SCA Public Issues Committee

May 10, 2023 – 7:00 PM

Online Meeting

The May 10, 2023, Public Issues Committee (PIC) meeting will be held virtually.

Members of the public may view or listen to the meeting by using the following link from a computer, tablet, or smartphone:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81706041070?pwd=dTFiNTAvOGV2NnVuaVdScHR6WFR3QT09
Or dial in by phone: 1-253-215-8782 / 817 0604 1070 / Passcode: 652018

AGENDA

1.	**Welcome and Roll Call** – Bill Boyce, Kent, Chair	5 minutes
2.	**Public Comment** – Bill Boyce, Kent, Chair	5 minutes
3.	Approval of Minutes – April 12, 2023 Meeting Page 6	5 minutes
4.	**Chair's Report** – Bill Boyce, Kent, Chair	5 minutes
5.	**Executive Director's Report** – David Hoffman, SCA Executive Director	5 minutes
6.	King County Regional Homelessness Authority Five Year Plan DISCUSSION Page 14 Hali Willis, SCA Policy Analyst	20 minutes
7.	*Blake* and Next Steps for Cities DISCUSSION Page 19 Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director	25 minutes
8.	Hazardous Waste Management Program Annual Report UPDATE Page 22 Kazia Mermel, SCA Policy Analyst	15 minutes
9.	Potential Future Levies and Ballot Measures UPDATE Page 40 Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director	10 minutes

10. Potential Upcoming Issues 10 minutes
UPDATE
Page 43
Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director

11. Upcoming Events

a. SCA Lunch and Learn – Extreme Heat Mitigation Strategy – Friday, May 19, 2023 – 12:00 – 1:00 PM – Virtual
b. SCA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, May 17, 2023 – 10:00 AM to Noon – Tukwila Community Center
c. SCA Networking Event – Wednesday, May 31, 2023 – 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Renton Pavilion Events Center
d. SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, June 14, 2023
e. SCA Lunch and Learn – King County Overdose Trends and Response – Friday, June 16, 2023 – 12:00 – 1:00 PM – Virtual

12. For the Good of the Order

13. Adjourn

Sound Cities Association

Mission

To provide leadership through advocacy, education, mutual support and networking to cities in King County as they act locally and partner regionally to create livable vital communities.

Vision

Capitalizing on the diversity of our cities to lead policy change to make the Puget Sound region the best in the world.

Values

SCA aspires to create an environment that fosters mutual support, respect, trust, fairness and integrity for the greater good of the association and its membership.

SCA operates in a consistent, inclusive, and transparent manner that respects the diversity of our members and encourages open discussion and risk-taking.

Commonly Used Acronyms

ADS Advisory Council	Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services
AHC	Affordable Housing Committee
AFIS Advisory Committee	Automated Fingerprint Identification System Advisory Committee
AWC	Association of Washington Cities
BOH	Board of Health
CSO	Combined Sewer Overflows
CYAB	Children and Youth Advisory Board
DCHS	King County Department of Community and Human Services
DVI Task Force	Domestic Violence Initiative Regional Task Force
EDDB	Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board
EMAC	Emergency Management Advisory Committee
EMS Advisory Task Force	Emergency Medical Services Levy Advisory Task Force
ETP	Eastside Transportation Partnership
GMPB	PSRC Growth Management Policy Board
GMPC	King County Growth Management Planning Council
GSP	Greater Seattle Partners
IJT	Interjurisdictional Team – staff support to the GMPC
JRC	Joint Recommendations Committee for Community Development Block Grants
K4C	King County-Cities Climate Collaboration
KCD	King Conservation District
KCDAC	King Conservation District Advisory Committee
KCFCD	King County Flood Control District
KCFCDAC	King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee
KCPEC	King County Project Evaluation Committee
KCRHA	King County Regional Homelessness Authority
LEOFF1 Disability Board	Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters Plan 1 Disability Board
LHWMP	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program
LHWMP MCC	Local Hazardous Waste Management Program Management Coordination Committee
MIDD	Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Oversight Committee
MKCC	Metropolitan King County Council
MRSC	Municipal Research Services Center
MSWMAC	Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee
MWPAAC	Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee
PIC	Public Issues Committee
PSAP	Public Safety Answering Points
PSCAA	Puget Sound Clean Air Agency
PSCAAAC	Puget Sound Clean Air Agency Advisory Council
PSERN	Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network
PSRC	Puget Sound Regional Council
RLSJC	Regional Law Safety and Justice Committee
RPC	Regional Policy Committee
RPEC	PSRC Regional Project Evaluation Committee
RTC	Regional Transit Committee

RWQC	Regional Water Quality Committee
SCA	Sound Cities Association
SCAACG	South Central Action Area Caucus Group
SCATBd	South County Area Transportation Board
SeaShore	Seashore Transportation Forum
SKHHP	South King Housing and Homelessness Partners
SWAC	Solid Waste Advisory Committee
TPB	PSRC Transportation Policy Board
WTD	King County Wastewater Treatment Division

SCA Public Issues Committee
DRAFT MINUTES
April 12, 2023 – 7:00 PM
HYBRID IN PERSON AND TELEPHONIC

1. **Welcome and Roll Call**
   PIC Chair Bill Boyce, Kent, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. 26 cities were represented (Attachment A). Guests present included Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way (PIC Alternate); Zach Hall, Issaquah (PIC Alternate); Amy Falcone, Kirkland (PIC Alternate); Dana Parnello, Maple Valley (PIC alternate); Penny Sweet, Kirkland; Lacey Jane Wolfe, Bellevue staff; Brock Deady, Black Diamond staff; Jared Hill, Woodinville staff; Tania Santiago Pastrana, King County Council staff; Kamuron Gurol, King County Wastewater Treatment Division; Sharman Herrin, King County Wastewater Treatment Division; and Candice Bock, Association of Washington Cities (AWC).

   SCA Policy Director Brian Parry provided an overview of how the meeting would be facilitated in hybrid format. He noted that any discussion in the chat for those joining online would be maintained for public records purposes and included in the PIC minutes (Attachment B).

2. **Public Comment**
   Chair Boyce asked if there was anyone in attendance who would like to provide public comment.

   Jared Hill, Woodinville staff, commented that PIC Member Mayor Mike Millman, Woodinville, was unable to attend the meeting and that he would provide Millman with a report on the meeting to keep him informed.

   Seeing no further public comment, Chair Boyce closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

3. **Approval of the March 8, 2023 PIC Meeting Minutes**
   Chair Bill Boyce asked if there were any amendments to the minutes of the March 8, 2023 PIC meeting.

   Mayor Henry Sladek, Skykomish, moved, seconded by Councilmember Joseph Cimaomo, Covington, to approve the March 8, 2023 PIC minutes. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Chair's Report**
   Chair Boyce welcomed members to the first PIC meeting with members meeting in person since February 2020. He encouraged members who were joining online to not be afraid to speak up and that it was important that all members felt able to participate in the meeting fully.

5. **Executive Director's Report**

SCA Executive Director David Hoffman welcomed members to the meeting. He highlighted items on the meeting agenda and said he looked forward to an engaging discussion.

6. 2023 Legislative Update

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry introduced Candice Bock from Association of Washington Cities, who provided an update on the legislative session. Bock noted that AWC would be hosting a webinar detailing the impact of the 2023 Legislative Session on cities on May 18, and encouraged members to register. Information on all of the bills being tracked by AWC can be found on their legislative advocacy webpage, and in their end of session report on AWC priorities.

7. Wastewater Rates

SCA Policy Analyst Kazia Mermel reported on the 2024 wastewater rate-setting process.

King County is in the process of developing 2024 sewer rates that would take effect January 1, 2024. The Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) has transmitted a 2024 rate proposal to the County Executive. The rate proposal includes a 5.75% rate increase, raising the monthly sewer rate to $55.11, and a 2.4% capacity charge increase, raising the monthly capacity charge for new utility connections to $74.73. This rate increase is driven by growth in the WTD capital program due to asset management needs, regulatory demands, and system capacity needs.

As is customary, the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) has sent a recommendation letter to the County Executive with commentary on the WTD rate proposal. This year's MWPAAC rate letter includes concerns about a proposed reduction to the WTD cash-funding policy and appreciation for increased transparency and communication from WTD, among other comments.

Earlier this week, the Executive transmitted the rate proposal with no changes to the County Council for further deliberation and final adoption by June 30, 2023.

Councilmember Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, noted that the RWQC has formed a subcommittee to seek additional wastewater infrastructure funding from the federal government.

Councilmember Vanessa Kritzer, Redmond, asked when more will be known about the impacts of upcoming regulatory issues, like WTD's consent decree for combined sewer overflows (CSO). Mermel responded that the timing of these issues is still uncertain. Due to the confidential nature of the consent decree discussions, little is known about that timeline. In the case of the Nutrient General Permit, timing is dependent on legal proceedings.

Councilmember Janice Zahn, Bellevue, shared that the White House just appointed a new intergovernmental relations staff person who expressed interest in working with cities and encouraged coordination with them.

Councilmember Amy Lam, Sammamish, shared that Sammamish does not support the rate increase, primarily due to concerns regarding the residential customer equivalent (RCE) calculation methodology. Lam also expressed concerns over long-term maintenance and capital costs. Mermel said that the RCE is how WTD measures how much per household they will charge

the cities and that there are some recognized issues with how that is calculated. She said the topic is expected to be discussed at RWQC later this year and that she would follow up with Councilmember Lam to further understand Sammamish's concerns.

8. Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy Renewal

SCA Policy Analyst Hali Willis reported that the Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy (VSHSL) expires in December 2023 and is currently being considered for renewal by the King County Council and Regional Policy Committee (RPC). The proposed levy was recommended by the County Executive at an initial levy rate of 10 cents per $1,000 in assessed value, with annual increases limited to 3.5%. The levy is expected to generate $565 million over six years to continue funding for regional health and human services for veterans and service members and their families, seniors and their caregivers, and resilient communities. Additionally, the levy would establish funding for regional impact initiatives that provide or support responses to issues that affect all three of the levy's specified populations and which regional health and human services can help address.

Willis also shared The County Council is expected to consider a higher levy rate as part of their deliberations when the levy ordinance goes before their Budget and Fiscal Management Committee on April 17. During the April 3 RPC meeting, some members expressed interest in increasing the levy rate to as much as 13-cents per $1,000. Each 1-cent increase in the levy is estimated to generate approximately $54 million over the six-year levy period. The RPC acted to support the 10-cent levy rate as proposed by the County Executive. While noting the great need for funding for services in the region, SCA members on RPC expressed concerns about the impact of rising property taxes on households and the risk of tax-fatigue among voters leading to the measure or other important ballot measures failing. SCA members were encouraged to provide feedback on the levy rate at PIC as well as with members of the County Council.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, said that she voted at RPC in support of renewing the levy at 10-cents per $1,000 of assessed value. She noted that 10-cents renews the levy to the rate that was adopted in 2017, but is 2-cents higher than what is currently collected and overall the levy will generate $200 million more over the next six years than the six prior. She said she is very concerned about tax-fatigue and the impact of rising property taxes on Auburn residents. She said the number one priority is ensuring the levy receives the votes needed to pass as it is the primary funding source for human services in King County.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, said that he would like to see more analysis of the impact of inflation on what the proposed levy will be able to fund.

Councilmember Paul Charbonneau, Newcastle, said that he would like to see more support in the levy for capacity building and supporting the human services providers workforce.

Mayor Sue-Ann Hohimer, Normandy Park, said that she would like to see information materials produced about the levy to emphasize how it will address workforce and staffing capacity issues. Parry noted that the information provided by the Department of Community and Human Services emphasizes support for this type of work; however, the actual level of spending and priority given

to that area will solidified in the levy implementation plan and is not currently specified to that level in the levy ordinance so as to provide flexibility as the levy is implemented.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, asked if there was a role for SCA to play in shaping the discussion of the levy rate and when the County Council is expected to act. Parry said that discussions are ongoing and it is unclear whether the County Council will propose a higher rate than what was recommended by RPC. He said that if any changes are made by the County Council the ordinance will then return to RPC for further consideration, where SCA has appointed representatives along with members from the County Council and City of Seattle. Kruller asked if there was interest among members in adopting a position encouraging the levy either be retained at the current rate of collection or no higher than the 10-cent renewal rate proposed.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, expressed reservations about proposing the levy be any lower than the 10-cents recommended by RPC noting the importance of the work supported by the levy. Parry noted that SCA representatives on RPC have supported a 10-cent levy and encouraged members to share if they disagreed with that position of the caucus.

Councilmember Amy Lam, Sammamish, asked if the new levy would change the way in which senior centers are funded. Parry said there was nothing in the levy ordinance that would change that relationship or process.

9. Affordable Housing Countywide Planning Policies

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported that on March 22, the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) voted unanimously to recommend County Council approval of amendments to the Countywide Planning Policies as recommended by the Affordable Housing Committee. These amendments establish goals for the number and type of units jurisdictions must plan for in their comprehensive plans, which is consistent with guidance from Commerce resulting from the passage of HB 1220 in 2021. The Growth Management Planning Council also approved rules and procedures to implement the accountability framework.

The recommended Countywide Planning Policies amendments now move on to King County Council for approval and cities for ratification later this year. Parry recognized the hard work and many very deep discussions about these policies had by SCA representatives of the GMPC and the Affordable Housing Committee. The GMPC and AHC will be working to develop resources to assist cities with navigating these new policies.

Councilmember Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, acknowledged that these policies represent 18-months of hard work and consensus building. She said she was grateful for all those who came to the table with an open mind and worked hard to come together.

Councilmember Vanessa Kritzer, Redmond, thanked Curtis for her hard work and consensus building as chair of the SCA caucus on GMPC. She asked what the timeframe is for city ratification of the policies. Parry said the County Council is expected to take action in the fall and then the policies will go to cities. He said the latest expected timeframe is the first quarter of 2024.

Councilmember Amy Lam, Sammamish, asked about the midcycle check-in of jurisdictional progress contemplated in the policies and whether there were any consequences for those who are not making sufficient progress toward their affordability goals. Parry said that the policies take the approach of monitoring, public accountability through reporting and review by the AHC, and support for improving policies. He said a more punitive approach could be considered in the future, but that this cycle the focus is about assisting jurisdictions and seeing how they respond. He noted the review would look at policies and not strictly numbers of units and that cities have limited ability to directly influence unit production beyond setting the policy and regulatory framework.

10. Potential Future Levies and Ballot Measures

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on potential future levies and ballot measures in King County and encouraged members to share any levies or ballot measures under consideration in their cities.

Chair Boyce highlighted that the Kent School District has a bond measure on the April 25 ballot.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, said the city is considering a potential new annexation measure for the August ballot.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, said that the Regional Fire Authority in South King County will be pursuing a measure in November for capital improvements, including a new fire station.

11. Potential Upcoming Issues

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry encouraged members to share suggested topics for future PIC meetings, webinars, and other SCA events or trainings.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, highlighted recent proposals to site electrification infrastructure, such as large battery storage facilities and suggested a future roundtable discussion to coordinate among cities and learn from each other's experiences. Councilmember Joseph Cimaomo, Covington, noted an upcoming event in Covington to learn about the issue scheduled for June 13.

Councilmember Janice Zahn, Bellevue, suggested a future discussion about workforce development and apprenticeship, highlighting recent changes in state law approved with HB 1050.

Councilmember Paul Charbonneau, Newcastle, suggested the topic of economic development and expanding opportunities for future discussion.

Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, suggested a future discussion of responses to the fentanyl and opioid crisis particularly following on what is approved by the Legislature.

12. Upcoming Events

a. SCA Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, April 19, 2023 – 10:00 AM to Noon – Tukwila Community Center

b. SCA Public Issues Committee Meeting – Wednesday, May 10 2023 – Renton City Hall

13. For the Good of the Order

Chair Boyce thanked SCA staff for their efforts in pulling together the meeting in hybrid format for the first time.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Public Issues Committee Meeting
April 12, 2023

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	Troy Linnell	Brenna Franco
Auburn	Nancy Backus	James Jeyaraj
Beaux Arts Village	Aletha Howes	
Bellevue	Janice Zahn	Jeremy Barksdale
Black Diamond	Tamie Deady	
Bothell	James McNeal	Rami Al-Kabra
Burien	Sofia Aragon	Cydney Moore
Carnation	Dustin Green	Jim Ribail
Clyde Hill	Marianne Klaas	Kim Muromoto
Covington	Joseph Cimaomo	Kristina Soltys
Des Moines	Harry Steinmetz	Gene Achziger
Duvall	Amy McHenry	Rick Shaffer
Enumclaw	Chance LaFleur	Corrie Koopman Frazier
Federal Way	Susan Honda	Lydia Assefa-Dawson
Hunts Point	Joseph Sabey	
Issaquah	Tola Marts	Zach Hall
Kenmore	David Baker	Corina Pfeil
Kent	Bill Boyce	
Kirkland	Kelli Curtis	Amy Falcone
Lake Forest Park	Tom French	Lorri Bodi
Maple Valley	Sean Kelly	Dana Parnello
Medina	Mac Johnston	Jessica Rossman
Mercer Island	David Rosenbaum	Ted Weinberg
Milton	Steve Peretti	Shanna Styron Sherrell
Newcastle	Linda Newing	Paul Charbonneau
Normandy Park	Sue-Ann Hohimer	Eric Zimmerman
North Bend	Ross Loudenback	Heather Koellen
Pacific	Leanne Guier	
Redmond	Vanessa Kritzer	Angela Birney
Renton	Armondo Pavone	Valerie O'Halloran
Sammamish	Amy Lam	Pam Stuart
SeaTac	Jake Simpson	Iris Guzmán
Shoreline	Chris Roberts	John Ramsdell
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	
Snoqualmie	Cara Christensen	James Maynew
Tukwila	Kate Kruller	Kathy Hougardy
Woodinville	Mike Millman	Rachel Best-Campbell
Yarrow Point	Kathy Harris	

Cities present at the meeting are **bolded**. Voting representatives present are highlighted.

SCA PIC April 12, 2023

Attachment B: Chat Log

19:07:12 From Brenna Franco to Everyone:
technical difficulty - Algona is present
20:14:54 From Brenna Franco, Algona to Hosts and panelists:
Very good on a digital platform

May 10, 2023
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 6:
Regional Homelessness Authority Five-Year Plan
DISCUSSION

SCA Staff Contact
Hali Willis, SCA Policy Analyst, hali@soundcities.org , 206-495-5238

King County Regional Homelessness Authority Governing Committee (GC) Members:
Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn; Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond; Councilmember Ed Prince, Renton

King County Regional Homelessness Authority Implementation Board (IB) Members:
Nate Caminos; Damien Pattenaude

Discussion

The King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) is required to develop a five-year plan for the organization that includes a theory of change; specific actions, outcomes, and goals; and lays the groundwork for sub-regional planning activities.

