# LEWIS COUNTY
## COMPREHENSIVE SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR YEARS 2025-2030


LEWIS COUNTY
*Washington's First County*
*est. 1845*

AUGUST 2025

# Lewis County
# Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan

## For Years 2025-2030

## August 2025

**Prepared for:**

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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- Lewis County Solid Waste Advisory Committee Members
- Washington State Department of Ecology Staff
- Lewis County Environmental Health Department, Solid Waste/Hazardous Program Staff
- Solid Waste Utility Staff

**Note:**
Some pages in this document have been purposely skipped or blank pages inserted so that this document will print correctly when duplexed

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# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| 2008 Lewis County Solid Waste Management Plan | 2008 Plan |
| Agricultural Resource Lands | ARL |
| Best Management Practices | BMPs |
| Board of Lewis County Commissioners | BOCC |
| Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy | BSE |
| Central Transfer Station | CTS |
| Centralia Landfill Closure Group | CLCG |
| Chlorofluorocarbons | CFCs |
| Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan | CEMP |
| Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan | CSHWMP |
| Construction and Demolition | C&D |
| Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plan | CROP |
| Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion | DEI |
| Disaster Debris Management Plans | DDMPs |
| Do-It-Yourself | DIY |
| East Lewis County Transfer Station | ELCTS |
| Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act | EPCRA |
| Federal Emergency Management Agency | FEMA |
| Hazardous Waste Collection Facility | Hazo Hut |
| Highly Pathogenic Asian Avian Influenza A | H5N1 |
| House Bill | HB |
| Household Hazardous Waste | HHW |
| Integrated Pest Management | IPM |
| Interlocal Agreement | ILA |
| Lewis County Code | LCC |
| Lewis County Environmental Health Department, Solid Waste/Hazardous Program | Environmental Health |
| Lewis County Solid Waste Disposal District No. 1 | LCSWDD |
| Lewis County Public Works Department Solid Waste Utility | Utility |
| Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance | LSWFA |
| Minimum Functional Standards | MFS |
| Moderate Risk Waste | MRW |

| | |
|---|---|
| Model Toxics Control Act | MTCA |
| Municipal Solid Waste | MSW |
| Petroleum-Contaminated Soils | PCS |
| Photovoltaic | PV |
| Pollution Prevention Plans | P2 Plans |
| Polybrominated Diphenyl Ether | PBDE |
| Polychlorinated biphenyl | PCB |
| Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons | PAH |
| Recycling Service Area | RSA |
| Resource Conservation and Recovery Act | RCRA |
| Revised Code of Washington | RCW |
| Rural Area Industrial | RAI |
| Safe Medication Return Program | MED-Project |
| square feet | sf |
| State Small Quantity Generator | SQG |
| Solid Waste Management Act | SWMA |
| Solid Waste Management Plan | SWMP |
| Solid Waste Advisory Committee | SWAC |
| State Environmental Policy Act | SEPA |
| United State Environmental Protection Agency | EPA |
| Urban Growth Area | UGA |
| Washington | WA |
| Washington Administrative Code | WAC |
| Washington State Department of Agriculture | WSDA |
| Washington State University | WSU |
| Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission | WUTC |
| Waste Not Washington Act | ESHB 1671 |
| Washington State University Lewis County Master Recycler Composter | MRC |

# 1. PLANNING PROCESS AND BACKGROUND

This Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan (CSHWMP) recommends strategies to manage solid waste and moderate risk waste (MRW) generated in Lewis County, Washington (WA). Solid waste handling includes management, storage, collection, diversion, transportation, treatment, use, processing, and final disposal. This Plan includes recommendations for municipal solid waste (MSW), MRW, organics, diversion, construction and demolition (C&D) debris, and wastes requiring special handling.

## 1.1. PURPOSE

This CSHWMP was prepared to provide future direction for managing solid and hazardous (moderate risk) waste, including collection and handling, within Lewis County. This CSHWMP was developed in response to the Revised Code of Washington (RCW), 70A.205.040 which states:

> "Each County within the State, in cooperation with the various cities located within such county, shall prepare a coordinated, comprehensive solid waste management plan (SWMP). The purpose is to plan for solid waste and materials reduction, collection, and handling and management services and programs throughout the state, as designed to meet the unique needs of each county and city in the state." (70A.205.040 (1))

Likewise, RCW 70A.300.007 requires local governments to manage MRW in their jurisdictions by investigating, addressing, and documenting potential threats posed by hazardous waste generated by households, and in small quantities, by businesses and institutions.

To assist in these long-term planning efforts, RCW 70A.205.110 (3) states "Each county shall establish a local solid waste advisory committee (SWAC) to assist in the development of programs and policies concerning solid waste handling and disposal and to review and comment upon proposed rules, policies, or ordinances prior to their adoption." The statute goes on to require that the SWAC be an active participant in the solid waste plan preparation, update, or amendment process.

This CSHWMP addresses solid waste and hazardous waste management throughout Lewis County and is a county plan that encompasses incorporated cities as well as unincorporated areas. Leaders in the incorporated cities chose to participate in Lewis County's planning process through an interlocal agreement (ILA); see Appendix A, as defined per RCW 36.58.100–150. This ILA forms the Lewis County Solid Waste Disposal District No.1 (LCSWDD), establishes flow control of solid waste within the county's borders, and designates Lewis County as the planning authority for solid waste. The incorporated municipalities within Lewis County, participants in this ILA, are Centralia, Chehalis, Morton, Mossyrock, Napavine, Pe Ell, Toledo, Vader, and Winlock.

The CSHWMP documents current waste management programs, evaluates future waste management needs, and outlines a 20-year program for managing solid waste in Lewis County. While the plan considers a 20-year planning horizon, detailed program development and implementation covers a 6-year planning period (2025 to 2030).

In some instances, the CSHWMP documents specific decisions regarding how waste will be managed in Lewis County. In other instances, the CSHWMP identifies (1) decisions yet to be made, (2) possible future actions, and (3) recommendations for study as part of a necessary, dynamic, and ongoing solid waste, waste reduction, recycling, organics, and MRW management program.

## 1.2. Goals and Objectives

The mission statement for this Plan is as follows:

> The overall goal of Lewis County and the participating jurisdictions is to provide citizens with efficient, reliable, and affordable solid waste collection, handling, recycling, and disposal services in order to improve the quality of life while protecting and preserving human health, environmental quality, and natural resources.

For each element of the CSHWMP, goals were developed. An assessment of existing conditions relative to each element was made and then an identification of needs and opportunities followed. An evaluation of the alternatives was then performed and recommendations for specific programs, policies, or actions were selected and adopted. In summary, the goals for the CSHWMP are as follows:

- Provide convenient and reliable services for managing solid waste materials.
- Promote the use of innovative and economical waste handling methods.
- Emphasize waste reduction as a fundamental management strategy.
- Encourage recovery of marketable resources from solid waste.
- Encourage public/private partnerships for waste reduction and recycling programs.
- Maintain a solid waste management system and suitable agreements between Lewis County, incorporated cities, franchise haulers, contract haulers, and other users of the solid waste facilities that result in minimizing costs to Lewis County's citizens.
- Evaluate, consider, and maintain the regional approach to solid waste management in Lewis County to include waste from outside Lewis County.
- Increase public awareness on solid waste issues and provide citizens with information and education to implement recommended waste management practices.
- Minimize the environmental impacts to climate, air, water, and land that are associated with waste generation, transportation, handling, recycling, and disposal.
- Comply with federal, state, and local solid waste and MRW regulations.
- Recognize and support local conditions associated with the management of solid waste and MRW.
- Provide equitable services and develop a solid waste system that supports diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

The general goals and policies articulated in the 2008 Lewis County Solid Waste Management Plan (2008 Plan) are applicable today. These goals and policies are presented in this chapter and additional goals and policies have been added via this most recent planning process.

### 1.2.1. Ongoing Goals and Policies

The overall waste management goals for Lewis County are as follows:

- To administer and maintain a waste management system that provides for innovative solutions.
- To continue education of solid waste and MRW issues for the public.
- To implement the CSHWMP with the intent of protecting human health and the environment in an efficient and fiscally responsible manner.

General goals identified in the 2008 Plan, and related to solid waste management in Lewis County include the following:

1. Foster an awareness of waste management issues in Lewis County.
2. Promote effective public input in the planning process.
3. Provide Lewis County residences and businesses with effective solid waste handling facilities consistent with state and local regulatory requirements.
4. Facilitate cost-effective delivery of waste management services for Lewis County residences and businesses.
5. Establish fair and equitable arrangements to pay for waste management programs.
6. Protect public health and the environment from nuisance conditions related to improper waste handling.
7. Provide contingency planning that ensures uninterrupted, long-term availability of disposal services.

As identified in the update of the MRW Chapter in 2011, the purpose of MRW management is to complete the following activities:

1. Educate residents, businesses, and institutions about the use and disposal of products containing hazardous substances.
2. Make consumers aware of alternatives to products containing hazardous substances.
3. Assign responsibility for MRW management to the generators.
4. Provide timely, convenient, and affordable MRW disposal options for Lewis County citizens.

Lewis County Solid Waste Utility Division (Utility) staff, working with SWAC, previously identified the policies to help meet its solid waste and MRW management goals. These policies, with minor annotations included, apply today:

1. The owner or occupant of any home, business, or institution is responsible for managing waste materials generated or accumulated on the property.
2. Disposal of solid waste at locations within Lewis County, other than those authorized by the Lewis County Board of Health Solid Waste Rules and Regulations (Lewis County Code [LCC] 8.45) is prohibited.

