

MEMORANDUM



City of Bellevue

DATE: March 11, 2026

TO: Mayor Malakoutian and Councilmembers

FROM: Ken Wan, Chair, Environmental Services Commission *Keneth Wan*

SUBJECT: Environmental Services Commission Recommendation on Solid Waste Services Package Objectives

As part of the Environmental Services Commission's (ESC) role, on March 5, 2026, the ESC received the Utilities Department's presentation on solid waste contract procurement, in preparation for the existing contract ending in June 2028. This included a background on existing services, an anticipated procurement timeline, staff recommended objectives in services package development, and key elements to maintain in a future solid waste contract.

After thoughtful discussion, the ESC unanimously supports and recommends the following solid waste services package objectives:

- Alignment with best practices
- Compliance with state laws and local policy
- Responsive to needs – affordability, reliability, user experience
- Explore technology and data

Beyond these four objectives, the ESC fully supports and recommends maintaining the following solid waste contract elements:

- Weekly collections for single-family residents
- Embedded rate structure

The ESC also offers the following for consideration in developing the solid waste services package.

- Rate structure – When evaluating the steepness of an embedded rate structure (i.e., tiered pricing as garbage volume increases) be mindful of adversely impacting user behavior via large price differentials.
- Contract performance fees – Evaluate current contract performance fees to determine effectiveness. Based on the review of actual effects, if a fee did not result in the desired change, then consider alternative fees or standards in the future contract to produce the desired outcome.
- Administrative fee – Carefully review the current 2.99% administrative fee to ensure this remains an efficient funding level to support the solid waste program.
- Compost service tools and support – To encourage increased composting activities, consider refreshed tools and educational resources to enhance user convenience. In multi-

family environments, consider innovative methods to engage residents who generally do not directly pay solid waste bills by increasing transparency and awareness of the benefits of composting.

- Accepted recyclables – Review the list of accepted recyclables to evaluate whether the current list can be expanded as well as explore additional options to conveniently recycle materials not accepted in the contractor’s container.
- On-line lookup tool – Consider opportunities to leverage technology in promoting proper waste and recycling disposal, such as an on-line tool where users may easily look-up what to do with a specific waste item.

The ESC appreciates the opportunity to consider the services package objectives that will guide and inform a future solid waste contract, as well as the opportunity to provide this recommendation to the City Council.