

APPENDIX B GLOSSARY

Terminology Used in the Plan

Aerobic: Occurring only in the presence of oxygen-used in relation to providing air to accelerate composting. (Chapter 6).

Anaerobic: A condition occurring without oxygen. In composting facilities the condition can cause odor problems. (Chapter 6).

Ash Landfill: A landfill used for the disposal of incinerator ash which is classified as non-hazardous as defined by Federal and applicable state regulations. Disposal of incinerator ash is regulated under Washington State Special Incinerator Regulations (WAC 173-306). (Chapter 8).

Biosolids: Municipal sewage sludge that is a primarily organic, semisolid product resulting from the wastewater treatment process, that can be beneficially recycled and meets all requirements under chapter 70.95J RCW. Biosolids include septic tank sludge, also known as septage, that can be beneficially recycled and meets all requirements of chapter 70.95J RCW. (Chapter 9).

Composting: This term means the controlled aerobic degradation of organic waste materials to make a product for use as a soil amendment, conditioner or mulch. Natural decay of organic wastes under uncontrolled conditions is not composting. Organic materials include, but are not limited to, such things as yardwaste, foodwaste, woodwaste, biosolids, paper, or any of the biodegradable portion of mixed municipal solid waste. (Chapters 4 and 6).

Demolition Waste Landfill: A landfill used to dispose of demolition waste which is defined as largely inert solid waste resulting from the demolition of razing of buildings, roads, and other man-made structures. (Chapters 8 and 9).

Fluff: The non-metallic fraction that results from the shredding of cars and the separation of the recyclable metal scrap. (Chapter 3).

Fort Lewis/McChord Air Force Base System: The Fort Lewis disposal system which provides for disposal for the Fort and for McChord Air Force Base (AFB). (Chapter 10).

Geology/Soils: (Chapter 2)

- **Glacial till:** A fine clay containing pebbles and rocks which was left behind after the melting of glaciers. It is generally highly compacted and exhibits low permeability which provides a natural protection to groundwater from surface infiltration.
- **Glacial outwash:** Areas of sand and gravel which has been transported by streams of water coming from glaciers. It is highly permeable.
- **Alluvium:** Sedimentary material deposited by flowing water consisting of mud, sand, and gravel.
- **Aquifer:** An underground bed or layer of earth, gravel, or porous stone that yields water.

Goals, Policies, & Recommendations:

Goal: A broad statement of what ought to exist or what is desired to be achieved in the future.

Policy: A statement, more specific than a goal, which describes a particular course of action to accomplish the purpose of the plan.

Policy Recommendation: A new policy recommended to the County Council.

Implementation Actions: These are the detailed actions to implement the Plan. They are in the form of specific programs adopted by ordinance or studies completed at the direction of Plan policies. The ordinances are more detailed than the Plan policies and may be amended outside the plan amendment process. (Chapter 1).

Inert Waste Landfill: A landfill used to dispose of inert waste which is defined as non-combustible, non-dangerous solid wastes that are likely to retain their physical and chemical structure under expected conditions of disposal, including resistance to biological attack and chemical attack from acid rainwater. (Chapters 8 and 9).

Integrated Management System: A solid waste management system which deals with all issues relating to collection, processing, and disposal of solid waste, including waste reduction and recycling.

Interlocal Agreements: Agreements between the County and cities and towns about adoption and implementation of the Solid Waste Management Plan. (Chapter 10).

Limited Purpose Landfill: A landfill used for the permanent disposal of one specific type of waste of limited, known, and consistent composition such as an ash monofill, a landspreading disposal facility for biosolids, problem waste landfill, or any facility other than those permitted for the disposal of woodwaste, garbage, inert waste, demolition, or municipal waste. (Chapters 2, 8, and 9).

Municipal Solid Waste Landfill: A landfill used for the disposal of a combination of commercial and residential waste generated within urban, suburban, and rural areas. MSW landfills constructed after 1985 and prior to 1991 were regulated under the requirements of WAC Chapter 173-304. New landfill cells receiving MSW waste after October 1991 are regulated under WAC Chapter 173-351. (Chapters 2 and 8).

Pierce County System: County government's management system which provides planning for a disposal and recycling system for 19 of 21 cities and towns, and unincorporated areas. (Chapter 10).

Pounds per Capita per Day (pcd): Disposal, recycling, or generation rates reflecting the number of pounds disposed, recycled, or generated per person per day. (Chapter 3).

Pre-consumer/Post-consumer: Post-consumer refers to a product made from collected recycled materials. Pre-consumer means a product made from materials recovered at the manufacturing plant and run back through the manufacturing process. (Chapter 4).

Recycling: The collection of recyclable materials in order to transform or remanufacture the materials into usable or marketable products. In the Pierce County management system, the adopted residential and yardwaste collection ordinances specify the minimum types of materials to be collected. The haulers may add other materials to their collection programs. (Chapter 4).

Source-Separation Recycling Programs: These are recycling programs which collect a variety of recyclable materials at the place where the recyclable waste is first generated, such as a residence or a business. The materials may be collected either in separate bins or in a co-mingled recyclables bin. The separated bin system reduces the need for processing by relying on the generator to sort the materials where the co-mingled bin system requires additional processing at a material recovery facility. (Chapter 4).

SWAC: The state requires that counties establish a Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) “to assist in the development of programs and policies concerning solid waste handling and disposal...” By law, the SWAC is established to report to the Pierce County Council. (Chapters 1 and 10).

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD): The Health Department is a separate agency from the County serving the County, Tacoma, and cities. It has its own, separate Board of Health and staff. It implements programs to ensure solid waste handling complies with state and local solid waste codes and ordinances. This includes the permitting process and enforcement of the solid waste permit regulations in WAC 173-304 and 173-351; monitoring; and coordination with the County and the cities on all aspects of special collections and public information programs. (Chapters 1 and 10).

Tacoma/Ruston: Tacoma’s system which provides planning, collection, and disposal for Tacoma residents and businesses and disposal for the Town of Ruston. (Chapters 1 and 10).

Vermicomposting: The use of worms to achieve controlled composting of organic wastes. (Chapter 6).

Waste Disposed: All waste disposed at in-county MSW landfills, diverted to municipally or federally owned MSW waste-to-energy facilities, or exported under contract to out-of-county MSW landfills. (Chapter 3).

Waste Generated: The sum of all waste disposed in mixed municipal waste (MSW) landfills, diverted for energy recovery or composting, and materials collected and recycled by both public and private entities. It does not include special wastes which are generally handled outside the municipal waste stream collection system of transfer stations, MSW landfills, and municipally or federally owned waste-to-energy facilities. Special wastes are those which are disposed in privately owned, limited purpose inert landfills, soil bio-remediation facilities, or used to produce industrial hog fuel. (Chapter 3).

Waste Recycled: Materials collected for recycling or diverted from disposal by composting to public and private facilities. Materials not included are pre-consumer recyclables or those specialty wastes that would not generally, or only incidentally, enter the municipal waste stream collection system. (Chapter 3).

Waste Reduction: Sometimes referred to as “source” reduction, this term means reducing the amount or toxicity of waste which is generated or reusing materials. Waste reduction can be accomplished by “recycling” which means considering the type of products or packaging before it is bought, such as buying products in bulk or with little or recyclable packing, or products made of concentrated solutions or materials. (Chapter 11).

Yardwaste: Organic yard debris that can be composted or ground-up for mulch, such as grass clippings, brush, leaves, and tree limbs. (Chapters 4 and 6).