

From: First-Nonviolence <FirstNonViolence@pm.me>
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 4:16 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Re: Public Comment Virtual Tonight - Docs Attached Take #3
Attachments: 2025.04.15-Proof of Concept Plan.docx; 2025.04.15-Tacoma City Council 2 Min Talk (2).docx

Well, I am pushing it to ask you to now use yet another version for the documents.

I apologize.

Paul

Paul Quinn
Cell: 206-515-9165
Mail: FirstNonViolence@pm.me

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

On Tuesday, April 15th, 2025 at 4:12 PM, First-Nonviolence <FirstNonViolence@pm.me> wrote:

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On Tuesday, April 15th, 2025 at 3:55 PM, City Clerk's Office <cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org> wrote:

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Have a good night.

Thank you,
City of Tacoma | City Clerk's Office
253.591.5505



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I will be virtual. Shall I just connect at 5pm using: Webinar Link:
www.zoom.us/j/84834233126 Passcode: 349099

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SMART Disposal

Proof Of Concept Plan

Objective: To prove the feasibility of weighing single-family residence containers when they're emptied for disposal without, in any way, slowing down or delaying the garbage truck pickup time.

- Weighing each container can be done with reasonable accuracy.
- The truck driver does not need to take any special actions to make the system work.
- The residence container's number can be accurately read by the optical character recognition (OCR) system.
- The container's number and its weight can be transmitted from the truck-based system into a cloud database. These records can then be accessed for analysis and for postcard-type reports.

Requirements of the Proof of Concept:

1. The city will:

- a. Procure a rented side-loader garbage truck, with the manufacturer and model type provided by Loadman (the manufacturer of the scale).
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 Loadman / Creative Microsystems, Inc.
 15224 SE Renton Issaquah Road
 Renton, WA 98059
 - ii. When the truck is delivered to Loadman, loan them five disposal containers matching the types used within the city for single-family residences.
- d. Provide an independent scale to obtain verified weights of each container and, separately, its contents.
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- f. Provide several bags of sufficient weight to effectively simulate disposal weights at single-family residences.
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- a. Loadman installation/deinstallation of the scale on rental truck plus support as needed:
\$17,800

- b. Big Truck Rental of a Heil Python side-loader garbage truck (4-week minimum):
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3. Video filming:

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 - iv. Proposed bids from local videographers are available.
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 - i. Up to 3 days of on-site videoing, approximately 6 hours per day @\$200 per hour - \$3,600
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 - iii. Post-production editing, music licensing, etc... up to \$4,500.
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Agenda item for the Mtg

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Good evening, Mayor, and Councilmembers. My name is Paul Quinn, and I live in Sammamish. I am speaking to you as an individual, that not working for a company, rather I care about fairness in how **Tacoma’s** solid-waste customers are charged for disposal.

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To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Re: Public Comment Virtual Tonight
Attachments: 2025.04.15-Diversion Analysis & Handouts.pdf; 2025.04.15-Proof of Concept Plan.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Handout #1 - Analysis of City Tonnage and Diversion Rates

City of Tacoma

YTD Jul-24

1 Tonnage (total all types)	YTD Jul-23	% of Total	YTD Jul-24	% of Total
Single-Family	62,696	42%	63,751	43%
Commercial	88,196	58%	84,603	57%
Total	150,891	100%	148,354	100%

2 Tonnage (by how disposed)	YTD Jul-23	% of Total	YTD Jul-24	% of Total
Garbage (landfill)	120,137	80%	116,446	78%
Recycle	14,295	9%	13,589	9%
Food Scraps / Yardwaste	16,459	11%	18,320	12%
Total	150,891	100%	148,354	100%

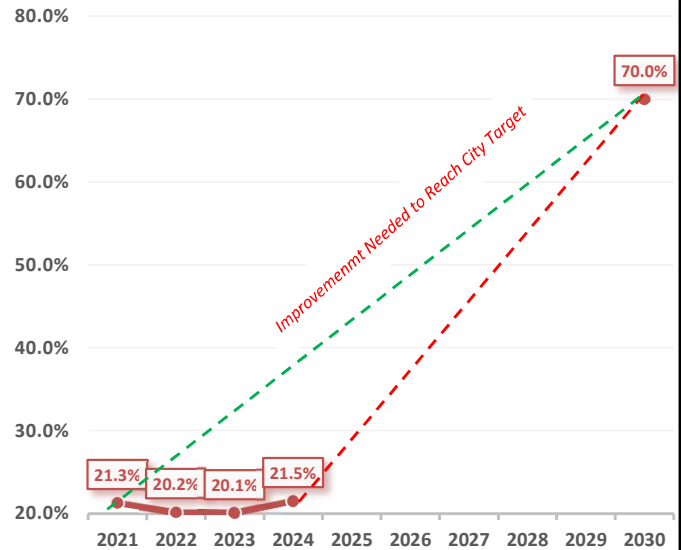
3 Diversion Rate	YTD Jul-23	YTD Jul-24	vs Prior YR
Single-Family	42%	44%	1.6%
Commercial	5%	5%	-0.1%
% of tot. waste put in recycling & food scraps / yardwaste bins	20.4%	21.5%	1.1%