3. Lewis County must ensure that long-term solid waste disposal options are available. Consequently, Lewis County shall conduct an ongoing fiscal analysis of the recommended solid waste management strategies, which, as required by RCW 70A.205, are prioritized as (1) waste reduction, including re-use; (2) waste recycling; (3) energy recovery, incineration, or landfilling of source-separated materials; and (4) energy recovery, incineration, or landfilling of mixed waste.
4. When siting solid waste facilities, decision-makers shall balance the interests of the project proponent, owners of property likely to be affected, and the general public.
5. Lewis County maintains the option to develop, own, and operate solid waste handling and management facilities deemed necessary for the proper management of MSW in its jurisdiction. Privatization of such facilities also remains an option.
6. The Lewis County Environmental Health Department, Solid Waste/Hazardous Program (Environmental Health), shall establish and maintain a surveillance and control program to ensure waste-handling facilities and operating practices are consistent with the responsibility to protect public health and the environment.
7. Provide cost-effective services that encourage residents to utilize the services.

### 1.2.2. Additional Goals and Policies

Lewis County is electing to add the goals, which are the focus of the State Solid and Hazardous Waste Plan – Moving Washington Beyond Waste and Toxics, December 2021, to better align its planning efforts with those of the state. These goals are as follows:

1. Research and support growing reuse, repair and sharing networks and opportunities.
2. Decrease the amount disposed, and increase the amount composted of organic waste.
3. Encourage product stewardship programs for toxic or hard-to-handle products.
4. Address curbside recycling contamination and material recovery facility system loss.
5. Prevent food waste.
6. Increase education and outreach efforts to residents and small businesses about MRW services, safe handling, and disposal options, as well as less toxic alternatives.
7. Specific actions to achieve these goals will be implemented when economically viable.

## 1.3. PARTICIPANTS IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

This document was developed with the guidance of the Lewis County SWAC whose participation is gratefully acknowledged. Committee members and their affiliation are shown in Table 1-1.

**Table 1-1. Lewis County Solid Waste Advisory Committee**

| Name | Affiliation/Title |
|---|---|
| Jason Adams | Agriculture Representative |
| Vacant | Industry Representative (Peppy Elizaga retired June 2023) |
| Terry Harris | Citizen of Chehalis |

| Name | Affiliation/Title |
|---|---|
| Eddie Lewis | Commercial Recycling Representative |
| Shawn O'Neill | Napavine Mayor (Appointed June 2023) |
| Tom Rupert | Curbside Refuse Collection Representative |
| Robert Spahr | City of Chehalis Elected Official |
| Max Vogt | City of Centralia Elected Official |
| Samantha Winkle | Organics Waste Recycling Industry Representative |

## 1.4. PLANNING AREA

The planning area includes the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Lewis County. The incorporated areas include the cities and towns of Centralia, Chehalis, Morton, Mossyrock, Napavine, Pe Ell, Toledo, Vader, and Winlock. Unincorporated communities include Adna, Boistfort, Cinebar, Curtis, Doty, Dryad, Ethel, Evaline, Forest, Galvin, Glenoma, Mary's Corner, Mineral, Onalaska, Packwood, Randle, Salkum, Silver Creek, and White Pass.

Lewis County solid waste facilities may also serve members of the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, the Nisqually Tribe, and the Cowlitz Indian Tribe. The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation and the Nisqually Tribe are headquartered in Grays Harbor and Thurston Counties, respectively, but both are located in or near the northern portion of Lewis County. The Cowlitz Indian Tribe is headquartered in Longview, with services in South Lewis County. The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, the Nisqually Tribe, and the Cowlitz Indian Tribe are federally recognized tribes, and as such, their reservations and tribal governments have a sovereign status. In the absence of an agreement stating otherwise, Washington State solid waste regulations do not generally apply on tribal lands, and the tribal governments manage their own solid waste. Representatives of the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, the Nisqually Tribe, and the Cowlitz Indian Tribe are welcome to participate in the CSHWMP development through the public participation process.

## 1.5. PLANNING AUTHORITIES

This CSHWMP is intended to satisfy the participating jurisdictions' responsibilities for maintaining a current solid waste management plan in accordance with RCW 70A.205. Cities and counties share the responsibility for developing and maintaining a local solid waste management plan. RCW 70A.205.040 provides cities with three alternatives for satisfying their planning responsibilities:

- Prepare and deliver to the county auditor a city solid waste management plan for integration into the county solid waste plan;
- Enter into an agreement with the county to prepare a joint city-county plan; or
- Authorize the county to prepare a plan for the city for inclusion in the county plan.

The ILA between LCSWDD and the municipalities for the integration of solid waste management (Appendix A) identifies Lewis County as the local government agency designated to develop and implement the local SWMP. The Utility, under the authority of the Board of Lewis County Commissioners (BOCC) and the LCSWDD, which is described below in 1.6.1, took the lead role

in developing this CSHWMP. The Utility also coordinated the efforts of the local governments and the Lewis County SWAC.

The SWAC, which is made up of citizens, participating jurisdictions, and representatives from solid waste industries provided oversight and guided development of this CSHWMP. The SWAC was the focal point of the associated public involvement effort. The two primary SWAC responsibilities are to advise on plan development and to assist in the CSHWMP adoption process. The SWAC participated by (1) reviewing and reaffirming goals and policies, (2) considering and recommending additional goals and policies, (3) identifying needs and opportunities within Lewis County, (4) reviewing potential recommendations to be included in the plan, (5) reviewing the draft CSHWMP, (6) acting as a liaison to their constituencies, and (7) assisting in public involvement programs.

### 1.5.1. Lewis County Solid Waste Disposal District No. 1

As provided by RCW 36.58.100–150, the LCSWDD was founded in 1992 to provide for all aspects of the solid waste disposal system, including solid waste transfer, operations, landfill closure, planning and education. The LCSWDD, however, may not engage in garbage collection, although it may impose an excise tax to fund solid waste disposal activities, may issue revenue bonds to fund any of its activities, and may issue general obligation bonds to fund capital projects.

The LCSWDD continues to perform the following activities:

- Contract for solid waste long-haul transportation and disposal services;
- Raise funds for closure of the Centralia Landfill upon request of the Centralia Landfill Closure Group (CLCG);
- Serve as the solid waste planning authority; and
- Make decisions on other countywide solid waste disposal issues.

To carry out these responsibilities, the LCSWDD has assumed, or shared, authorities previously held by Lewis County alone. This includes the authority to do the following actions:

- Engage in solid waste management and planning;
- Administer the waste export contract;
- Decide on future disposal options; and
- Develop rate structures capable of meeting the solid waste disposal system's financial requirements.

The BOCC is the LCSWDD's governing body. The BOCC is advised by an Executive Advisory Committee of the LCSWDD; the committee is composed of one elected official from Lewis County and one from each ILA city. On matters related to Centralia Landfill closure, the LCSWDD is obligated to raise funds, up to specified limits, and make them available upon official request by the governing board of the CLCG.

## 1.6. DOCUMENT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The update process for the 2008 Plan initially started in 2013, but several factors contributed to the document's overdue completion. Factors the contributed to the delay of the plan are outlined below.

Lewis County requested that the ILA for solid waste planning be renewed. Utility staff worked with the Lewis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office to draft an updated ILA. BOCC approved the ILA in April 2017. Additionally, Lewis County extended its existing long-haul solid waste contract (which was set to expire in 2017), and increased tipping fees.

The COVID pandemic, further delayed progress on development of an update plan as staff alternated between working from home and assisting with an increase of customers at the Central Transfer Station (CTS).

Utility staff began development of the Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plan (CROP) in 2021 and received Washington State Department of (Ecology) approval of the CROP in June 2021. In 2022, the Utility decided to use a consultant to assist with completion of the plan update. In October 2022, a Request for Qualifications was advertised to provide solid waste planning services. In January 2023, the Utility selected to proceed with working with Herrera Environmental Consultants, Inc. (Herrera) to assist with completion of the plan update and a contract was executed in March 2023.

The Plan was developed over a period of approximately 4 months. During the months of March to July, technical research, analysis, and recommendations were prepared by Herrera and Utility staff and discussed with the SWAC, stakeholders, interested members of the public, and interest groups. This participatory, interactive process was undertaken in order to prepare and build support for the CSHWMP.

Public participation was largely focused on the SWAC. The BOCC appoints SWAC members. Members are selected to represent a balance of interests including citizens, public interest groups, business, the waste management industry, local elected public officials, and the agricultural industry. SWAC meetings are open to the public and meeting notices are published beforehand. The anticipation is the CSHWMP will be adopted by each participating city or town and by the BOCC in meetings open to the public.

## 1.7. STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requires an environmental evaluation of actions that involve decisions on policies, plans, or programs where those actions could potentially have a significant adverse impact on the environment. In this case, the purpose of the SEPA process is to inform decision-makers and the public of the potential environmental consequences of actions relating to CSHWMP implementation. A SEPA Environmental Checklist and Determination of Non-Significance is included in Appendix B.

## 1.8. STATUS OF PREVIOUS PLANS

This Plan supersedes previous solid waste and MRW management plans including the 2008 Plan. The status of the 2008 Plan recommendations can be found in Appendix C.

Ecology's guidelines require that SWMPs be periodically evaluated to determine whether recommended actions have been implemented and whether those actions have been effective in reaching the plan goals. A review of past performance also assesses the effectiveness of local programs in Lewis County. This review is important to the development of recommendations moving forward.

The focus of this CSHWMP is on conditions that have changed since the last plan was prepared and on conditions that are expected to change over the upcoming planning period. However, relevant information that has not changed since the 2008 Plan has also been summarized to provide a complete CSHWMP.

## 1.9. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

New or changing plans, statutes, and regulations used to guide the writing of this CSHWMP include The State Solid and Hazardous Waste Plan--Moving Washington Beyond Waste and Toxics, Lewis County Comprehensive Plan, LCC 8.10 (Recycling Services Areas), 8.15 Solid Waste Disposal and 8.45 (Solid Waste Rules and Regulations), and the Washington Clean Air Act. There are additional solid waste and hazardous waste laws that have been introduced or amended and affect more detailed program planning elements. They will be addressed in appropriate chapters.

The over-arching planning guidelines and regulations are summarized below.