The KCRHA released a preliminary draft of the Five-Year Plan in January, and collected feedback from Governing Committee and Implementation Board members, staff, service providers, people with lived experience of homelessness, and other community members. In response to feedback, KCRHA has proposed significant revisions to the plan. Although an updated full draft is not yet publicly available, KCRHA has posted the first few sections of the revised plan on their website. Revisions proposed since this item was last discussed at PIC would:

- Restructure the plan around one goal, rather than eight. The new goal is to "bring unsheltered people inside in a way that meets their needs for safety, stability and healing, as quickly as possible to prevent death and further harm"
- Identify activities that do not require significant new funding, rather than focus the plan on how much additional funding is needed to significantly reduce homelessness
- Prioritize activities
- Describe how KCRHA would direct any potential new funding
- Remove benchmarks for new temporary and permanent housing development
- Reduce the number of metrics from over 70 to 6

This item was last discussed at the March PIC meeting. In May, PIC will hear an update on the new structure of the plan and have an opportunity to share any feedback with Governing Committee members. The Governing Committee is scheduled to vote on adoption of the Five-Year Plan on June 1st.

Background
The King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) was established in late 2019, under an interlocal agreement (ILA) between King County and the City of Seattle, with input from SCA. The KCRHA is charged with managing the countywide homelessness crisis response, with the goal to create a more streamlined, efficient, and effective homelessness response.

The interlocal agreement (ILA) requires the KCRHA to adopt a five-year plan that includes a theory of change; specific, measurable actions, outcomes and goals; and provides for sub-regional planning activities to be developed with input from the Governing Committee, Advisory Committee, and SCA.

This memo focuses on the changes made to the Five-Year Plan in response to SCA and other stakeholder feedback since the draft Plan was made public in January. For more information on previous versions, see the February 8, 2023 PIC packet and the March 2023 PIC packet.

Updates to the Five-Year Plan since March
KCRHA expects to release a full public copy of the updated Five-Year Plan by May 12, and has posted the first few sections of the draft revised plan on their website. The Plan has changed significantly in response to SCA and other stakeholder feedback since it was last discussed at PIC in March. The most significant updates are discussed below.

One Goal. The updated Plan would have one goal, rather than eight. The new goal is: "Bring unsheltered people inside in a way that meets their needs for safety, stability and healing, as quickly as possible to prevent death and further harm." Although the Plan is no longer oriented around the previous 8 goals[1], there are still activities identified in the Plan that would work towards accomplishing these original goals.

Fewer Metrics. The updated plan also includes only 6 metrics to measure progress towards one goal, rather than over 70 metrics included in the previous draft. The current metrics are copied below.

- Number of households accessing the homelessness response system.
- Number of households entering the homelessness response system.
- Number of households exiting the homelessness response system to permanent housing.
- Number of households returning to homelessness after 6, 12, and 24 months from a permanent housing exit.
- Number of temporary and permanent housing units in the system.
- Throughput of temporary and permanent housing units in the system.

[1] Previous goals: dramatically reduce unsheltered homelessness; restructure the service system to improve capacity, supports, and efficiency; ensure the availability of accessible, accountable, and responsive services; reduce the impact of racism on people experiencing homelessness; no family with children sleeps outside; every youth and young adult has a home; the region acts as one to address homelessness; and the community is engaged in ending homelessness.

Focus on Existing Funding. The updated plan focuses on what KCRHA can do in five years without significant new funding. By contrast, the previous draft focused on how much additional funding was needed to significantly reduce homelessness in five years. The majority of activities described in the plan would not require significant additional funding.

Prioritized Activities. The updated plan prioritizes KCRHA's proposed activities into three categories: activities to be prioritized in years 1-2 that do not require significant new funding; activities to be prioritized in years 3-5 that do not require significant new funding; and activities that KCRHA would invest in first if they receive significant new funding.

Remove Housing Modeling. In response to feedback from SCA Governing Committee members and others, KCRHA has removed estimates of various temporary and permanent housing units that would need to be built to significantly reduce homelessness[2]. Instead, the plan includes initiatives to partner with cities to increase housing and shelter options, including:

- Partner with local jurisdictions to provide expertise and support to increase temporary housing, shelter, and homelessness services, while maintaining the current level of services in each sub-region
- Identify and evaluate spaces for severe weather shelter with cities to expand the number of indoor options during severe weather events
- Align with cities' comprehensive planning efforts for the future development of temporary and permanent housing options

SCA Feedback

Governing Committee members and staff have offered feedback to KCRHA over the past months as KCRHA has iteratively developed the current draft Plan. Most concerns about the Five-Year Plan voiced by PIC members, Board members, and Governing Committee members have been addressed, at least in part, in the current draft.

SCA feedback to the KCRHA, and how that feedback is incorporated into the new draft, is summarized in the table below.

[2] SCA members and staff raised several concerns with the modeling included in the previous draft. Notably, the modeling did not call for any additional tiny homes, it was not clear how the models were developed, and it is not **within KCRHA's purview to develop permanent housing.**

SCA Feedback	Concerns Addressed
Clarify the role and future of existing congregate[3] shelter, and the proposed shift to non-congregate shelter.	The draft plan emphasizes the benefits of non-congregate compared to congregate shelter. However, it specifies that congregate shelters currently play an important role in homelessness services, that any transitions from congregate to non-congregate models would need to be phased in overtime and implemented in collaboration with cities and service providers, and that current service levels must be at least maintained in each subregion.
Clarify what the KCRHA can do with existing funds, and prioritize activities.	Activities are organized into three categories: activities prioritized in years 1-2 and 3-5 that do not require significant new funding, and items that would require significant new funding.
Clearly distinguish between areas where KCRHA has jurisdiction (i.e., temporary housing) and areas that require action from other entities (i.e., permanent housing[4]).	The new draft includes additional explanations regarding KCRHA's role, including how they partner with other agencies (i.e., DCHS, law enforcement, WSDOT, etc.) and removes estimates of temporary and permanent housing units needed.
Better highlight key points and explain how homelessness will be different in five years because of this Plan.	The shorter plan is easier to digest, but does not obviously point out how homelessness will be different in five years as a result of the plan.
Better understand how homelessness is different in each sub-region.	The draft plan contains an initiative to analyze data by sub-region to better understand subregional differences in homelessness.
Explain the assumptions and impacts of housing modeling.	Housing modeling benchmarks were removed.
PIC should not approve sub-regional implementation plans.	Requirement was removed.
Add more information on changes expected to Coordinated Entry.	The draft plan includes various initiatives to improve Coordinated Entry, as well as oversight, and compliance with Coordinated Entry, but KCRHA does not yet know what changes will be made.

[3] The Plan emphasizes shifting to non-congregate shelter. In congregate shelter, people share a common space (i.e., a room with sleeping spaces for multiple people). In non-congregate shelter, people (or households) have their own space to sleep.

[4] KCRHA previously included estimates of the number and associated cost of permanent housing types needed to end unsheltered homelessness in Appendix A. The ILA requires KCRHA to "inform and support" regional efforts to create and preserve affordable housing, and KCRHA cites this requirement to explain why this section is included. Additionally, KCRHA would hold some contracts for services delivered in permanent housing settings (e.g., permanent supportive housing).

Shorten and focus the Plan without losing important context.	The current plan is about 55 pages without appendices, and is more focused than the previous draft on actions KCRHA plans to take in the next five years.
Avoid prescriptiveness regarding any potential new interlocal agreements (ILAs) with subregions.	The current draft includes an initiative for KCRHA to "pursue" subregional ILAs with cities. Previous drafts included more prescriptive language like "sign subregional ILAs" with all seven subregions.

Next Steps

KCRHA is expected to release a public draft of the updated draft Plan by May 12th. The Implementation Board is expected to vote on adoption of the Five-Year Plan during the week of May 19th, followed by the Governing Committee on June 1st.

Questions and comments can be directed to Hali Willis, SCA Policy Analyst, hali@soundcities.org , 206-495-5238.

May 10, 2023
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 7:
Blake and Next Steps
DISCUSSION

SCA Staff Contact
Brian Parry, SCA Policy Director, brian@soundcities.org , 206-499-4159

Discussion

During the 2023 Legislative Session, the State Legislature was unable to reach agreement on a permanent statewide law addressing knowing possession and use of a controlled substance. As a result, unless the Legislature comes to agreement during a special session, as of July 1 there will be no statewide law prohibiting possession of controlled substances. Many cities and counties are considering or have already adopted local ordinances to fill the gap left by the Legislature.

On May 3, Governor Inslee announced that the Legislature will be called for a special session beginning on May 16. The Governor's Office in calling for the special session noted that "in the absence of a statewide policy, several cities and counties have announced their intent to pass their own ordinances which would create a confusing patchwork of policies, treatment options and penalties."

This issue is evolving quickly. SCA sent a request for ordinances or draft ordinances being considered by member cities and has begun posting those as well as examples from other jurisdictions in Washington state here . MRSC has also developed a webpage with information on adopted ordinances here . At PIC, members are encouraged to share information about what, if any, action your city is considering and SCA will continue to explore opportunities for coordination.

Background
In 2021, the Washington State Supreme Court struck down Washington's criminal statute prohibiting possession of a controlled substance in the *State v. Blake* decision due to the lack of a requirement to prove knowledge of possession. Prior to the Blake decision, possession was a class C felony.

In response to the State v. Blake decision, the Legislature passed SB 5476, modifying statutes prohibiting the possession of controlled substances to require proof of knowing possession. In addition, violation of the statute were reclassified as misdemeanor crimes, punishable by up to 90 days in jail, a $1,000 fine, or both. The legislation also requires that individuals arrested for possession must be offered a referral to assessment and treatment on their first two arrests.

SB 5476 included a sunset clause expiring on July 1, 2023 at which time the revised possession laws will expire and there will be no statewide law prohibiting possession of controlled substances. During the 2023 legislative session, lawmakers disagreed on a path forward and the House and Senate adopted competing versions of a *Blake* fix (SB 5536). The Association of Washington Cities has produced a helpful side-by-side comparison of the House and Senate versions of SB 5536 and AWC's preferred approach to several key decision areas. In addition, AWC distributed a breakdown of the negotiations, which can be found here .

