, abandoned vehicles or parts thereof, and recyclable materials. This includes all liquid, solid and semisolid materials which are not the primary products of public, private, industrial, commercial, mining, and agricultural operations. Solid waste includes but is not limited to sludge from wastewater treatment plants, seepage from septic tanks, wood waste, dangerous waste, hazardous substances, and problem wastes.
Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)	An advisory committee established at the local level within each planning jurisdiction and at the state level. Assists in development of programs and policies concerning solid waste handling and disposal and to review and comment on proposed rules, policies, or ordinances prior to their adoption.
source separation	The separation of different kinds of solid waste at the place where the waste originates.
State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)	A way to identify possible environmental impacts that may result from governmental decisions.
sustainability	Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
sustainable materials management	An approach to minimize negative health and environmental impacts of materials along their entire life cycle including design, manufacturing, and use—not just end-of-life.
transcreation	A culturally relevant translation conducted with the help of audience research. Where translation simply changes words into another language, transcreation ensures the meaning is clear, appropriate, and relevant in another culture.
transfer station	A permanent, fixed, supplemental collection and transportation facility used by persons and route collection vehicles to deposit collected solid waste from offsite into a larger transfer vehicle for transport to a solid waste handling facility.

**Glossary**

TERM	DEFINITION
triple-bottom line	An accounting framework that incorporates three dimensions of performance: social, environmental, and financial
unacceptable waste	All waste not authorized for disposal at the Columbia Ridge Landfill and Recycling Center or successor site designated by the City, by those governmental entities having jurisdiction or any waste the disposal of which would constitute a violation of any governmental requirement pertaining to the environment, health or safety. Unacceptable Waste includes any waste that is now or hereafter defined by federal law or by the disposal jurisdiction as radioactive, dangerous, hazardous or extremely hazardous waste and vehicle tires in excess of those permitted to be disposed of by the laws of the disposal jurisdiction.
waste characterization	The composition and ratio of materials in the total waste stream. Also sometimes referred to as a “waste audit.”
waste management hierarchy	The prioritization of methods for managing solid and hazardous waste that places reducing waste at the highest priority, followed by recycling, and safe disposal.
waste prevention	Also sometimes referred to as waste reduction or “precycling.” The practice of minimizing waste through responsible purchasing and consumerism. Essentially, removing waste from the waste stream by not creating it in the first place.
yard waste	Plant material (leaves, grass clippings, branches, brush, flowers, roots, wood waste, etc.); debris commonly thrown away in the course of maintaining yards and gardens, including sod and rocks not over four (4) inches in diameter; and biodegradable waste approved for the yard waste programs.

Glossary

TERM	DEFINITION
zero waste	<p><i>Definition from 2021–2026 SPU Strategic Plan:</i> Zero Waste means we strive for a waste-free society by creating new practices and policies to reduce or reuse waste and build an economy where the continual use of resources is supported.</p> <p><i>Definition from Zero Waste International:</i> The conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials without burning and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health.</p>