### 1.9.1. State Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plans

RCW 70A.205 and 70A.300.060 require Ecology to develop and update a state solid and hazardous waste management plan to guide the management of waste 30 years into the future. The state adopted the current plan in December 2021. This document focuses on sustainable materials management. According to the plan's Executive Summary: "Materials management looks at the full life cycle of materials from the design and manufacturing phase, through the use phase, to the end-of-life phase when the material is either disposed or recycled. This is important because the adverse environmental impacts of extraction, production, and use can be far greater than those associated with disposal when a material becomes a waste." The document is organized into five sections: managing hazardous waste and materials, managing solid waste and materials, reducing impacts of materials and products, measuring progress, and providing outreach and information. This plan replaces the 2015 State Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan. Previous state plans included the Beyond Waste Plan of 2004 and the Beyond Waste Plan Update of 2009.

The most recent Moving Washington Beyond Waste and Toxics plan "guides the management of waste and materials in the state and aids local governments as they develop local solid and hazardous waste plans." The four priorities of the new plan are as follows:

- Mitigate climate change through waste reduction, reuse, and recycling.
- Increase focus on manufacturing and use phases, not just end-of-life issues.
- Reduce toxic threats in products and industrial processes.
- Maximize effectiveness of recycling and organic processing systems.

## 1.10. LEWIS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Lewis County Comprehensive Plan, a product of the state-wide requirements for growth management planning (RCW 36.70A), identifies a vision of the future for the community, the foundation for long-term goals, policies, and land use patterns that put that vision into operation, and the foundation for allocating and providing for the management of growth in the community over a 20-year period. The vision of the future encompasses the examination of natural resource lands; critical areas; the mandatory plan elements (land use, rural, housing, transportation, utilities, capital facilities); urban growth areas (UGA); and the siting of essential public facilities. This guidance enables the community leaders to direct economic development; plan for housing, business centers, and open space/parks; and provide adequate public services and capital facilities as growth occurs.

The population and land-use projections in the Lewis County Comprehensive Plan partially provide the basis for estimating future solid waste management generation and needs in Lewis County. Demographic information was also used from the United States Census and the state's Office of Financial Management. These projections are updated periodically and thus must be reviewed with the CSHWMP update. Population projections and changes in demographics are discussed in Chapter 2.

## 1.11. REQUIRED PLAN ELEMENTS

This Plan is intended to meet or exceed applicable requirements set by Washington State. RCW 70A.205.045 establishes requirements for local SWMPs. Local plans are required to include the following elements:

- An inventory and description of solid waste handling facilities including any deficiencies in meeting current needs;
- A description of any deficiencies in the handling of solid waste;
- The projected 20-year needs for solid waste handling facilities;
- Meets the minimum functional standards (MFS) for solid waste handling in Washington State;
- Description of relationship to other plans;
- Contains a six-year capital and acquisition projection;
- Contains a financing plan for capital and operational costs for the proposed programs;
- Defines a permitting and enforcement program:
- Contains a current inventory of all solid waste collection programs (G-certificated and City- operated) including population densities served, address and name of all G-certificated haulers and projected solid waste collection needs for the next six years;
- Includes waste reduction strategies and source separation strategies;
- Contains an inventory of recycling programs;
- Contains current and projected recovery rates through the current and proposed recycling programs;

- Outlines programs to monitor commercial and industrial recycling where there is sufficient density to sustain a program;
- Outlines a waste reduction and recycling outreach and education program;
- Includes recycling strategies, a discussion on existing markets, characterization of the waste stream and a description of existing programs and deficiencies;
- Outlines programs to assist the public and private with recycling and an implementation schedule for those programs;
- Includes a list of designated recyclables;
- Address organic materials collection and management for residential and nonresidential customers;
- Includes a Washington Utilities and Transportation (WUTC) cost assessment questionnaire;
- Includes a SEPA checklist and necessary SEPA documents;
- Demonstrates evidence of SWAC participation;
- Includes ILAs.

RCW 70A.300.350 establishes the required elements for local hazardous waste management plans identified below:

- A plan or program to manage MRW including an assessment of the quantities, types, generators, and fate of MRW in the jurisdiction;
- A plan or program to provide for ongoing public involvement and education including the potential hazards to human health and the environment resulting from improper use and disposal of the waste;
- An inventory of existing generators of hazardous waste and facilities managing hazardous waste within the jurisdiction;
- A description of the public involvement process used in developing the plan; and
- A description of the eligible zone's designation in accordance with RCW 70A.300.370.

## 1.12. REGULATORY OVERVIEW

The primary documents used to guide the writing of this document were the Solid Waste Management Act (SWMA) and the Hazardous Waste Management Act. These laws were applied in conjunction with the Ecology Guidelines for the Development of Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Plan Revisions, February 2010. The following subsections are a review of state laws and regulations relevant to this CSHWMP.

### 1.12.1. Lewis County Code 8.10 (Recycling Service Areas (the Commingled Recycling Ordinance))

In January 2023, the BOCC approved Ordinance 1339, which was codified as Chapter 8.10 LCC, to allow for a curbside recycling program in all the unincorporated areas of the county. It sets the

boundaries for the program, lists what recyclables will be picked up, and outlines the service levels available to customers.

The hauler providing this service, LeMay, a division of Waste Connections, worked throughout 2023 to secure a recycling truck to service this additional section of Lewis County. The company also ordered commingled recycling containers. Containers were delivered in early spring 2024 with the first pickup taking place in April. The program that collects recyclable paper, plastic bottles, jugs, tin cans, aluminum cans, and cardboard all in one 95-gallon, wheeled container costs current customers $8.49 per month. A 55-cent rebate is offered each month, based on the proceeds of the sale of recyclables. The previous program extended from the county's western border at Pe Ell to the city of Morton and its UGA. It has approximately 19,000 customers and keeps nearly 3,600 tons of recyclables out of the regional landfill annually. Now that the program has been in place for several months, Lewis County's curbside recycling tonnage has increased by 10 percent.

Previously, Ordinance 1196, defined the curbside recycling program was only offered from the county's western border at Pe Ell to the city of Morton. At that time, the curbside recycling program changed dramatically:

Under this ordinance, the following changes occurred:

1. Recyclable materials collection changed from a three-bin, source-separated program to a commingled program, where all materials are collected in one 95-gallon container.
2. The boundaries of RSA-1 were extended from the Chehalis-Centralia area and their UGA as to the western and central sections of the county. Specifically, the new program extended from the town of Pe Ell to the city of Morton and its UGA.
3. Glass is no longer collected as part of the curbside collection program.
4. Residents have an additional garbage container size and different collection frequencies to choose from.

Ordinance 1339 is provided as Appendix D. Municipalities within RSA-1 (Centralia, Chehalis, Morton, Mossyrock, Napavine, Pe Ell, Toledo, Winlock, and Vader) elected to provide this same service to their residents, some including specific language in their contracts or franchise agreements, while others defer to the ordinance and its provisions.

### 1.12.2. Washington Clean Air Act

In accordance with the WAC 173-425, residential and land-clearing burning was banned in several areas in Washington, beginning in 2007. Affected areas include all the incorporated areas and their UGAs in Lewis County. Residential and land-clearing burning is allowed in the unincorporated areas with a permit, issued by Lewis County Community Development. Recreational campfires are allowed, if built in improved fire pits in designated campgrounds, and no seasonal burn ban is in place.

### 1.12.3. Solid Waste Management—Reduction and Recycling (RCW 70A.205)

Originally established in 1969, the SWMA, RCW 70.95 (now RCW 70A.205), established a comprehensive statewide program for solid waste handling and solid waste recovery and recycling; it also assigned to local governments the responsibility for solid waste planning. The

Act requires each county to prepare a coordinated comprehensive SWMP in cooperation with the various cities located within that county.

These SWMPs must address long-range (20 years) solid waste needs and be periodically reviewed and updated, if necessary, at least once every 5 years (RCW 70A.205.075). The SWMA has resulted in the establishment of solid waste plan goals and policies that provide a context for evaluating proposed programs and facilities that directly or indirectly affect any element of the solid waste system. In 2019, the planning element of the SWMA was expanded to direct local jurisdictions to develop a CROP to monitor contamination in recycling programs and institute methods for reducing the amount of contamination in curbside and drop-off recycling programs.

### 1.12.4. Hazardous Waste Management Act (RCW 70A.300)

The Hazardous Waste Management Act was intended to establish a comprehensive statewide program to manage hazardous waste. It provided for the siting of needed hazardous waste management facilities in the state and assigned responsibility for the planning related to MRW to local jurisdictions.

The Hazardous Waste Management Act was amended in 1985 to require all cities and counties in the state to develop plans for handling MRW, including any household wastes identified by Ecology as a hazardous household substance. The Hazardous Waste Management Act also included any business-generated hazardous waste conditionally exempt from regulation because the waste is generated in quantities below the state or federal regulatory threshold (this is typically 220 pounds per month or per batch). Management of the MRW stream is important because this material poses a threat to public health, worker safety, and the environment.

The focus on waste reduction increased over the years and in 1990 the Hazardous Waste Reduction Act (then, RCW 70.95C) was passed authorizing Ecology's Pollution Prevention Planning (P2 Plan) program. This act established state policies and goals that encourage the reduction of hazardous substance use and hazardous waste generation. Now, renumbered as RCW 70A.214.110, this law forms Ecology's Hazardous Waste & Toxics Reductions Program. Under this law the following is required:

- Facilities that generate 2,640 pounds or more of hazardous waste per year or facilities required to report under the federal law called the "Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act" (EPCRA) must prepare a P2 Plan. P2 Plans must include a description of the facility, the processes used, and the products or services provided. P2 Plans are five-year plans that must also identify hazardous substances used and hazardous wastes generated.
- The focus of P2 Plans is the identification and evaluation of all reasonable opportunities for reductions in the use of hazardous substances and the reduction, recycling, and treatment of hazardous substances. The plan must also list those opportunities selected for implementation, performance goals for the five-year plan, and an implementation schedule.
- Annual Progress Reports providing information on the progress made in implementing the plan must be submitted to Ecology and the five-year plan must be updated at the end of the five-year cycle. The purpose of this law was to encourage individual generators to move their waste management practices up the solid waste hierarchy, which lists waste

prevention as the highest priority of solid waste management, followed by reuse, recycling, and at lowest priority, landfilling. This was to be accomplished by identifying options and establishing implementation plans for the reduction of hazardous waste generation and the use of hazardous substances.

