

Appendix 4

Preliminary List of Potential Waste Reduction and Recycling Options

Note: Developing this list was an early step in planning. As the Plan evolved, some actions were included, some were revised and some were discarded or deferred for later consideration.

GOAL/TYPE OF ACTION

POTENTIAL ACTIONS

GOAL/TYPE OF ACTION	POTENTIAL ACTIONS
Goal 1: Reduce overall waste generated in Olympia (garbage and recyclables).	
1. Education and technical assistance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenge the community (residents, employers, neighborhoods, institutions) to help achieve waste reduction goals. Offer consumer education on ways to reduce waste; e.g., bulk purchasing, donating and buying used products, choosing non-toxic products, reusable versus throwaway packaging and containers. Provide technical assistance to businesses to help them reduce quantity and toxicity of packaging for products they receive. Offer advice and resources to help local producers and retailers design products and packaging for Zero Waste. Work with specific business sectors to identify and promote waste preventing actions; e.g., hospitals, law firms, restaurants. (Some business groups already set up could serve as model.) Support/promote a vibrant reuse economy for serviceable products and materials; e.g., promote existing second hand stores.
2. Incentives and disincentives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess a non-refundable product charge on single and limited-use products sold in Olympia (e.g., disposable diaper, plastic utensils, Styrofoam cups, razors, etc.); or work for state law if not feasible locally. Establish an awards program for businesses that implement and document waste prevention efforts; e.g., window stickers, ad in the paper, breakfast with Council member.
3. Extended producer responsibility; i.e., taking back products and/or paying for reuse/recycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for legislation to increase producer cradle-to-grave responsibility for their products. Support and assist manufacturers to implement voluntary or legislated enhanced producer responsibility programs (like the recent State e-waste legislation). Promote existing retailer take back programs such as batteries, and establish (or promote) opportunities for recovery/take back of other products; e.g., electronics, thermometers. Help develop markets for recyclables and recycled products.
Goal 2: Increase the quantity of recyclable and compostable materials diverted from the landfill.	
1. Residential recycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue current residential curbside collection. Add new materials to residential curbside program. Collect multi-family recycling with dumpsters or drop boxes instead of carts. Provide customers with information on how to increase recycling. Increase rate incentive for residents to divert recyclables from the garbage. Ban certain recyclables from the garbage.

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GOAL/TYPE OF ACTION

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Goal 2: Increase the quantity of recyclable and compostable materials diverted from the landfill.

<p>2. Commercial recycling.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Offer City recycling collection service to businesses. ■ Implement education campaign for large paper consumers to encourage maximum recycling. ■ Ban certain recyclables from the garbage. ■ Require new commercial developments to have indoor/outdoor space for recycling. ■ Provide containers for recycling as well as trash in downtown area. ■ Work with hoteliers to provide recycling containers in each room.
<p>3. Organics composting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Continue yard waste collection with additional incentives/disincentives. ■ Increase rate incentive for residents to divert yard waste from garbage. ■ Ban yard waste from the garbage. ■ Introduce residential and commercial food debris collection. ■ Promote local composting of organics, sale of compost and other products.
<p>4. C&D debris.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Promote existing and new opportunities for recycling C&D debris. ■ Create incentives/disincentives to increase construction industry recycling of C&D materials; e.g., lower roofing permit fee if shingles are recycled. ■ Encourage (or mandate) Green Building principles for all major new construction in Olympia; i. e. design standards, use of recycled and non-toxic materials. ■ Use building permits to establish requirements/incentives for deconstruction and job site recycling.
<p>5. Other.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Outreach to schools and colleges to encourage waste reduction and recycling (e.g., providing recycling containers and lunchroom composting).

Goal 3: Manage Olympia’s waste system responsibly.

<p>1. Operations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Continue alternating weekly collection, transfer and disposal of garbage and single-stream recyclables. ■ Separate collection of glass (could improve glass recyclability, but could reduce volume). ■ Plan for emergencies, including disposal and recovery of recyclable materials from disaster debris. ■ Support development of a local materials recovery center to process recyclables.
<p>2. Planning/management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Do a regular independent waste characterization study of Olympia’s garbage to track quantities of recyclables still in the garbage. ■ Establish requirements/incentives in recyclables processing contracts to ensure minimum discards to landfill. ■ Evaluate current and emerging technology for applicability to Olympia (e.g., weight-based rates and equipment). ■ Support Thurston County in improving operations at the WARC to increase recovery of recyclable materials. ■ Collaborate with Thurston County Environmental Health to educate citizens about options for safely disposing of hazardous materials. ■ Increase staffing to build capacity in undeveloped core functions: planning and program management, technical assistance/code enforcement, monitoring/research/evaluation, public involvement/education. ■ Increase staffing if needed for core services with growing service demands: operation & maintenance, administration.

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GOAL/TYPE OF ACTION

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Other: Internal City government actions.

<p>1. Planning, coordination and evaluation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Adopt a Zero Waste resolution for the City; encourage Thurston County to do the same. ■ Develop a Zero Waste strategic plan for City government, including internal goals for waste reduction and recycling. ■ Create and maintain a process for identifying and implementing Zero Waste strategies in all City departments; track City recycling/composting performance and report annually. ■ Create an interdepartmental coordinating team accountable to Council for implementing plan. ■ Establish a City Zero Waste office/position to manage and monitor in-house practices. ■ Create a new name for the Waste Management utility; encourage Thurston County to do the same. ■ Create partnerships with other entities to share best practices and results (e.g., State of Washington, Fort Lewis, The Evergreen State College). ■ Share information about everything the City is doing with neighboring cities, counties, state and federal agencies, private businesses; become a global leader in zero waste.
<p>2. Purchasing and contracting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Maximize City purchasing of recycled content materials. ■ Develop purchasing specifications to reduce packaging; e.g., require delivery of computers with minimal packaging ■ Establish purchasing practices that reduce or eliminate purchase of products containing PBTs (such as mercury, PVC, PBDEs), as well as herbicides and pesticides. ■ Review current purchasing practices and comply with requirements. ■ Require the new City Hall and other new/remodeled City buildings to comply with Green Building standards and to provide space for recycling. ■ Explore the possibility of adding additional materials to requirement for recycled content (e.g., plastic park benches and fencing).