In addition to differences in standards and practices for diversion and local preemption, a key sticking point is the magnitude of the criminal sentence. The House version would continue to classify possession as a misdemeanor crime punishable by up to 90 days in jail, a $1,000 fine, or both while the Senate version would have classified possession as a gross misdemeanor punishable by up to 364 days in jail, a $5,000 fine, or both. Proponents of classifying knowing possession as a gross misdemeanor claim the higher-level punishment provides greater motivation for people to seek treatment, and is more closely aligned with the time required to complete a treatment program. Others argue that the higher-level punishment creates an overly punitive approach that may cause more harm. Both versions of the bill included diversion options and encourage an approach that would provide opportunities for treatment in lieu of criminal punishment.

On May 3, Governor Inslee announced that the Legislature will be called for a special session beginning on May 16 for the purpose of adopting a law concerning drug possession that goes into effect before the current law expires on July 1. The Governor's Office in calling for the special session noted that "in the absence of a statewide policy, several cities and counties have announced their intent to pass their own ordinances which would create a confusing patchwork of policies, treatment options and penalties." This patchwork of policies will not only create confusion for residents, but also could create significant complications for prosecution and management of ongoing treatment. Legislative leadership are reportedly in regular discussions about a compromise bill but have not yet reached agreement.

This week, AWC adopted a formal policy position related to the ongoing legislative negotiations and the Board voted to:

- Support a *Blake* response approach that includes making possession of an illegal drug a gross misdemeanor while focusing on diversion options that encourage individuals to participate in treatment programs in lieu of criminal penalties.
- Support legislation that is clear and implementable for cities and preserves local prosecutorial and judicial discretion and avoids being overly ridged and prescriptive. The language of any new law must be workable for local prosecutors and law enforcement. The provisions regarding diversion programs need to allow for local discretion and factors around availability and capacity of diversion options.

Local Ordinances

As a result of the *Blake* decision and the lack of a permanent fix being adopted by the Legislature, many cities and counties are considering or have adopted local ordinances to address possession and use of controlled substances. Others have indicated a desire to hold off on proposing a local policy until after more is known about the likelihood of the Legislature adopting a bill during special session. SCA sent a request for ordinances or draft ordinances being considered by member cities and has begun posting those as well as examples from other jurisdictions in Washington state here . MRSC has also developed a webpage with information on adopted ordinances here .

Examples of draft and adopted local ordinances include:

- Kent Ordinance 4461 (adopted): Makes it a *gross misdemeanor* to knowingly possess a controlled substance or to use a controlled substance in a public place, and a simple misdemeanor for possession or distribution of drug paraphernalia. A defendant has the opportunity for deferred prosecution if they complete a treatment program. A defendant can also receive a deferred sentence post-conviction and removal of the conviction from their record by completing a treatment program. Kent is considering leveraging money received from the opioid lawsuit settlement to pay for costs of treatment for indigent defendants.
- Des Moines Draft Ordinance 23-024 : If adopted, would make it a *misdemeanor* to knowingly use a controlled substance in a public place or to knowingly use or attempt to use drug paraphernalia in a public place.
- Snohomish County Draft Ordinance 23-046 : If adopted, would make it a *gross misdemeanor* to knowingly possess a controlled substance or to use a controlled substance in a public place. The prosecutor is encouraged to divert cases for assessment, treatment, or other services.
- Federal Way Ordinance 21-911 (adopted): Makes it a *gross misdemeanor* to knowingly possess a controlled substance.
- Bellingham Ordinance 2023-04-009 (adopted): Makes it a *misdemeanor* to knowingly use a controlled substance in a public place. Law enforcement and prosecutor are encouraged to divert cases to substance abuse treatment services.

Next Steps

This issue is evolving quickly and SCA is continuing to collect and share proposed and adopted city ordinances to share with members and encourage coordination. If your city develops a proposed ordinance, please send it to Kazia Mermel, kazia@soundcities.org. Questions or feedback can be provided to SCA Policy Director Brian Parry, brian@soundcities.org , 206-499-4159.

May 10, 2023
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 8:

King County Hazardous Waste Management Program (HWMP) Annual Report
UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact
Kazia Mermel, SCA Policy Analyst, kazia@soundcities.org , 206-495-3020

SCA HWMP Management Coordination Committee (MCC) Member
Councilmember Corina Pfeil, Kenmore (MCC Vice Chair)

Update

The King County Hazardous Waste Management Program is a multi-jurisdictional program whose mission is to protect and enhance public health and environmental quality throughout King County by reducing the threat posed by the production, use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials. The Hazardous Waste Program fulfills local government responsibilities under state law (RCW 70.105.220) for managing hazardous waste from residents and, in limited volumes, from businesses and other "small quantity generators."

There are two timely updates to share regarding the Hazardous Waste Program. First, the Program has just released its 2022 Annual Report with information about services provided in the Program's three primary areas of work: policy, prevention, and collection (Attachment A).

Second, the Program's Management Coordination Committee (MCC) voted in April to maintain current fees through 2025 and will not seek a rate increase through the Board of Health. This year the Program will conduct long-term planning and analyze needs for Program services in 2026 and beyond.

Background
The Hazardous Waste Program is authorized at the state level by the Washington State Department of Ecology and at the local level by the King County Board of Health. The Program is funded by local hazardous waste fees collected along with other fees for solid waste and sewer services in King County. These fees are set by the King County Board of Health and collected by public and private utility providers who then pay into the Program.

The Program is overseen by a Management Coordination Committee (MCC) with representation from the King County Solid Waste Division (SWD), the King County Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD), Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), Seattle-King County Public Health, and the Sound Cities Association (SCA). The SCA appointee to the MCC is the only elected official that serves on the committee. That seat is currently filled by Councilmember Corina Pfeil, Kenmore.

2022 Annual Report

Each year, the Hazardous Waste Program releases an Annual Report with information about services provided in the previous year in each of the Program's three primary areas of work: policy, prevention, and collection. The Annual Report also typically includes an update on the Program's financial status. The Program recently published its 2022 Annual Report (Attachment A).

Policy and Research

This area of work is focused on upstream solutions to reduce exposures to hazardous materials, with a goal of shifting the burden of exposure prevention from individuals to the systems and producers that create hazardous products and wastes.

In 2022, the Hazardous Waste Program:

- Continued to chair a local and state government Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Workgroup;
- Collaborated with the state to convene the Washington State Chemical Policy Workgroup to share information and resources, cultivate policy initiatives, and build working relationships;
- Published a study (*Investigating aluminum cookpots as a source of lead exposure in Afghan refugee children resettled in the United States*) in the Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology; and
- Pursued battery stewardship legislation in Washington in collaboration with Zero Waste Washington, the Northwest Product Stewardship Council, and state representatives.

Prevention

The Program also offers education, outreach, and technical assistance to support people in reducing their exposure to hazardous materials both at home and at work.

In 2022, the Hazardous Waste Program:

- Educated community members about sources of lead in the home and how to adopt safer behaviors to protect families, especially those with young children, from lead poisoning;
- Invited community partners to co-develop online workshops and other culturally relevant educational tools in their preferred languages about safer cleaning;
- Partnered with the Afghan Health Initiative (AHI) to provide interpretation services, outreach, and education to the community on the potential for lead exposure through pressure cookers and cooking pots brought into the U.S.;
- Exchanged 160 pieces of lead-contaminated cookware with stainless steel alternatives in collaboration with AHI;
- Taught 3,019 residents and families about safer cleaning practices and how to identify hazardous cleaning products;
- Taught 5,335 people about natural yard care through workshops;

- Visited 234 residences where blood lead levels were found to be above the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's reference level;
- Communicated with 11,014 residents via the Hazardous Waste Help Line, the Garden Hotline, and outreach services;
- Approved 327 financial vouchers to assist businesses in adopting safer practices;
- Offered 406 on-site consultations for businesses;
- Stored 8,329 pounds of hazardous waste safely; and
- Disposed of 245,121 pounds of hazardous waste from businesses

Safe Disposal
The Program also provides hazardous waste collection services to residential and small business customers. To extend their reach, the Program also partners with cities, towns, and tribes to increase awareness about safe use and disposal of hazardous products.

In 2022, the Hazardous Waste Program:

- Disposed of 3,231,240 pounds of hazardous waste;
- Provided financial grants totaling $718,427 to 36 cities and the Snoqualmie Tribe to help more people safely manage their hazardous materials;
- Operated four collection locations in North Seattle, South Seattle, Factoria, and Auburn;
- Held city- and tribe-sponsored collection events using the travelling Wastemobile;
- Provided in-home collection services for seniors and residents with disabilities;
- Accommodated 86,292 visits by residents and 861 visits by small businesses; and
- Supported 37 cities in running city-sponsored events reaching 24,123 attendees.

Financial Status
In addition to providing updates on the Program's areas of work, the Annual Report also offers an overview of the Program's finances. At the start of 2022, the Program's fund balance was at $16,332,332. Since revenues exceeded expenditures, the fund balance increased to $17,739,107 by the end of 2022 (Table 1).

The Program is funded by fees on solid waste and sewer services in King County. These fees are set by the King County Board of Health, and in 2018 the Board adopted the fees for 2019-2022. In April 2023, the MCC decided that a rate increase is not needed through 2025, so fees will remain the same 2022-2025 (Table 2). This decision was based on several factors. First, they deemed the Program's fund balance to be healthy at $17,739,107. Second, King County is changing their budget years from odd to even numbers to align with the King County election cycle. As such, 2025 will be a 1-year transition budget, with the biennial cycle resuming for 2026-2027. Program staff plan to use this transitional time to develop a long-term plan to analyze business needs for 2026 and beyond.