### 1.12.5. Waste Not Washington Act (Chapter 431, Laws of 1989)

In 1989, the Washington State Legislature amended the SWMA, resulting in the Waste Not Washington Act (ESHB 1671) which addressed two significant issues related to development of SWMPs: (1) prioritizing solid waste management goals, and (2) setting requirements for local waste reduction and recycling programs. New priorities for management of solid waste were identified as waste reduction, recycling, and energy recovery.

The ESHB 1671 identified policy options to help local jurisdictions reach waste reduction and recycling goals. By emphasizing source separation, the ESHB 1671 intended that recycling programs be enacted, or expanded, with the goal of reaching a 50 percent recycling rate in the state by 1995. The ESHB 1671 shifted emphasis away from the traditional disposal-based waste system to one more reliant on recycling.

### 1.12.6. Clean Washington Act

In 1991, Washington State passed the Clean Washington Act, which amended or repealed sections of several laws including RCW 70.95 (renumbered as 70A.205). The Clean Washington Act imposed new packaging requirements and resulted in the promulgation of new regulations on the recycling of used automobile oil.

The packaging legislation required all plastic containers used in the state to be labeled with a code that identified the type of material used in the container. The Clean Washington Act set limits on the concentration of certain heavy metals allowed in any product, package, or packaging component.

The Clean Washington Act required that each local government amend its MRW Plan to include a used oil recycling element. This element was to contain (1) a plan for establishing used oil collection sites, (2) enforcement of sign and container ordinances that inform the public of how and where used oil may be recycled, (3) educational information for the public about used oil recycling, and (4) estimates on the funding needed to implement the used oil recycling element. The act also established requirements for transport, treatment, recycling, and disposal of used oil.

### 1.12.7. Solid Waste Handling Standards

A rule governing solid waste facilities and handling practices, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-350, also known as *Solid Waste Handling Standards,* went into effect in 2003. This rule replaced WAC 173-304. WAC 173-350 sets out standards of operation and permitting requirements for solid waste handling facilities for recycling, intermediate handling (i.e., transfer), composting, MRW, and tires (unless exempted by definition or due to beneficial use). The rule regulates landfill disposal of a new category of wastes called “inert” wastes.

WAC 173-350 also places importance on local solid waste management plans (such as this document) by requiring solid waste handling facilities (whether exempt or requiring a permit) to conform to local solid waste plans. WAC 173-350 also states that a facility’s exemption for

handling only recyclable materials is contingent on meeting the definition of a recyclable material as designated in a local solid waste management plan.

Landfill disposal of solid waste is regulated under a separate rule, WAC 173-351, *Criteria for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills*. This rule was last revised in October 2015.

### 1.12.8. Criteria for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills

Landfill siting, design, and operation regulations were rewritten under WAC 173-351 in response to new federal requirements (Subtitle D, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)) in 1993. This regulation established minimum statewide standards for MSW landfills. These standards included locational restrictions, operating criteria, design criteria, performance standards for groundwater, detection and assessment monitoring, closure and post-closure provisions, financial assurance, and permitting requirements.

## 1.13. SUMMARY OF CHANGES IN SOLID WASTE REGULATION AND POLICY SINCE 2008

Multiple rules have been adopted since the 2008 Plan was developed. Applicable new rules and regulations for consideration in this document's development are shown below in summary, but not in order of priority.

### 1.13.1. Exemption from Solid Waste Handling Permit Requirements for Anaerobic Digesters

Effective July 1, 2009, a Washington State law (RCW 70.95.330, now RCW 70A.205.290) allows certain anaerobic digesters an exemption from obtaining a solid waste handling permit provided they meet specified criteria.

### 1.13.2. Tire Fee Reinstated

In 2009, RCW 70A.205 was amended to reinstate the tire fee and to remove the sunset (expiration) date for the fee. The original tire fee, which expired in 1994, was used to clean up tire dumps, fund a special study of tires, and conduct other activities. The fee is also intended to create a pool of funds to clean up unauthorized tire dumps and to help prevent future accumulations of tires.

### 1.13.3. Mercury-Containing Lights Product Stewardship Program

WAC 173-910 required establishment of a product stewardship program for mercury-containing lights throughout Washington State by January 1, 2013. This program is called LightRecycle. Producers of mercury-containing lights sold for residential use must finance and participate in the product stewardship program by doing the following:

- Funding its producer share cost of the standard plan and program operated by the department-contracted stewardship organization or operating, either individually or jointly, an independent plan and program approved by Ecology.
- Pay administrative and operational costs associated with the standard program or the independent program in which they participate, except for the collection costs associated with curbside and mail-back collection programs. For curbside and mail-back programs,

a stewardship organization must finance the costs of transporting and processing mercury-containing lights from the point of accumulation. For collection locations, including household hazardous waste (HHW) facilities, charities, retailers, government recycling sites, or other suitable locations, a stewardship organization must finance the costs of collection, transportation, and processing of mercury-containing lights collected at the collection locations.

- Submit market share data to Ecology to determine market share in the event more than one approved product stewardship plan is operating.
- Meet its financial obligations to the plan, which includes Ecology's annual fee.
- Comply with producers' requirements.
- Participate in a fully implemented plan.
- Take actions required to correct violations.

The LightRecycle program was renewed during the 2024 Legislative session and no changes are anticipated in relation to collection and management of mercury-containing lights covered by LightRecycle.

### 1.13.4. Revenue-Sharing Agreements

An update to RCW 81.77.185 allows waste collection companies to retain up to fifty percent of the revenue paid to them for the sale of recyclables they collect. To participate, the company, must submit a plan to the WUTC that is certified by the appropriate local solid waste authority as being consistent with the local SWMP and that demonstrates how the revenues will be used to increase recycling participation. The remaining revenue shall be passed to residential customers.

### 1.13.5. Secure Drug Take-Back

Washington's Safe Medication Return program (MED-Project), also known as the Drug Take-Back program was established in 2018 under RCW 69.48. This program creates a unified, statewide, medication return program that gives Washington residents free, convenient, and environmentally responsible options for disposing of unwanted medication. Drug manufacturers fund the program at no cost to taxpayers. It is administered by an approved program operator(s). Environmental Health oversees the program, monitors on-going operations, manages enforcement when compliance issues arise, and evaluates program effectiveness.

### 1.13.6. County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan

In 2010, RCW 70A.205.040 was updated to indicate that when updating a SWMP, after June 10, 2010, each local comprehensive plan must, at a minimum, consider methods that will be used to address the following:

- C&D waste for recycling or reuse;
- Organic material including yard debris, food waste, and food contaminated paper products for composting or anaerobic digestion;
- Metals, glass, and plastics for recycling; and
- Waste reduction strategies.

### 1.13.7. Paper Conservation Program — Paper Recycling Program

RCW 70A.205.620, required that by July 1, 2010, each state agency shall develop and implement the following:

- A paper conservation program. Each state agency shall endeavor to conserve paper by at least thirty percent of their current paper use.
- A paper recycling program to encourage recycling of all paper products with the goal of recycling one hundred percent of all copy printing paper in all buildings with twenty-five employees or more.

### 1.13.8. Develop and Establish Objectives and Strategies for the Reuse and Recycling of Construction Aggregate and Recycled Concrete Materials

Effective January 1, 2016, RCW 70A.205.700 required that local governmental entities with a population of one hundred thousand residents or more must, as part of their contracting process, request and accept bids that include the use of construction aggregate and recycled concrete materials for each transportation, roadway, street, highway, or other transportation infrastructure project. Prior to awarding a contract for a transportation, roadway, street, highway, or other transportation infrastructure project, the local governmental entity must compare the lowest responsible bid proposing to use construction aggregate and recycled concrete materials with the lowest responsible bid not proposing to use construction aggregate and recycled concrete materials, and award the contract to the bidder proposing to use the highest percentage of construction aggregate and recycled concrete materials if that bid is the same as, or less than, a bidder not proposing to use construction aggregate and recycled concrete materials or proposing to use a lower percentage of construction aggregate and recycled concrete materials.

### 1.13.9. Quarantine – Agricultural Pests

Effective January 1, 2017, the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) amended WAC 16-470 by adding MSW, yard debris, organic feedstocks, organic materials, and agricultural wastes to the list of commodities regulated under the apple maggot quarantine. Special permits are required for the following activities:

- Transportation and disposition of MSW from an area under quarantine for disposal at a solid waste landfill or disposal facility in the apple maggot and plum curculio pest-free area.
- Transportation and disposition of yard debris, organic feedstocks, organic materials, and agricultural wastes from the area under quarantine for disposal at a solid waste landfill or treatment at a composting facility in the apple maggot and plum curculio pest-free area.

Refer to Chapter 7.0 Organics for additional information regarding how these rules affect solid waste in Lewis County.

### 1.13.10. Sustainable Recycling Act

House Bill (HB) 1543, The Sustainable Recycling Act, was signed by the former Governor Jay Inslee on April 29, 2019, and took effect July 1, 2019. This act creates a Recycling Development Center within Ecology. This law directs Ecology to work with the Department of Commerce on recycling market research and development. Ecology and Commerce appointed an advisory board

and entered into an interagency agreement. The Washington State Association of Counties appointed two Solid Waste Managers to the advisory board. The act also requires counties with a population of more than 25,000 resident to write a CROP, which details how each jurisdictions planning authority will address contaminants in their recycling programs. Local governments were permitted to use local solid waste financial assistance (LSWFA) Grants and Waste Reduction and Recycling Education Grants to support the development of CROPs as well as work defined by CROPs.

### 1.13.11. Food Waste

In 2019, HB 1114 was approved by the legislature, and established a goal for the state to reduce by 50 percent the amount of food waste generated annually by 2030, relative to 2015 statistics. It required Ecology to work with the Washington State Departments of Agriculture and Health to develop a state wasted-food reduction and diversion plan by October 1, 2020. Ecology gathered feedback form the public and stakeholders. The three agencies will consider recommending changes to state law that will achieve the reduction goal and report to the Legislature by December 1, 2020.

