

# Sustainable Materials Management Plan

City of Tacoma

SWANA Technical Session  
February 26, 2016

A faint, circular seal of the City of Tacoma is visible in the background. The seal features a mountain range, a sun, and a body of water with a ship. The text "SEAL OF THE CITY OF" is visible around the top edge of the seal.

# Background

- City of Tacoma Climate 2008 Action Plan
  - Maximizing commercial and residential recycling and reuse, and proper deconstruction of buildings.
- 2008 Tacoma-Pierce County Solid Waste Management Plan
  - Waste diversion goal of 70 percent or more by 2028,
- City of Tacoma Resolution No. 38907
  - Reaffirmed 70 % Goal on May 13, 2014
  - Resolution required development of a Sustainable Materials Management Plan.

# Solid Waste Division

- Tacoma Solid Waste Management
  - Operates both collection and transfer operations
  - Residential and Commercial Collection, recycling and organics
- Accomplishments:
  - Excellence Awards from the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) for Collection Operations and Transfer Station Operations
  - Doubled the tons of waste diverted from 2000 to 2014 (111% increase)

# Rationale for the Plan

- Why is it necessary?
  - Tacoma is at roughly a 54% diversion rate.
  - Reaching a diversion rate of 70% will require enhanced as well as new approaches.
  - Limited resources mean tough choices will have to be made
  - Solid Waste Management Plan calls for analysis of options for diversion before implementation

# Overall Strategy for the Plan

- How will it be implemented?
  - Layered approach of three or four phases over several years to reach a 70% or higher rate of diversion.
  - Logical plan for implementation
  - Layers meant to both build on each other and also “up the ante” if needed
  - Still try to get “lower hanging fruit” first

# Plan Components

- Perform second waste characterization
  - Use comparison data from 2015 and 2009 waste characterization studies to track progress and identify needs
- Outreach and stakeholder input
- Identify diversion/reduction options
- Develop scenarios, including diversion potential and potential resource needs
- Recommend strategies

# Next Steps

- Waste Characterization study will be finalized
- Final plan complete end of April
- Staff will return to Council in spring or summer 2016 for update
- Start integrating into 2017-18 budget



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