4 Missed Opportunity^	YTD Jul-23	YTD Jul-24
Tons of Recycle & Food Scraps / Yardwaste in Landfill	80,492 tons	78,019 tons

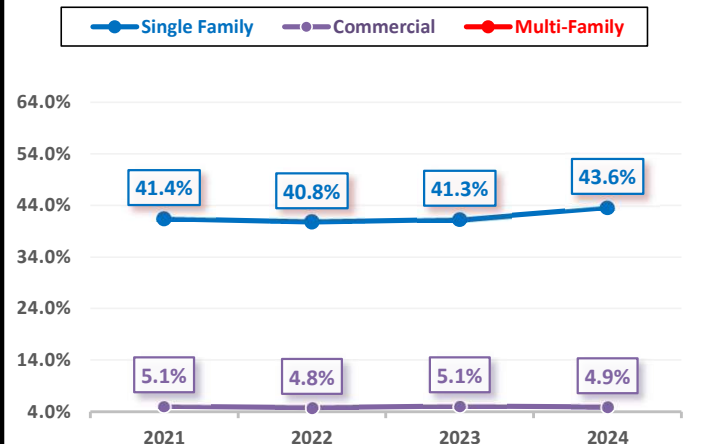
5 How Many Pickup Sites Do Not have a Recycle or a Food Scraps / Yardwaste Container

	Garbage Container	No Recycle Container	No Food Scraps / Yardwaste Container
Single-Family	56,628	(642)	(2,356)
Commercial	4,643	(679)	(3,971)

TOTAL DIVERSION RATE



DIVERSION RATES, NOT IMPROVING BY CATEGORY



Each month Tacoma sends to landfill 11146 tons that could have gone here



% of what's dumped in landfill could be diverted to recycling or compost^



^ estimate based on King County 2022 Waste Characterization and Customer Survey; 2/3's of what is put in landfill could have been diverted

* Roll-off tonnage data, if provided, are applied to primary-source category. Roll-off tonnage is typically generated by open-top dumpsters, at some businesses & apartments, and at sites of construction or home renovation.

Handout #2 - Recommended Actions to Improve City Diversion Rates

City of Tacoma

What We CAN do to Improve Diversion Rates NOW

CITYWIDE

- 1 Include, in each newsletter sent to residents, the most current diversion statistics and tips to improve their rates of recycling and composting
- 2 Initiate a program to provide each household and business both a free indoor recycling container and a free countertop kitchen-scrap container (typically your disposal company will help defray costs)
- 3 Change pickup schedules to have garbage picked up every other week while retaining every week pickup for recycling and compost



SINGLE-FAMILY

- 1 Pass a City Ordinance to require all 2356 remaining single-family homes to utilize a food scrap / yardwaste barrel
- 2 Start a pilot with 100 residents where diversion advisors review weekly contents of trash, recycle, and compost containers and provide feedback to improve accuracy of material disposal

BUSINESS

- 1 Pass a City Ordinance to require all businesses serving the public to make available a recycle container. This would include some of the 679 remaining businesses
- 2 Require each business to work with the disposal company to assure all public-facing disposal containers match the colors used by residents. This would increase accuracy of disposal of materials.
- 3 Pass a City Ordinance to require all businesses serving the public to make available a food scraps container. This would include some of the 3971 remaining businesses

MULTI-FAMILY

- 1 Pass a City Ordinance to require all 0 remaining multi-family locations to make available a food scrap / yardwaste container

What We CAN do to Improve Diversion Rates In the Near Future

In the next disposal contract or amendment, require this:

Require that each container picked up **(a)** be identified (using RFID tag or number already on container) and **(b)** be weighed before and after being dumped into the truck. This **SMART Disposal** program would facilitate improved diversion rates by pickup location. *(this technology already exists, see handout #3)*

Once in place, this program would help each person understand how they are doing in comparison to their neighbors (like PSE does now)

Handout #3 - *SMART Disposal* And Why We Need It

City of Tacoma

Why should we make changes in landfill diversion now?