### 1.13.12. Organics Management

In March 2022, the Organics Management Act was passed (HB 1799). HB 1799 aims to reduce landfilling of food scraps, yard debris, and other organic materials. The act establishes statewide organic materials management goals, requires some local governments to provide source-separated organics collection services, encourages food donations through liability standards, creates the Washington Center for Sustainable Food Management, allows siting of compost operations, requires purchasing of compost by some municipalities, and changes product labeling requirements (further detail provide in Section 7.2.5).

### 1.13.13. Paint Stewardship

In 2019, Substitute HB (SHB) 1652 (codified as RCW 70A.515) was passed and required producers of architectural paint sold in Washington to participate in an approved paint stewardship plan. This bill prohibited a producer or retailer of paint from selling or offering for sale architectural paint unless the producer or brand of paint is participating in a stewardship plan. PaintCare is a paint stewardship organization that is implementing this bill in Washington with Ecology providing oversight. Ecology conditionally approved PaintCare's program plan for Washington in March 2021. This program is currently in action across the state. There are four sites in Lewis County where PaintCare collects paint: Rodda Paint, Mossyrock Hardware, Market Street Ace Hardware, and Lincoln Creek Lumber Ace Hardware (further detail provide in Section 6.5).

### 1.13.14. Photovoltaic Module Stewardship and Takeback Program

In 2017, SB 5939 was passed to promote sustainable, local renewable energy. One chapter of SB 5939 created RCW 70A.510, the Photovoltaic (PV) Module Takeback and Stewardship Program. This program requires manufacturers of PV modules to provide the public with sustainable and environmentally sound methods to recycle all modules purchased after July 1, 2017. The implementation of this stewardship is anticipated to start July 2025.

### 1.13.15. Product Design Labeling

In 2019, Engrossed SHB (ESHB) 1569 authorized Washington State's attorney general and local governments to pursue false or misleading environmental claims and "greenwashing" for plastic products claiming to be "compostable" or "biodegradable" when in fact they are not. Also required clear and easy to understand labeling on compostable products sold for use in Washington.

### 1.13.16. Plastic Package Stewardship

A study bill that would create data reports that could lead to legislation (in 2021) date and update to improve the recycling system in Washington by creating a stewardship program paid for by the plastic packing manufacturers.

### 1.13.17. Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Regulation

The EPA has proposed a rule under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to regulate certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as "forever chemicals". This new rule imposes joint and retroactive cleanup liability to parties connected with the presence of a hazardous substance at a site.

### 1.13.18. Landfill Emissions Reduction Law

HB 1663 makes methane emissions monitoring and capture requirements stricter at certain landfills in Washington. The bill would require numerous MSW landfills including active landfills with at least 450,000 tons of waste in place and closed landfills with at least 750,000 tons of waste to report gas generation calculations and install methane gas capture and control systems.

### 1.13.19. Battery Recycling and Stewardship

Signed in May 2023, SB 5144 requires the creation of a Product Stewardship Program aimed towards batteries in Washington. This program requires producers to participate in organizations that are responsible for collection, transport, and end-of-life management of materials. Producers Stewardship Plans begin January 1, 2027

### 1.13.20. Responsible Environmental Management of Batteries

HB 1896 aims to provide responsible environmental management of batteries and to encourage the recovery and reuse of materials. This battery stewardship law will help address the challenges posed by the end-of-life management of batteries. It will require producers to participate in an approved Washington state battery stewardship plan through participation in a battery stewardship organization.

### 1.13.21. Recycling, Waste, and Litter Reduction

RCW 70A.245 (SB 5022 and SB 5397) was passed in 2021 and requires producers of common single-use plastics to include a minimum amount of recycled material in their products. The law aims to boost domestic markets for recycled materials and reduce economic dependence on virgin plastics. The law bans several types of expanded polystyrene for sale and distribution in Washington. Additionally, certain single use serviceware products provided by food service businesses may no longer automatically be given to customers.

### 1.13.22. Improving Outcomes with Waste Material Management Systems

In March 2024, Washington State legislature passed HB 2301, a bill that enacted additional organic material management measures. HB 2301 directed a division within Ecology to study food donation and recovery systems infrastructure. It also implements compost collection for single-family homes in "urbanized areas" beginning in 2027 and sets new criteria for food packaging labeled as compostable. The bill also created a Washington Commodities Donation grant program, which supports existing infrastructure diverting food to donation.

### 1.13.23. Plastics Reduction

Passed in April 2023, HB 1085 aims to reduce plastic pollution in three different ways; required water bottle filling stations in all new buildings, phasing out mini toiletry's plastic packaging, and banning foam-filled dock floats.

### 1.13.24. Compostable Products

HB 1033 creates a task force to develop a statewide policy on usage and acceptance of compostable products across Washington. This law aims to help distinguish between which facilities accept polylactic acid products and which do not.

# 2. CURRENT CONDITIONS

This chapter describes the existing physical, natural, and environmental conditions, demographics, waste generation and characterization, as well as future projections.

## 2.1. PHYSICAL, NATURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

This section describes existing physical, natural, and environmental conditions.

### 2.1.1. Location

Lewis County occupies a 2,449 square-mile area in southwestern Washington (Figure 2-1). It stretches nearly 95 miles from its western border in the coastal range to its eastern limit at the crest of the Cascade Mountains. Lewis County is served both by United States (U.S.) Highway 12, the only year-round route over the Cascades north of the Columbia River and south of King County, and by Interstate 5, the main north-south Pacific Coast interstate highway. Lewis County is well situated to meet solid waste transportation needs. The cities of Centralia and Chehalis make up Lewis County's most populated areas, which are nearly equidistant (85 miles) from Portland to the south and Seattle to the north.

**Figure 2-1. Vicinity Map**


### 2.1.2. Climate

Lewis County's climate is temperate, with warm summers and cool winters. Snow and freezing rain are not common, except at higher elevations in the portions of the Cascade Range located in the eastern part of Lewis County. The total average annual precipitation ranges from 47 inches at Centralia to 62 inches at Packwood. Rainfall is light during the summer and frequent during the remainder of the year.

### 2.1.3. Geology, Groundwater, and Soils

There are three main physiographic regions in Lewis County: the Cascade Mountain Range, Puget Lowlands, and Pacific Coast Mountain Range. The Cascades that constitute most of eastern Lewis County are composed of Tertiary and Quaternary volcanic rocks (andesitic and basaltic lavas, tuffs and breccias) with a few sedimentary and igneous intrusive rocks. The geology in this area was largely influenced by volcanic action with some alpine glaciation.

The Puget Lowlands are located in the west-central portion of Lewis County. This area is composed largely of Quaternary sediments and some coastal and terrace deposits. Glacial melt water rivers such as the Chehalis River deposited large quantities of coarse gravel and sand after large Quaternary Period glaciers retreated.

The western part of Lewis County lies within the Pacific Coast Range and includes the areas known as the Willapa and Doty Hills, composed of Tertiary marine and estuarine sedimentary and volcanic rocks that have been uplifted, gently folded, and faulted.

The primary groundwater resources are found in gravel and sand deposits that mantle most of the west-central lowlands and underlie terraces, valley floors, and foothill areas. These deposits receive recharge from direct precipitation, streams, and rivers. Lewis County has no designated sole-source aquifers.

The Soil Conservation Service (1987) soil survey of Lewis County classifies soils into 18 soil units that are found in five main areas; (1) flood plains and terraces; (2) plains, high terraces, uplands, and bottom lands; (3) uplands, mountains, benches, and high terraces; (4) cool uplands and mountains; and (5) cold mountains. The water bearing soil units of the Spanaway, Nisqually, Stahl-Reichel, Indianola, and Cattcreek-Cotteral soil groups are of primary concern.

### 2.1.4. Topography and Drainage

The Cascade Range traverses eastern Lewis County in a north-south direction, and the Pacific Coast range traverses the western portion. In between are lowland areas where a majority of population resides. Elevations range from 185 feet in the Centralia-Chehalis area to over 7,000 feet on the Cascade Crest. Lewis County contains parts of Snoqualmie and Gifford Pinchot National Forests and Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument and Mount Rainier National Park. About one-third of Lewis County's land area is national forest.

Lewis County's widely varying topography results in drainage systems of diverse character, the largest two of which are the upper Chehalis drainage in the northern, northwestern, and western parts of the County and the Cowlitz drainage in the southern, central, and eastern parts.

The Chehalis River and its tributaries drain the north-central parts of Lewis County. The Chehalis flows north into Thurston County near Centralia, then flows west and empties into the Pacific Ocean at Grays Harbor.

The swift-flowing Cowlitz River originates on Mount Rainier and flows from the extreme northeastern part of the County to the southwestern part, emptying into the Columbia River at Longview, Washington. The Cowlitz, with its many tributaries, is an especially important resource for fisheries and hydroelectric production.

Other major drainages include the Nisqually and Deschutes. The Nisqually, which originates on Mount Rainier, flows northeast along the Lewis County and Piece County border into Puget Sound between Olympia and Tacoma. The Deschutes and its tributaries drain from the mountainous north-central part of the county in the Bald Hills and flow north into the Puget Sound at Olympia.

### 2.1.5. Shorelines and Wetlands

Lewis County's Shoreline Master Program outlines specific regulations for activities located within 200 feet of a shoreline or a wetland, as defined in the Washington State Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58). Because of high precipitation, wetlands are common throughout river valleys and low-lying areas. Wetlands in Lewis County, which have been mapped as part of the National Wetlands Inventory, have been found to have a high correlation to hydric soils mapped in the Soil Survey for Lewis County by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Lewis County Planning Division has a copy of the national inventory and its associated maps, as well as the County Soil Survey.

### 2.1.6. Municipal Solid Waste Landfills

Lewis County does not currently have an open MSW landfill. Centralia Landfill was closed in 1994. Post-closure monitoring has been occurring since that time. MSW export began in April 1994. An evaluation of export and disposal needs is provided in Section 3.4.