The MCC will reevaluate in the coming years whether to seek a rate increase from the Board of Health for 2026-2027.

Table 1 – 2022 Program Revenues and Expenditures

FUND BALANCE		
2022 Beginning		**$16,332,332**
	2022 BUDGET	**2022 ACTUAL**
REVENUES		
Wastewater Rate Revenue	4,178,357	4,085,640
Transfer Station Rate Revenue	2,860,944	2,754,438
Solid Waste Account Revenue	11,172,328	12,638,544
Interest Income	42,184	203,003
Washington State Grants[1]		566,755
TOTAL REVENUES	**18,253,813**	**20,238,380**
EXPENDITURES		
Seattle Public Utilities	4,173,520	3,934,754
King County DNRP, Solid Waste	5,451,129	4,560,714
King County DNRP, Water & Land	7,138,877	5,504,752
Public Health – Seattle & King County	4,465,232	3,724,687
City and Tribal Contracts	552,893	685,425
City and Tribal Event Inspections	25,234	28,583
Disaster Debris Contingency	25,000	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**21,831,885**	**18,438,915**
FUND BALANCE		
Net Revenues Over (Under Expenses)		1,799,465
Year-End Accounting Adjustment[2]		(392,690)
2022 Ending		**$17,739,107**

Table 2. Rate schedule for Hazardous Waste Fees, 2019-2025.

Rate Category	2019	2020	2021	2022-2025
Wastewater fee (per 1M gal.)	$48.26	$50.87	$53.62	$56.51
Transfer Station Fee				
Private Vehicle (per trip)	$1.91	$2.01	$2.12	$2.23
Commercial Vehicle (per ton)	$4.99	$5.25	$5.54	$5.84
Solid Waste Fee				
Single Family Residential (per mo.)	$0.89	$0.93	$0.98	$1.04
Commercial Cart (≤0.48 cu. yds/mo.)	$1.54	$1.62	$1.71	$1.80
Commercial Dumpster (>0.48 to <10 cu. yds/mo.)	$12.66	$13.34	$14.06	$14.82
Commercial Roll-off (≥10 cu. yds/mo.)	$48.64	$51.27	$54.04	$56.96

Next Steps

Questions and comments can be directed to SCA Policy Analyst Kazia Mermel at kazia@soundcities.org or 206-495-3020.

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Hazardous Waste Management Program

GOVERNMENTS WORKING TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHIER AND CLEANER KING COUNTY

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The Hazardous Waste Management Program (Program) is a coalition of local governments working together for a healthier and cleaner King County. Our Management Coordination Committee (MCC), representing each coalition partner, provides oversight, strategic guidance, and accountability for our Program.

MCC MEMBERS

Susan Fife-Ferris, Chair	Seattle Public Utilities
Corina Pfeil, Co-Chair	Kenmore Councilmember, Sound Cities Association, representing 38 cities of King County
Josh Baldi	King County Water and Land Resources Division
Lorraine Patterson-Harris	King County Solid Waste Division
Ryan Kellogg	Public Health - Seattle & King County

2022 ANNUAL REPORT – LETTER FROM DIRECTOR & MCC CHAIR

Dear Reader:

The Hazardous Waste Management Program is pleased to share the 2022 Annual Report with you. Each update in this report speaks to the important mission of the Program, as well as our vision of making the Puget Sound region the cleanest in the country — one free of hazardous chemical exposure. We are proud of the work we do every day for the people of King County. This past year has proven that when we all work together, we are able to make a difference.

Our Program's work touches the daily lives of all who live, work, learn, and play in King County. This past year, we provided King County families and businesses accessible and meaningful services. At the same time, we strengthened collaborative partnerships with communities, businesses, cities, tribes, and agencies around the region. Our intentional efforts helped collectively advance policy initiatives, build awareness for change, increase access to services, and better meet the needs of people in King County.

The pandemic has required us to rethink how we share information, provide services, and engage with customers and partners. As part of our effort, the Program adapted operationally to strengthen our reach, equity and impact. Our mindset and our way of working is changing. We are using data to drive action, build partnerships, and collaborate to achieve our goals.

The Program has continued to enhance and refine its work to provide King County residents and businesses with services to manage hazardous exposure and use of safer alternatives. We have emphasized working upstream to promote systemic change in the production, use, and disposal of hazardous materials. We are also contributing to the regional response of our coalition partners' work on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), climate change, and increasing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). This work will help inform strategies to protect human health and the environment throughout King County.

We are proud of our achievements. But, we know there is still work to be done. In this new and changing landscape, we remain steadfast in our commitment to make an impact, helping advance policies, and systems change while centering equity and social justice. As a coalition, we will continue delivering a Program that matches your values and exceeds your expectations.

We could not accomplish this work without the support of our staff, along with our agency and community partners. Thank you for your partnership and shared commitment to protecting people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Maythia Airhart

Maythia Airhart
Interim Program Director,
Hazardous Waste
Management Program

Susan Fife-Ferris

Susan Fife-Ferris
2022 Chair, Management
Coordination Committee,
Seattle Public Utilities

OUR REGIONAL RESPONSE

Together with our partners, we are working toward a shared vision: a Puget Sound region that's the cleanest in the country, free from hazardous chemical exposure.

Everyday chemicals carry a toxic burden. Common products that we use everyday — such as cleaning supplies, varnish, motor oil, oil-based paints, and pesticides contain toxic, corrosive, flammable, or reactive ingredients. These ingredients found everywhere around us are harmful to the environment.

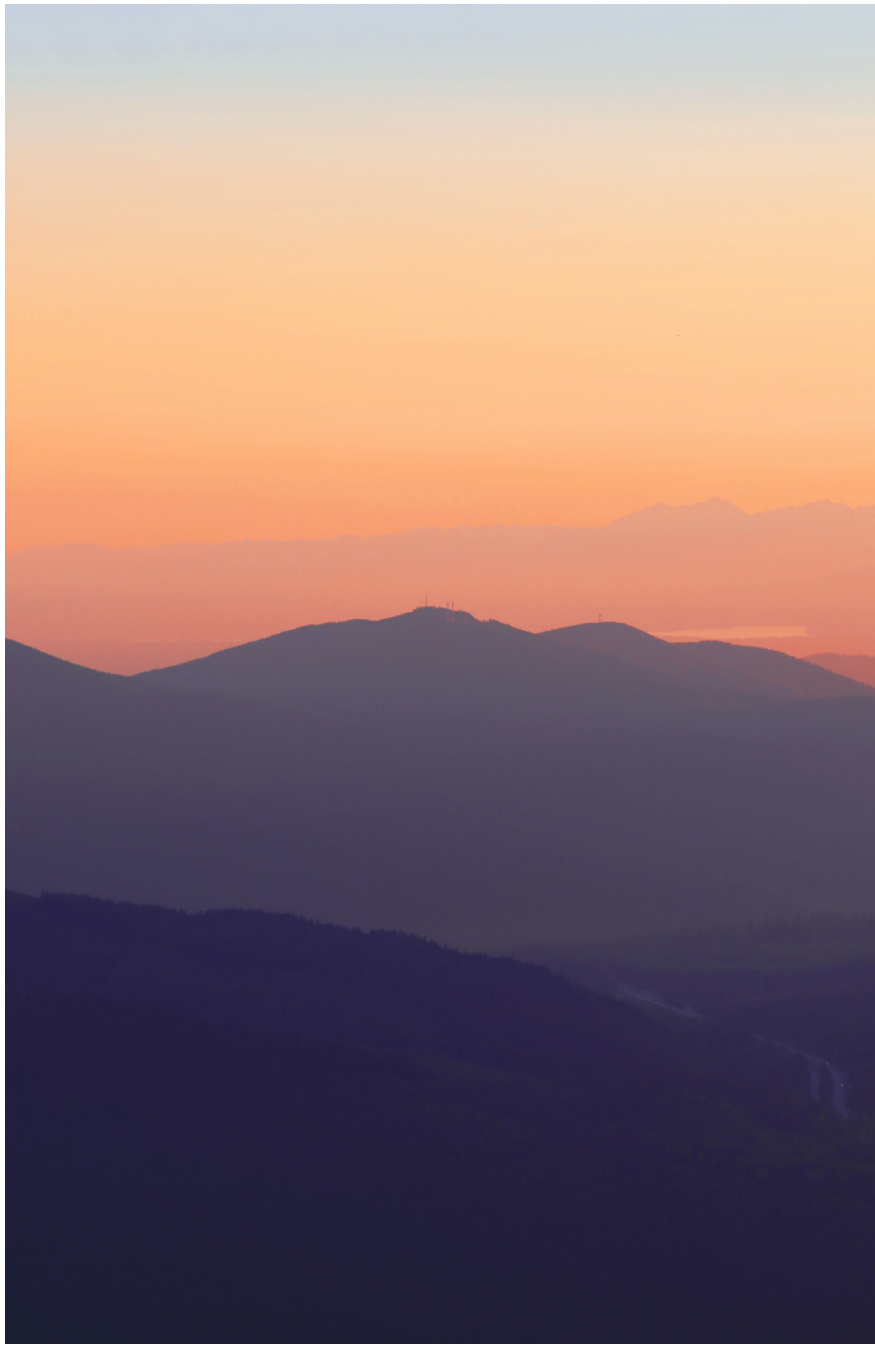
In 2022, we put forward our commitment to deliver on the 10-year plan to reduce hazardous exposures to people and the environment in King County.

Advocate for policy changes: We grew our learning edge to improve how we work with our state and national partners. As a result, the Program is better networked and tied into larger conversations around systems changes.