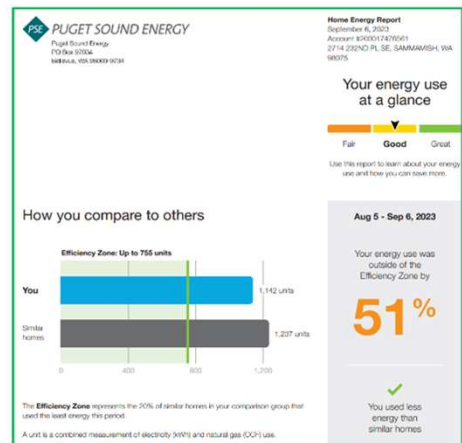
SMART Disposal, which weighs each container emptied by the disposal company, provides individual weight information to city residents and businesses, helping us move from a “toss and forget” mindset toward making better choices. We all know that feedback through measurement works because our water, electricity, and gas are all metered, helping us to moderate our use. We wouldn't want to pay for other people's use of water or power, yet we are now paying disposal fees based on container size and not weight. **This is not fair and fails to incentivize landfill diversion.** Would PSE ever try to base our energy bill on the size of our houses? Does the water district base charges on the size of the pipes entering our homes? It just makes sense that our disposal fees should be based on weight usage and not on container size. **SMART Disposal** effectively meters our actual use of the disposal utility, providing a basis for charges that are fairer.

Why incentivize diverting waste from the landfill?

Landfill diversion is cheaper for haulers as they will be charged for less tonnage put in the landfill. These savings should be passed on to residents and businesses when they reduce trash and increase their recycling and composting. We should reward people for making better recycling and composting decisions.

How do we incentivize residents and businesses to divert from the landfill items which can be recycled or composted?

Let's provide each of us with information about how we're doing relative to comparable locations, just as PSE is already doing.



Is **SMART Disposal** even possible? Does the technology exist?

Yes! A company in Renton, WA, Loadman - Creative Microsystems, Inc., has the product right now.

An article from WasteAvantage Magazine, titled, “Waste Haulers Get on Board With On-Board Weighing¹” shows that this approach is ready now. A

notable quote from this article: "Anything less than real-time feedback is inaccurate and prevents customers from making immediate changes."

SMART Disposal Benefits the City In Several Ways

1. Lowers landfill tonnage
2. Lowers greenhouse gas emissions
3. Lowers costs to residents and businesses
4. Lowers costs to disposal companies

¹ <https://wasteadvantagemag.com/waste-haulers-get-on-board-with-on-board-weighing/>

Handout #4 - Example Postcard Sent to Residents

Home Trash Reduction Report

1234 Anywhere St., Tacoma, WA 98074

Composting
food scraps / yard
waste

Recycling

Trash

Your Average Pounds Last Two Pickups

5 lbs

10 lbs

20 lbs

Improving!

Your Average Pounds Prior Mth (4 pickups)

4 lbs

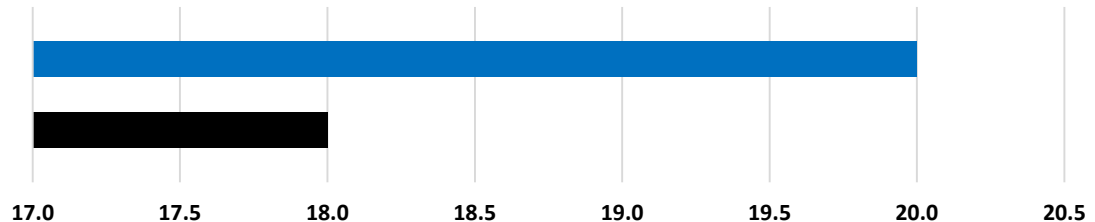
8 lbs

23 lbs

How you compare to others in your neighborhood (pounds of trash per week)

You

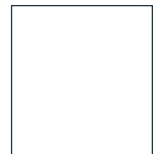
Your Neighbors



Tips on 3 items, among many, you can compost:

- 1 Paper take-out food containers (e.g. fast food)
- 2 Used paper towels
- 3 Pasta

Tacoma Supports Recycling and Composting!



Single Family Resident
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Tacoma, WA 98074

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