## 2.2. POPULATION PROJECTIONS

This section presents information regarding past and present information and future projections regarding waste generated in Lewis County.

### 2.2.1. Population

The 2010 Census recorded a population of 75,455 for Lewis County. According to the official 2020 Census, Lewis County had a population of 82,149, which is an increase of 6.35 percent, and the population is anticipated to continue to grow. In the 2008 Plan, Lewis County's population was expected to reach nearly 90,000 by 2035. Table 2-1 projects how Lewis County's population will grow through 2050. Numbers are drawn from the Washington Office of Financial Management (OFM) Projections of the Total Resident Population for Growth Management 2022 GMA Projections – Middle Series.

**Table 2-1. Population Projection for Lewis County**

| Year | Population | Percent Increase |
|---|---|---|
| 2025 | 84,957 | -- |
| 2030 | 87,746 | 3.2 |
| 2035 | 90,188 | 2.7 |
| 2040 | 92,313 | 2.3 |
| 2045 | 94,187 | 2.0 |
| 2050 | 95,871 | 1.8 |

Source: Washington State OFM, Washington State County Growth Management Population Projections: 2025 to 2050 (middle), 2022.

The current and future projected distributions of Lewis County population are provided in Table 2-2, which depicts the location of the municipalities within Lewis County shown in Figure 2-2.

**Table 2-2. Population Distribution in Lewis County**

| Location | 2022 | | 2045 | | Rate of Growth |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Population | Percent of Total | Population | Percent of Total | |
| Incorporated Areas | | | | | |
| Centralia | 22,376 | 26.8 | 24,000 | 22.9 | 6.77 |
| Chehalis | 9,845 | 11.8 | 23,000 | 21.9 | 57.20 |
| Morton | 1,302 | 1.6 | 1,351 | 1.3 | 3.61 |
| Mossyrock | 906 | 1.1 | 1,058 | 1.0 | 14,37 |
| Napavine | 1,969 | 2.4 | 2,978 | 2.8 | 33.88 |
| Pe Ell | 658 | 0.8 | 680 | 0.6 | 3.19 |
| Toledo | 747 | 0.9 | 2,537 | 2.4 | 70.56 |
| Vader | 899 | 1.1 | 1,110 | 1.1 | 19.01 |
| Winlock | 2,115 | 2.5 | 4,756 | 4.5 | 55.53 |
| Unincorporated Areas | 42,629 | 51.1 | 43,482 | 41.4 | 2.0 |
| Total Population | 83,446 | 100.0 | 104,951 | 100.0 | 20.5 |

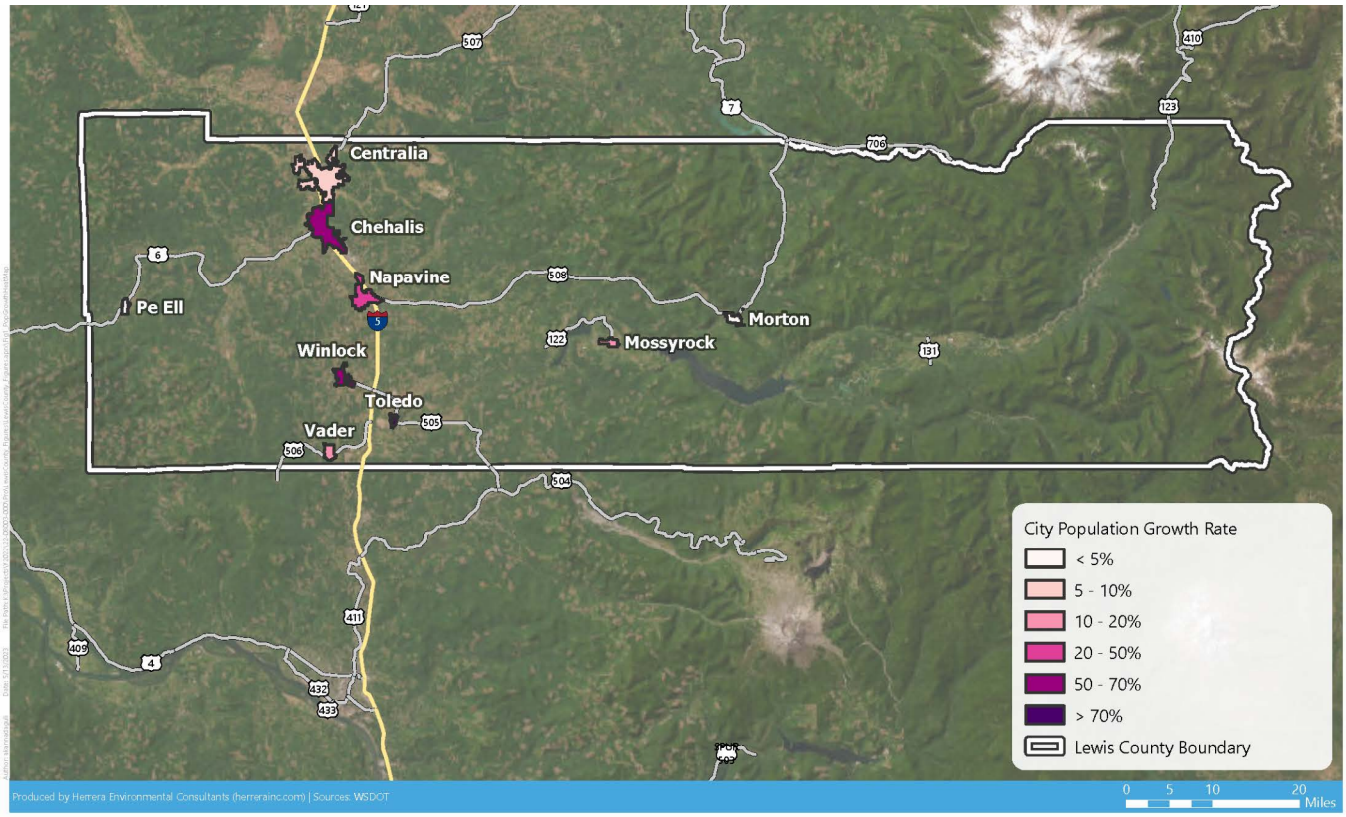
Source: Lewis County Population and Housing Allocations, adopted 2023.

**Figure 2-2. Municipality Locations in Lewis County**


The population projections for 2045 differ between Table 2-1 and Table 2-2 by 10,764 people. The projection in Table 2-2 is from the Lewis County Population and Housing Allocations, which is developed by the Planning Growth Committee. Lewis County opted to adopt the higher projection, based on its own growth understanding and plans. For the purpose of this CSHWMP, the higher projection is useful for anticipating future waste management needs.

As shown in Table 2-2, the majority of the Lewis County population currently resides in unincorporated areas. The incorporated area with the largest population is the twin cities of Centralia and Chehalis. Moving toward 2045, the projected rate of growth in towns and cities is higher than that for the unincorporated areas. In particular, Winlock's and Chehalis' populations are projected to double by 2045. Generally, the population in Chehalis and the south end of Lewis County are anticipated to grow more quickly and will continue to grow more rapidly than other areas, as shown in Figure 2-3. This prediction is created, in part, by the plans, visions, and objectives of the municipalities in south Lewis County.

**Figure 2-3. 2022–2045 Population Growth Rate**




The 2008 Plan included 2040 projections for a planned community northwest of the Onalaska community called Birchfield. Since that time, however, the 1,200 acres site has not materialized into the large, planned community. It was removed from the Lewis County's Comprehensive Plan, which was discussed in Chapter 1. After discussion among the SWAC Plans Subcommittee, members elected to maintain the reference for the historical information as well as a notation for possible future developments. The concept was for Birchfield to be fully contained with several amenities, including single family and multi-family residences, manufactured home communities, neighborhood convenience commercial activities, business parks, and a golf course with a club house and restaurant. There is a new proposed development with up to 2,500 houses and a terraced retail zone that is anticipated to be complete it 10 to 20 years in a different area of Lewis County. Raindrop properties is the developer of this community that spans part of Chehalis and Centralia.

Generally, as more people move into Lewis County from more urbanized areas, the public demand for more solid waste services will increase.

### 2.2.2. Housing

An understanding of housing types contributes to planning realistic recycling and other solid waste management programs. The U.S. Census Bureau reported that in 2021 Lewis County had 35,892 housing units. About 12 percent or 3,719 of these were listed as vacant. Approximately 25,806, or 71.9 percent of the occupied units were owner-occupied, and the remainder, 10,086 units were renter occupied. A majority of the housing units are single-family detached rather than multi-family.

## 2.3. WASTE STREAM

The amount of waste generated in Lewis County is projected to increase on a per capita basis and from the population growth expected over the next 20 years. Baseline projections for disposal, recovery, and the composition of the waste stream are provided in this section.

### 2.3.1. Waste Generation

The methodology used to project solid waste generation rates through 2055 relied upon per capita waste generation rates from 2018, which was the most recent year that Ecology issued its Recycling, Recovery & Waste Generation report for the state and counties. That report estimated Lewis County's waste generation as 15.12 pounds per person per day, which was higher than the state's average per capita waste generate rate of 12.5 pounds per person per day. The population growth estimates are provided by the Washington State OFM and Utility staff. Waste and recycling quantities for 2008 through 2018 were provided Utility staff and Ecology. Waste projections were developed through a three-step process as described below.

1. Waste generation per capita was projected into the future by extrapolating trends from 2003 to 2015 into the future. This statistical analysis involved calculating generation per capita for all years with available data, fitting a line through the points, and developing an equation to make the predictions (the equation of the line). This approach assumes disposal and recycling are not independent of one another; instead, each is a function of how much total material is generated. Existing data are presented in Table 2-3. As shown, per capita generation has fluctuated from a low of 2,170 pounds per person per year in 2014 to a high of 3,943 pounds per person per year in 2008. A variety of factors contribute to the inconsistent numbers: economic slowdowns, flooding, and business that report (or do not report) their disposal and recycling numbers to Ecology.