Cultivate partnerships: Local and national interest in PFAS, battery stewardship, lead exposure prevention, and other Program initiatives expanded our partnership network and helped our Program implement our own priorities for King County.

Provide services and support: While we pursued policy and systems change, we provided our residential and business customers with the prevention and collection services they use every day.

We continued to educate people about what they can do as individuals to safeguard themselves and prevent exposure to hazardous materials. We increased our knowledge and advocacy to support systemic changes that promote safer alternatives, remove exposure to hazardous products, and protect the health and safety of our region's people and ecosystems. We also strived to improve health and environmental outcomes by using an anti-racism framework to better understand the underlying causes and barriers faced in communities that experience a greater risk of exposure. As a result, we developed equitable approaches that improved health and environmental outcomes for all King County residents.



POLICY AND RESEARCH

As community stewards, the Program works to support upstream legislative solutions and improve policies and regulations that impact the creation, use and end-of-life management, and disposal of hazardous materials. We focus on shifting the burden of preventing exposure away from individuals to the systems and producers that create hazardous products and wastes. As an organization, we:

- Initiate and lead local, state and national conversations around hazardous materials.
- Use the best available technical and social science to inform our conversations.
- Partner with communities, government agencies, elected officials, and local, regional and national organizations to support inclusive planning and transformative policy development.
- Promote and pursue systemic changes to help ensure that chemicals and products are safe for people and the environment.

CREATING PARTNERSHIPS TO PURSUE SYSTEMIC CHANGE

By working with local, regional and national stakeholders, the Program supports inclusive planning and transformative policy development to help ensure chemicals and products are safe for people and the environment. For example, we chair a local and state government Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Workgroup and collaborate with the state to convene the Washington State Chemical Policy Workgroup to share information and resources, cultivate policy initiatives, and build working relationships.

IDENTIFYING LEAD IN COOKPOTS

One of our key efforts has centered on addressing the ongoing challenge of lead poisoning, which affects a disproportionate number of children in communities of color, including refugee and immigrant children. Our research revealed that many aluminum cookpots used in these communities contained high levels of lead. Our study findings were published in the Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology, and were shared with the Food and Drug Administration and the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

BUILDING SUPPORT FOR PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP

With the rise of smartphones, cordless appliances, and electric vehicles, people are using more batteries every day. In turn, more batteries are entering our waste management streams. Batteries contain hazardous materials, and when they enter waste streams without proper disposal, they can harm the environment and create safety issues at waste management facilities. The Program is working with Zero Waste Washington, the Northwest Product Stewardship Council, and state representatives to pursue battery stewardship legislation in Washington. The battery bill is an example of an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) bill that requires producers to take responsibility for the impact of their products on the environment, providing King County residents with safer, more convenient ways to dispose of batteries at end-of-life, as well as driving change for better product design.

EPR is a type of product stewardship that requires the producer to take responsibility for safe disposal of its products. Establishing EPR and product stewardship programs helps keep hazardous chemicals out of landfills and decreases exposure to hazardous waste substances, especially for those disproportionately impacted by exposure to these substances.

LOOKING FORWARD

In 2023, we will build a coalition to study and research the feasibility of enacting policies and legislation in Washington that would expand and apply EPR to all household hazardous waste (HHW) products. This groundwork will help build momentum for EPR for HHW legislation to pass in future years.

PREVENTION *AT HOME*

We offer education, outreach, and technical assistance to encourage people to reduce their exposure to hazardous materials and adopt safer practices. Because each community faces different barriers to achieving positive health outcomes, we use different approaches for each community. We approach this work with the knowledge that we will only succeed if we design, implement, and evaluate our strategies for, by, and with community members.

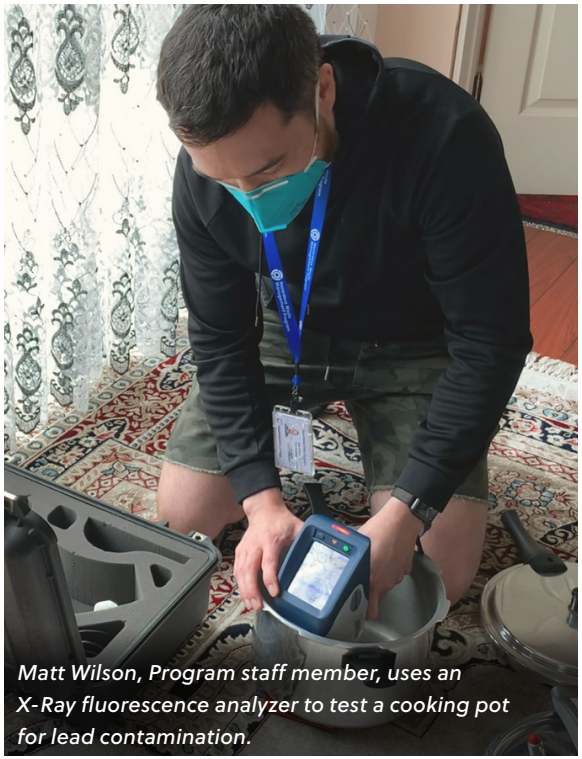
Farhat Kohistani stars in the educational video we created with Afghan Health Initiative about safer cookware options.

In 2022, we used a community-centered approach to work towards the removal of toxic substances from homes. Our work included partnering with Public Health – Seattle & King County and local community-based organizations to educate community members about sources of lead in the home and how to adopt safer behaviors to protect families, especially those with young children, from lead poisoning. We applied new strategies to expand our reach by inviting our community partners to co-develop online workshops about safer cleaning and co-create culturally relevant educational tools in their preferred languages. After learning that Afghan refugees in our region may be exposed to lead through the pressure cookers and cooking pots they brought to the U.S., we partnered with Afghan Health Initiative (AHI) to provide interpretation services, outreach, and education to the community. Together, we co-created educational videos about safer cookware options that reduce exposure to lead. AHI was involved every step of the way, from creating storyboards and translating scripts to starring in the video. Along with these videos, AHI and the Program also worked with local families to exchange 160 pieces of lead-contaminated cookware with stainless steel alternatives.

Behind the scenes of the video production set.

LOOKING FORWARD

We are excited about opportunities to renew and strengthen our partnerships with community groups serving those most impacted by the harmful effects of lead exposure. A key part of preventing hazardous exposure is understanding how people encounter lead. In 2023, the Program will partner with community groups to conduct a pilot study. This study will aim to understand how children are exposed to lead, especially in refugee and new immigrant communities. Our goal is to provide improved guidance on safer behaviors that reduce lead exposure for people and families living in King County.



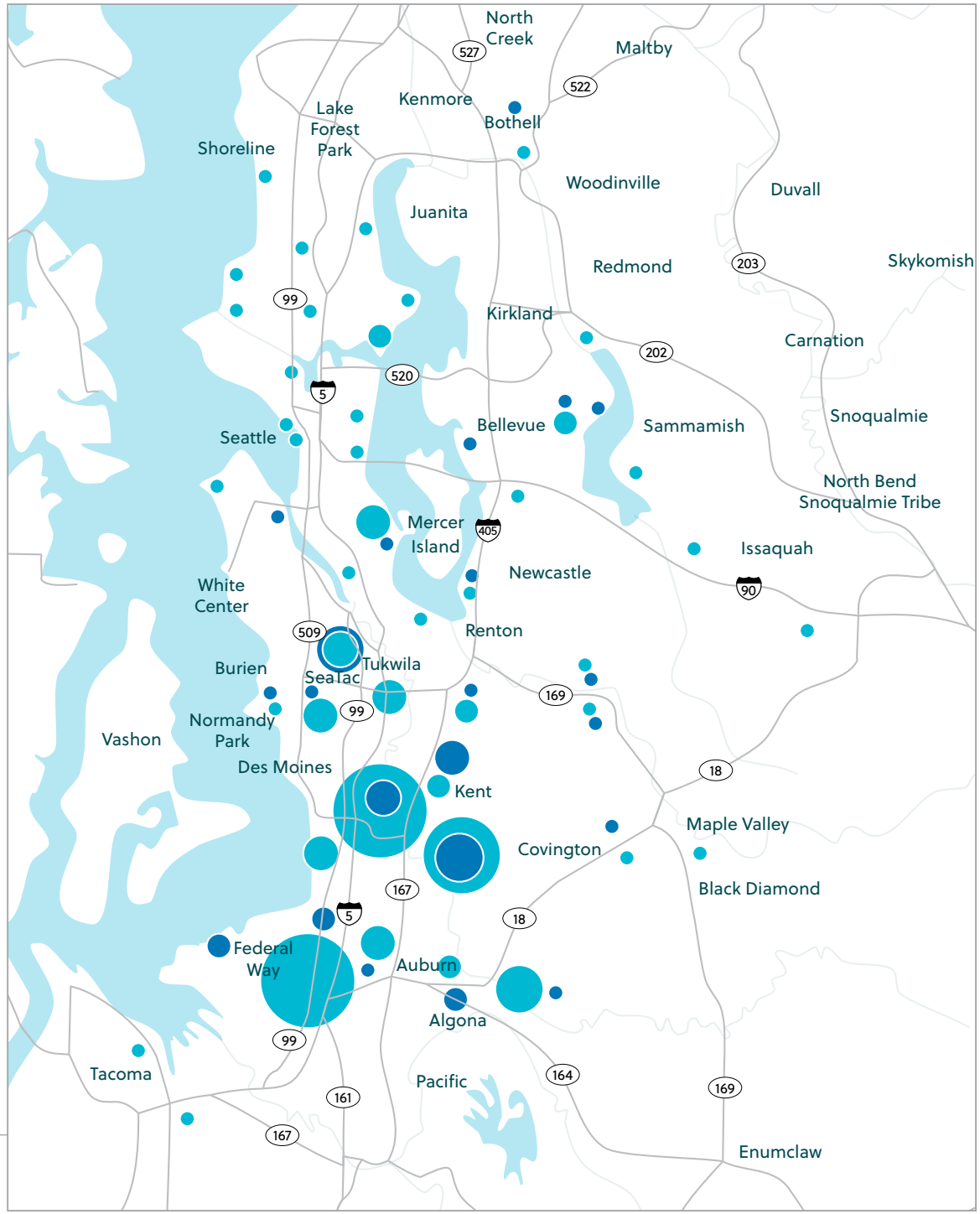
Matt Wilson, Program staff member, uses an X-Ray fluorescence analyzer to test a cooking pot for lead contamination.

