



# Memorandum

**TO:** SATPAL SIDHU, COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**FROM:** Erika Lautenbach, Whatcom County Health and Community Services Director

**DATE:** March 17, 2023

**RE:** Draft 2022 Whatcom County Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan

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Chapter 70.95 RCW, Solid Waste Management- Reduction and Recycling requires local jurisdictions to update comprehensive solid waste management plans every five years.

The draft update to the existing plan describes the current solid waste system and makes recommendations for the planning period. The draft update has been reviewed by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and Solid Waste Executive Committee, received review and comment by the Department of Ecology and Utilities and Transportation Commission, and received public comment through both SEPA and separate solid waste program required reviews. Pending council review and approval, the draft update will be submitted to Ecology for final post-adoption approval as per RCW 70.95.

The final draft update proposes no structural changes to the existing solid waste system. Recommendations, presented as goals and actions, are provided in summary form in tables at the end of each chapter, as indicated in the plan's table of contents. Primary goals and actions include increasing waste reduction and outreach, evaluation of regulatory changes to increase efficiency and management, increasing management options for special wastes such as organics and construction debris, and, per the requirements of 70A.205.045(10), a Contamination Reduction and Outreach plan, addressing reducing contamination in recycling.

Pending council review and approval, the draft update will be submitted to Ecology for final approval, as per RCW 70.95

Please call Jennifer Hayden at ext. 6036 if there are any questions. Thank you.