**Table 2-3. Waste Disposal and Recycling Data, 2008–2015**

| Year | Population | Waste Tons | | | Waste Pounds Per Capita | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Recycle | Disposed | Generated | Recycled | Disposed | Generated |
| 2008 | 74,758 | 71,465 | 75,938 | 147,403 | 1,912 | 2,032 | 3,943 |
| 2009 | 75,136 | 24,948 | 60,127 | 85,075 | 664 | 1,600 | 2,265 |
| 2010 | 75,455 | 80,572 | 62,834 | 143,406 | 2,136 | 1,665 | 3,801 |
| 2011 | 75,668 | 36,158 | 62,804 | 98,962 | 956 | 1,660 | 2,616 |
| 2012 | 75,435 | 45,135 | 64,342 | 109,477 | 1,197 | 1,706 | 2,903 |
| 2013 | 74,962 | 32,807 | 55,933 | 88,740 | 875 | 1,492 | 2,368 |

| Year | Population | Waste Tons | | | Waste Pounds Per Capita | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Recycle | Disposed | Generated | Recycled | Disposed | Generated |
| 2014 | 74,844 | 25,041 | 56,168 | 81,209 | 669 | 1,501 | 2,170 |
| 2015 | 75,437 | 38,415 | 66,122 | 104,537 | 1,018 | 1,753 | 2,772 |
| 2016 | 76,693 | 64,544 | 81,015 | 145,559 | 1,683 | 2,113 | 3,796 |
| 2017 | 78,320 | 63,903 | 87,257 | 151,160 | 1,632 | 2,228 | 3,860 |
| 2018 | 79,569 | 69,719 | 146,717 | 216,436 | 1,752 | 3,688 | 5,440 |

Sources: Ecology's Solid Waste & Financial Assistance Program provided quantities for 2008 through 2018 for recycling, waste disposal, and waste generation. Population estimates were obtained from the U.S. Census.

Starting in 2016, Ecology transitioned from a focus on recycling to reducing waste generation. The new number going forward would now be a recovery rate that includes a broader range of materials that are recycled and wastes that are kept out of landfills by other means, such as anaerobic digestion and incineration.

2. Three recycling rate and recovery rate scenarios were created. The first assumed that, as a baseline, the 2018 recycling rate (32 percent) continues into the future. Alternative recovery rate scenarios of 40 percent and 45 percent were developed to calculate the potential impacts of improvements in waste reduction and waste recovery programs pursuant to the goals established in Chapter 4 of this plan. This analysis is presented as Table 2-4, which has data similar to Table 2-3, but for 2025–2050 with potential future recovery rates achieved.
3. Tonnage totals were calculated as per capita generation multiplied by projected population and projected recovery rate. Projected (and past) population data were obtained from OFM, Utility staff, and Lewis County Community Development staff.

As noted in Section 2.2, Lewis County's Planned Growth Committee developed an alternative population projection for 2040 based on its analysis of relevant growth factors. Using this alternative projection and the 2018 per person waste generation estimates from Ecology, the resulting alternative waste generation is 291,134 tons, compared to 261,765 tons as calculated based on OFM projections.

**Table 2-4. Waste Generation Projections Through 2050**

| Year | Population | Based on 32 Percent Recovery Rate | | | Based on 40 Percent Recovery Rate | | | Based on 45 Percent Recovery Rate | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Recovered | Disposed | Generated | Recovered | Disposed | Generated | Recovered | Disposed | Generated |
| 2025 | 84,957 | 75,415 | 160,256 | 235,671 | 94,268 | 141,402 | 235,671 | 106,052 | 129,619 | 235,671 |
| 2030 | 87,746 | 77,890 | 165,517 | 243,407 | 97,363 | 146,044 | 243,407 | 109,533 | 133,874 | 243,407 |
| 2035 | 90,188 | 80,058 | 170,123 | 250,182 | 100,073 | 150,109 | 250,182 | 112,582 | 137,600 | 250,182 |
| 2040 | 92,313 | 81,944 | 174,132 | 256,076 | 102,431 | 153,646 | 256,076 | 115,234 | 140,842 | 256,076 |
| 2045 | 94,187 | 83,608 | 177,667 | 261,275 | 104,510 | 156,765 | 261,275 | 117,574 | 143,701 | 261,275 |
| 2050 | 95,871 | 85,103 | 180,843 | 265,946 | 106,378 | 159,568 | 265,946 | 119,676 | 146,270 | 265,946 |

Sources: Population data from Washington State OFM's Projections of the Total Resident Population for Growth Management 2022 GMA Projections – Middle Series Population Projections 2025–2050. The per person disposal rate of 0.0076 tons per day (15.12 pounds per person per day) was applied to formulate the Generated Waste Projection for each scenario in the table. The per person waste generation figure is from the Ecology's Recycling, Recovery, & Waste Generation in Washington (2018) for Lewis County.

### 2.3.2. Waste Characterization

This section describes the statewide and southwest region waste streams broken down by residential and commercial waste streams. This information is essential to planning solid waste policies and program implementation, as well as the following purposes:

- Obtaining information to quantify recyclables or recoverable materials and to prioritize recovery opportunities.
- Establishing a baseline for continued long-term measurement of system performance.
- Understanding the differences between waste sub streams so targeted recycling programs can be designed, implemented, and monitored.

#### 2.3.2.1. Statewide Results

The figures and tables in this section present the estimated composition of waste in Washington state. Cascadia Consulting Group (Cascadia) conducted the most recent study (2020–2021). During the 2020–2021 study, waste was broken down into the following sub streams:

- **Residential ─** waste generated by single and multifamily residences and collected by a municipal or private garbage hauler.
- **Commercial ─** waste generated by businesses, institutions, and industrial entities and collected by a municipal or private garbage hauler.
- **Self-haul ─** waste transported to a landfill or garbage drop box site by someone other than a municipal or private garbage hauler.

One difference between an earlier study and the more recent waste characterization was that packaging was evaluated (paper and plastic). Waste within these categories were further distinguished between paper packaging, such as paper to-go food containers or coffee cups versus paper products, such as magazines, and plastic products; and plastic packaging, such as beverage containers versus plastic tableware.

Cascadia determined it would sort through waste samples for 143 different material types that could be found in 12 over-arching categories (see Table 2-5).

**Table 2-5. Number of Material Types per Material Class**

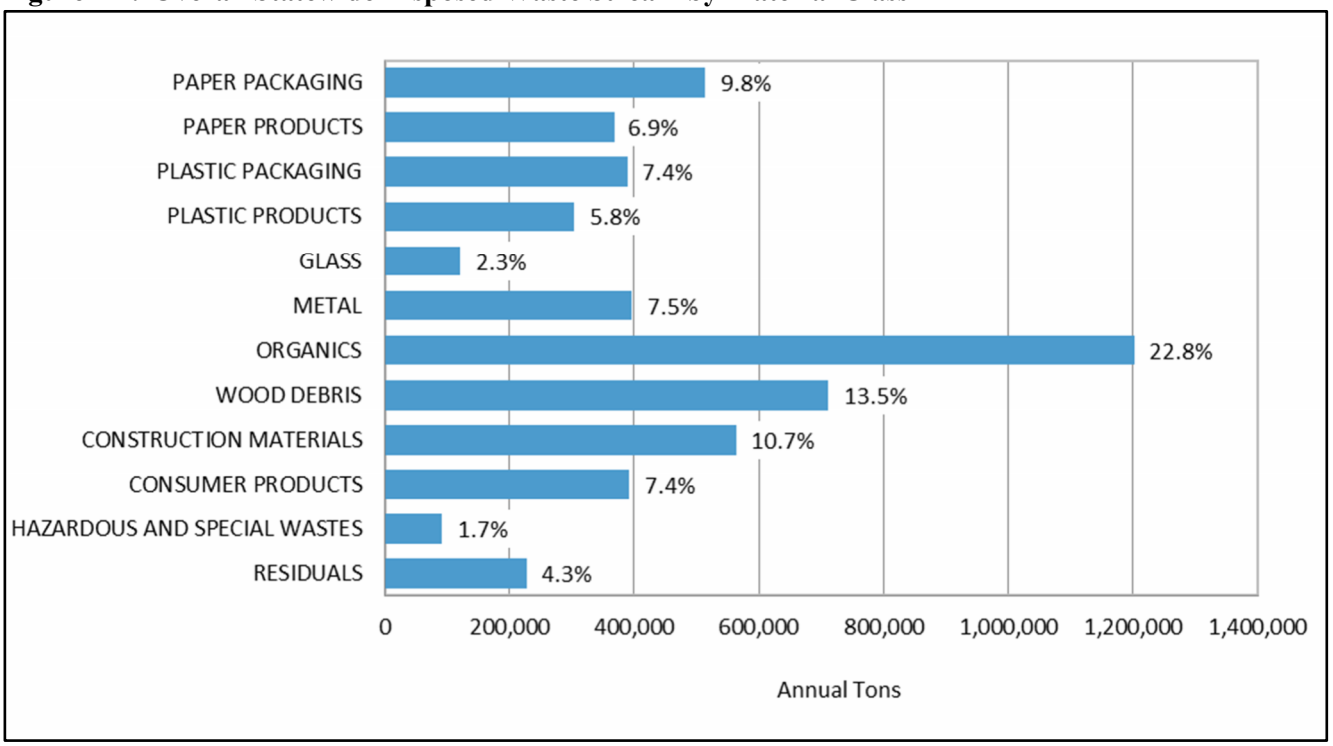
| Material Classes | Number of Material Types Within Class |
|---|---|
| Paper Packaging | 8 |
| Paper Products | 8 |
| Plastic Packaging | 17 |
| Plastic Products | 12 |
| Glass | 6 |
| Metal | 9 |
| Organics | 10 |
| Wood Debris | 9 |

| Material Classes | Number of Material Types Within Class |
|---|---|
| Construction Materials | 12 |
| Consumer Products | 18 |
| Hazardous & Special Wastes | 29 |
| Residuals | 5 |
| **Totals** | **143** |

Sources: 2020–2021 Washington State Waste Characterization Study, August 2021.