3,019 residents and families who learned about safer cleaning practices or how to identify hazardous products

5,335 people who learned about natural yard care at a workshop

234 visits concerning blood lead levels above Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's reference level

11,014 residents who received help from the Haz Waste Help Line, the Garden Hotline, and outreach services



- Community partners and visits
- In-home assessment for lead exposure

Bigger circles indicate a higher density of visits

PREVENTION *AT WORK*

Trevor Fernandes, Program staff member, provides guidance to a local business owner about how to safely manage hazardous materials.

The Program helps small businesses switch to safer alternatives and get their green business practices recognized.

We help eligible King County businesses safely dispose and manage the hazardous materials that they use. Our business programs provide resources to help businesses save money and protect employees and the environment.

We know that Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) often work in industries that involve exposure to hazardous chemicals. In 2022, we connected with several organizations that serve immigrant and refugee communities, including East African Community Services (EACS), an organization that supports hundreds of East African refugee and immigrant families in King County every year. Our connection created a new network to reach BIPOC business owners, resulting in over 30 site visits to local auto shops.

We also addressed the challenges posed by traditional degreasers that can contain hazardous chemicals by offering:

- Technical support to 34 businesses.
- Free trial degreaser products and financial vouchers to 32 businesses.

LOOKING FORWARD

In 2023, a multidisciplinary team across the Program will explore ways to engage and provide access to services for communities most impacted by hazardous waste in the multi-family housing and janitorial industries.

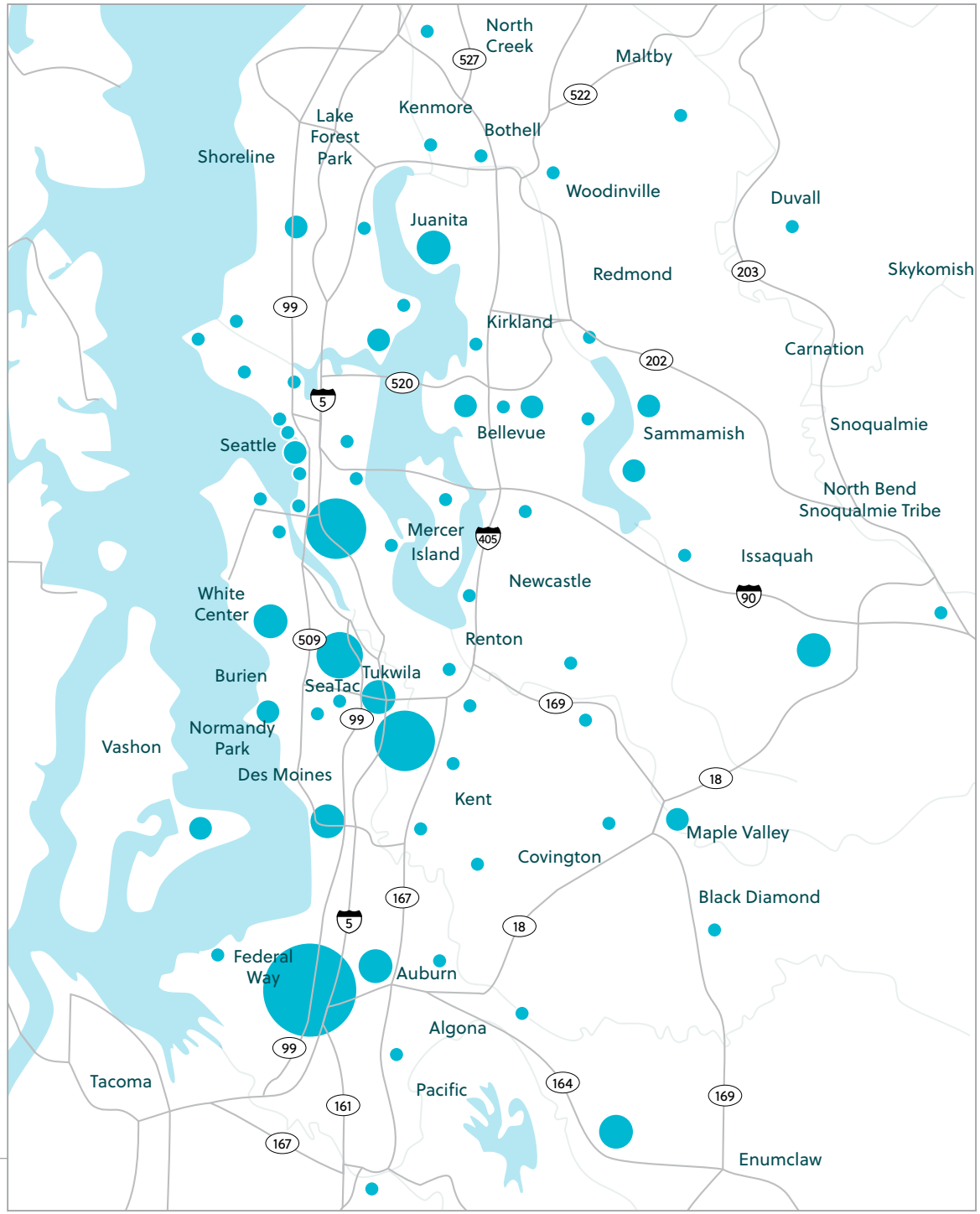
327 vouchers approved

$376,584 return on investment for voucher program

406 on-site consultations

8,329 pounds of hazardous waste safely stored

245,121 pounds of hazardous waste disposed



Businesses visited

Bigger circles indicate a higher density of visits

SAFE DISPOSAL

In 2022, we provided safe and convenient hazardous waste collection services to residential and small business customers — also known as Small Quantity Generators — to protect public health and reduce the amount of hazardous materials that end up in our waste systems and the environment.

We also partnered with cities, towns, and tribes to increase awareness about safe use and disposal of hazardous products. We provided financial grants to 36 cities and the Snoqualmie Tribe to help more people safely manage their hazardous materials.

We provided these services through:

- Collection services at four locations in North Seattle, South Seattle, Factoria, and Auburn.
- Mobile collection by the travelling Wastemobile and at city- and tribe-sponsored collection events.
- In-home collection services for seniors and residents with disabilities.

LOOKING FORWARD

In the coming years, the collection and facilities team will continue to study customer behaviors and feedback to better understand their evolving needs. From 2023 to 2024 we will conduct a study of our hazardous waste collection services and facilities, with a focus on understanding users of these services and the barriers that stand in the way of hazardous waste disposal. This study will help us identify ways to improve collection services for different communities in an equitable way while preparing the Program to meet changing demands and ensure we are effectively serving our region's residents and small businesses.

An on-site staff member sorts hazardous waste at the collection location in Auburn.

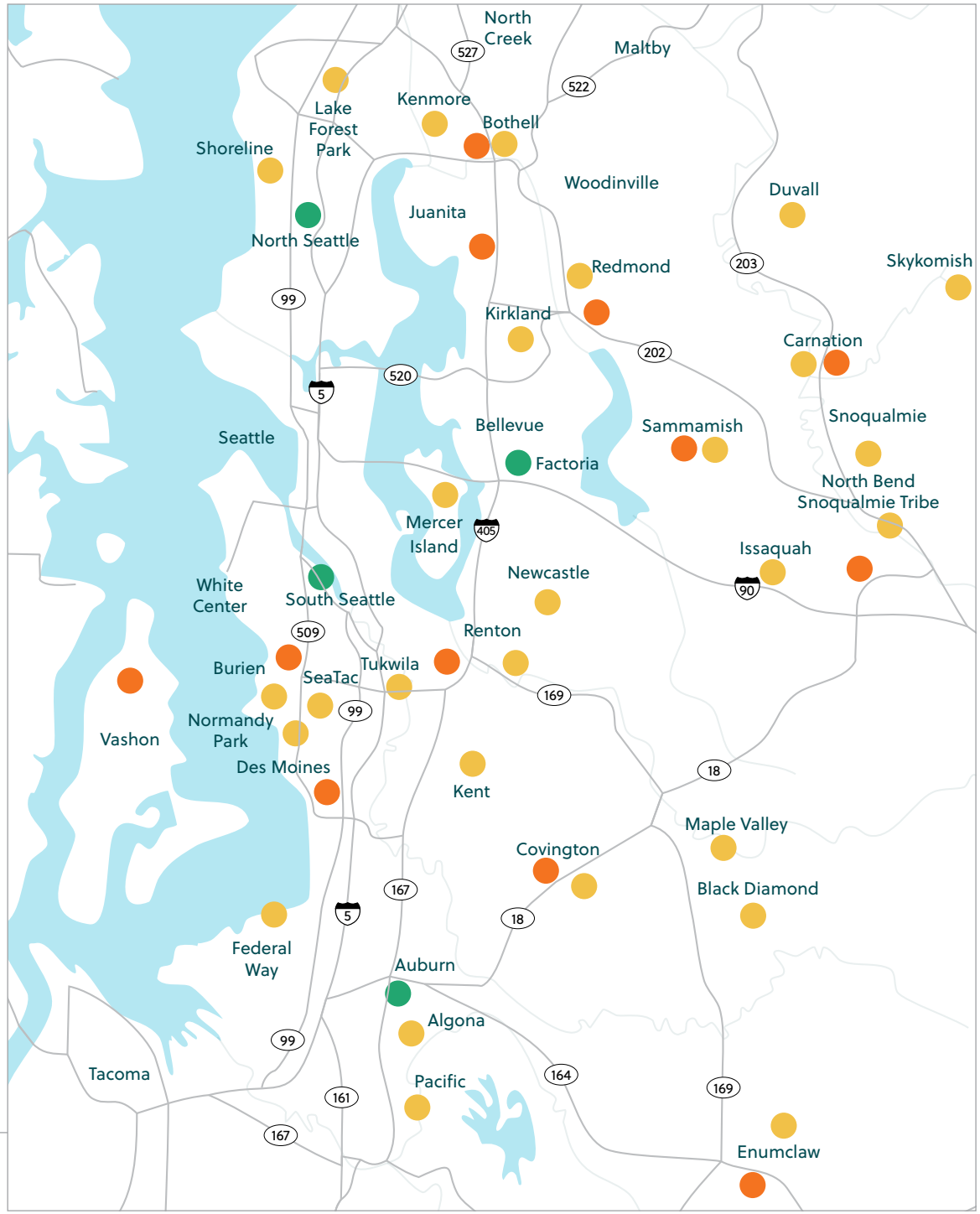
3,231,240
pounds of hazardous waste kept out of our waste systems and the environment

86,292 visits by residents

861 visits by small businesses

$718,427 provided to city and tribal partners

24,123 attendees reached through **37** city-sponsored events



- Hazardous Waste Disposal Locations
- City/Tribal Sponsored Collection Events
- Traveling Wastemobile

FINANCIALS

VALUE FOR MONEY

The Program is funded by local hazardous waste fees on solid waste and sewer services in King County. These fees are set by the King County Board of Health.

Our operating fund was $20,238,380 in 2022. Fees are collected by public and private utility providers *(i.e. solid waste haulers, wastewater treatment plant operators, transfer station operators, and cities)* who then pay into the Program.

[1] Agreement with Washington State Dept. of Ecology was executed in November 2021. Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance program (LSWFA) grant period covers July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023 for $797,392.

[2] King County's year-end accounting adjustment.

FUND BALANCE		
2022 Beginning		$16,332,332
	2022 BUDGET	2022 ACTUAL
REVENUES		
Wastewater Rate Revenue	4,178,357	4,085,640
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2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Hazardous Waste Management Program

GOVERNMENTS WORKING TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHIER AND CLEANER KING COUNTY

May 10, 2023
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 9:

Levies and Ballot Measures in King County

UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact

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Results – April 25, 2023 Election (as of May 3, 2023)		
Jurisdiction	**Measure**	**Results**
King County	Proposition 1: Crisis Care Centers levy	**Approved: 56.66%** Rejected: 43.34%
Kent School District	General Obligation Bonds for capital improvements	Approved: 48.01% **Rejected: 51.99%**
Snoqualmie Valley Hospital (District 4)	Levy lid lift for health care services	Approved: 33.51% **Rejected: 66.49%**
Vashon Park District	Park district levy renewal for 2024 through 2027	**Approved: 74.03%** Rejected: 25.97%

Potential Future Ballot Measures – SCA Cities			
Year	**Month**	**Jurisdiction**	**Measure**
2023		Kirkland	Parks levy
2024		Enumclaw	Community center levy

Potential Future Ballot Measures – Other Jurisdictions and Special Purpose Districts			
Year	**Month**	**Jurisdiction**	**Measure**
2023	August	King County	Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services levy renewal
2023	November	Seattle	Housing levy renewal
2024		King County	Automated Fingerprint Identification System levy renewal
2024		Seattle	Transportation Levy renewal (“Move Seattle”)
2025		King County	Parks levy renewal
2025		King County	EMS levy renewal
2027		King County	Best Starts for Kids levy renewal
TBD		King County	Housing levy
TBD		King County	Transit levy

Update

Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy Placed on August 2023 Ballot

On May 1, 2023, the County Council unanimously approved placing the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy (VSHSL) on the August 2023 ballot. After deliberation, the County Council

approved the levy renewal ordinance at the 10-cent per $1,000 of assessed value rate that was recommended by the County Executive and by the Regional Policy Committee.

At their April 3 meeting, the Regional Policy Committee (RPC) recommended approval of the levy at the rate proposed by the County Executive of 10-cents per $1,000 of assessed value. The current levy was approved by voters at 10-cents per $1,000 in 2017, but that rate has since reduced to 8-cents per $1,000. Levy collections on the renewed levy are limited to annual increases of 3.5% after the first year. The levy would cost the owner of a median-priced home in King County approximately $84 per year, an increase of approximately $17.50 per year for that same homeowner.

At its Budget and Fiscal Management Committee (BFM) meeting on April 17, members of the County Council voted to recommend a renewal ordinance that would have increased the levy rate to 12-cents per $1,000 of assessed value. Per the King County Charter, as the ordinance was changed from what was approved by RPC, the ordinance was required to be reconsidered by RPC who could concur with, dissent from, or amend the proposal that was approved by BFM.

RPC met on April 24 and again on April 28 to consider the proposed increased levy rate adopted out of BFM. RPC's vote was split, with six votes in favor of a 10-cent levy rate and six votes in favor of a 12-cent levy rate with SCA members voting in support of the 10-cent rate. As a result, RPC's recommendation from April 3 of a 10-cent rate remained RPC's recommendation. Per the County Charter, ordinances recommended by RPC require a simple majority of County Councilmembers (5) for approval. The alternative proposal of a 12-cent levy rate could also have been adopted by the County Council following review by the RPC but would have required a supermajority of Councilmembers (6) for approval.

At the County Council's May 1 meeting, the County Council voted unanimously to recommend the VSHSL renewal at 10-cents. This followed action on a proposed 12-cent renewal rate, which would have required six votes for passage, but failed 5-4 with Dunn, vonReichbauer, Perry, and Upthegrove voting no. Members cited concerns raised by SCA members on RPC concerning tax-fatigue as well as underwhelming results of the Crisis Cares Centers measure in their districts.

In total over six years, the levy is expected to generate $565 million to continue funding for regional health and human services for veterans and servicemembers and their families, seniors and their caregivers, and resilient communities[1]. Additionally, the levy would establish funding for regional impact initiatives that provide or support responses to issues that affect all three of the levy's specified populations and which regional health and human services can help address.

[1] Resilient communities are defined as "persons or communities susceptible to reduced health, housing, financial or social stability outcomes due to systemic and historical exposure to trauma, violence, poverty, isolation, bias, racism, stigma, discrimination, disability or chronic illness. Examples of resilient communities include, but are not limited to: communities of color; immigrant and refugee communities; persons with disabilities; survivors of domestic violence and other gender-based violence; persons who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex or asexual; and survivors of human trafficking."

April 25 Special Election: Proposition 1 - Crisis Care Centers Levy Approved by Voters
The Crisis Cares Centers Levy was approved by voters on the April 2023 ballot with 56.6% voting yes as of results updated on May 3, 2023. While the measure was strongly supported in Seattle and in North King County, as of election night the measure was not passing in five of the nine County Council districts (Districts 3, 5, 6, 7, and 9) covering South and East King County.

The measure asked voters to approve a nine-year levy lied lift to fund behavioral health facilities and services. The proposal is funded by a 14.5-cent per year per $1,000 of assessed value levy lid lift to the county's general levy.

The levy proposal, announced in September 2022 by King County Executive Dow Constantine and other regional leaders and approved to be placed on the ballot by the County Council in February 2023, would fund the following components:

1. Create five new regional crisis centers
2. Preserve and restore residential treatment beds
3. Grow the behavioral health workforce pipeline
4. Provide immediate services while centers are being constructed

Total levy revenue is estimated at $1.25 billion over nine years (2024-2032) with 1% allowable growth. If approved by the voters, collection of the additional levy revenue would begin in 2024. Additional background can be found in the February 8, 2023 PIC Packet

Next Steps
Members are encouraged to please send information about any levies or ballot measures under consideration that will impact SCA cities to SCA Policy Director Brian Parry at brian@soundcities.org or (206) 499-4159

May 10, 2023
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 10:
Potential Upcoming SCA Issues
UPDATE

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Update

Highlighting upcoming issues brought forward by SCA members that may be taken up by the PIC through workshops, briefings and discussion items, and as action items. Members are encouraged to share suggestions for future topics.

Potential Issues
Potential upcoming and ongoing topics SCA are monitoring in 2023 for future PIC engagement include:

- Homelessness and governance of the region's response system
- Affordable housing, state mandates, and local implementation
- Transportation and mobility, including Metro transit service and long-term funding
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Clean Water Plan and capital investments
- Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy renewal
- Solid waste rate restructure and the future of recycling and disposal
- Addressing public safety concerns and changes to state law
- Regional emergency management coordination
- Apprenticeships and workforce development
- Environmental sustainability and addressing climate change
- Economic development and expanding opportunity for prosperity
- Behavioral health Crisis Care Centers Levy development and implementation
- Opioid and fentanyl crisis response
- Electrification infrastructure siting
- Strengthening civic discourse
- Education and training for newly elected officials
- Local infrastructure needs and tools for funding local needs

If you or your city has additional items to be added to the list of potential upcoming SCA issues, or items to suggest for future trainings or workshops, please contact SCA Policy Director Brian Parry, brian@soundcities.org or 206-499-4159.