For each of these material classes, the study presented overall statewide results that combined sub streams, residential, commercial and self-haul, along with a picture of each region with sub streams consolidated. The overall statewide results showed organics as the largest disposal material type at 22.8 percent of the waste stream, followed by wood debris (13.5 percent), construction materials (10.7 percent), paper packaging (9.8 percent) and metal (7.5 percent). Figure 2-4 displays this data.

**Figure 2-4. Overall Statewide Disposed Waste Stream by Material Class**

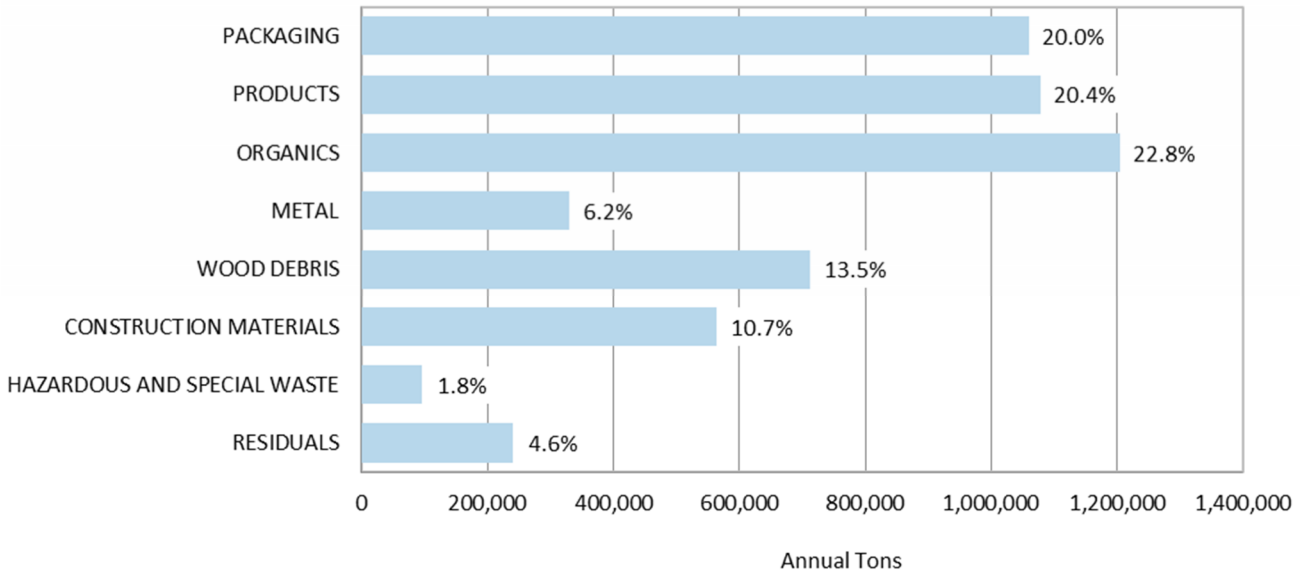



Sources: 2020–2021 Washington State Waste Characterization Study, August 2021.

Ecology requested separate products and packaging disposal categories because together they make up more than 40 percent of the state's overall waste stream. The product category has several components. Plastic products would include any product that carries the plastic identifying symbol but is not used in a packaging application (toys, plastic tableware, household products, shower curtains, tarps). Paper products would be newspapers, magazines, copy machine paper and paper-back books. Consumer products would include computers, televisions, audio equipment, printers, and gaming equipment. The packaging category had two main subsets. Paper

packaging included shredded newspaper packing material, aseptic containers, and gable-top containers. Examples of plastic packaging are plastic beverage bottles, milk jugs, laundry jugs, and dairy tubs. Figure 2-5 shows percentages of packaging (20 percent) and products (20.4 percent) in the state's overall waste stream.

**Figure 2-5. Statewide Subtotals by Material Types by Packaging and Products Materials Group**




Sources: 2020–2021 Washington State Waste Characterization Study, August 2021.

Within the material sub class categories, Cascadia looked at specific items that are being thrown away statewide. Table 2-6 ranks the top 15 materials that are discarded in the state, their percentage of the waste stream, and their estimated tonnage.

**Table 2-6. Overall Statewide Waste Stream, Top 15 Materials**

| Material | Estimated Percentage | Estimated Tons | Cumulative Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Edible Food Waste – Vegetative | 6.4% | 336,564 | 6.4% |
| Cardboard & Kraft Packaging | 5.2% | 276,196 | 11.6% |
| Painted Wood | 4.8% | 253,958 | 16.4% |
| Inedible Food Waste | 4.8% | 250,860 | 21.2% |
| Animal Manure | 4.8% | 250,763 | 25.9% |
| Compostable Paper Products | 3.4% | 180,366 | 29.4% |
| Other Ferrous Metal | 3.3% | 174,364 | 32.7% |
| Drywall | 3.2% | 167,785 | 35.8% |
| Remainder/Composite Metal | 2.6% | 139,654 | 38.5% |
| Yard/Garden Waste – Leaves & Grass | 2.5% | 132,218 | 41.0% |
| Packaging Film Plastic | 2.4% | 123,992 | 43.3% |
| Engineered Wood | 2.1% | 112,899 | 45.5% |

| Material | Estimated Percentage | Estimated Tons | Cumulative Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Edible Food Waste – Meats/Fats/Oils | 2.1% | 109,571 | 47.6% |
| Compostable Paper Packaging | 2.0% | 107,175 | 49.6% |
| Bulky Rigid Plastic Products | 1.9% | 98,194 | 51.5% |
| **Total for Top Materials** | **51.5%** | **2,714,561** | **51.5%** |

Confidence intervals calculated at the 90 percent confidence level. Percentages for material types may not total 100 percent due to rounding.
Sources: 2020–2021 Washington State Waste Characterization Study, August 2021.

Ecology regularly completes waste characterization studies. Since the 2015–2016 study, there were only two categories that saw a statistically significant change in their proportion of disposal:

- Recyclable Paper increased from 7.6 percent of 10.3 percent (a 36.3 percent increase).
- Wood/Construction Debris, decreased from 31.7 percent to 25.7 percent (an 18.9 percent decrease).

The 2020–2021 Washington State Waste Characterization Study noted that the sources of these changes are "impossible to determine with certainty," but suggested that the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic may have been a factor in both scenarios. The decrease in the amount of wood and construction debris being disposed of could have resulted from the reduction in construction projects during this time. The increase in e-commerce during statewide closures could have contributed to the increase in the amount of recyclable paper being discarded.

The study further analyzed statewide waste disposal results in three categories: residential, commercial, and self-haul. Additional results from the overall statewide research can be found at the following website:

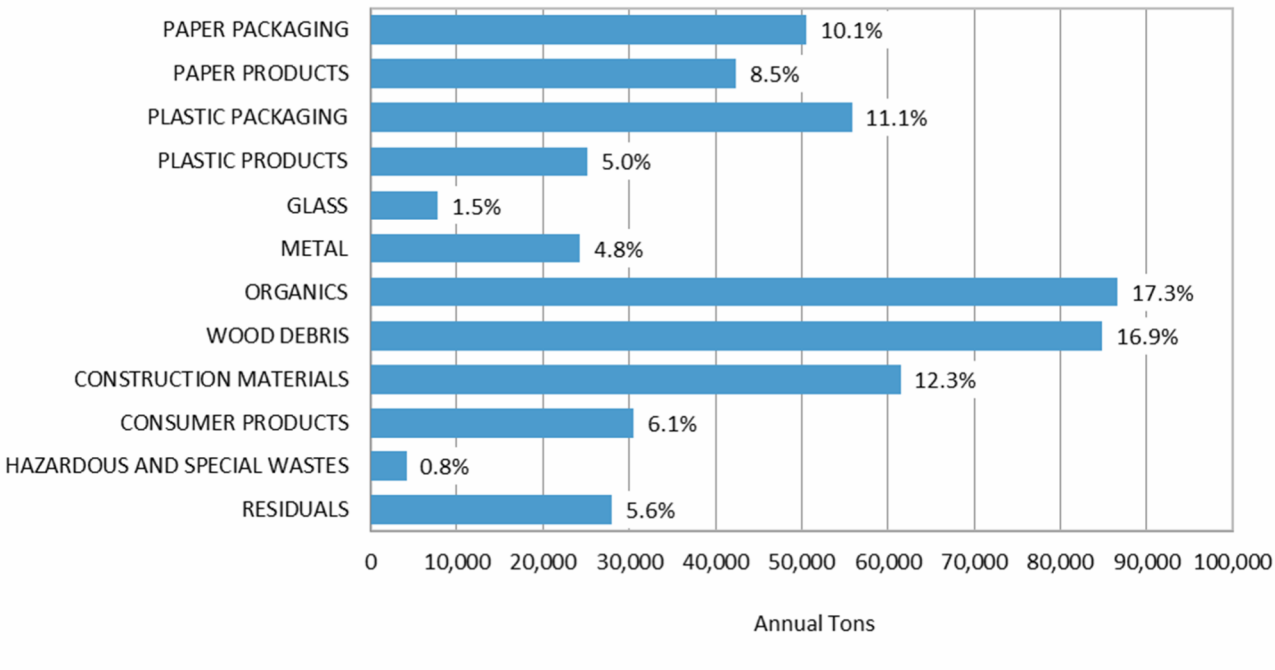
https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/2107026.pdf

#### 2.3.2.2. Southwest Region Results

Samples for the 2020–2021 Washington State Waste Characterization Study were taken from waste disposal sites throughout Washington state. The Southwest Washington regional samples were taken primarily from Clark and Skamania counties with some additional samples taken from Cowlitz County. Because these counties are in the same region as Lewis, these statistics are used for planning purposes. CTS was one of the sample sites during the 2015–2016 state-wide waste characterization study. Issues related to COVID-19, however, precluded Lewis County from participating in the 2020–2021 evaluation.

The largest components of the Southwest region's waste stream consist of the following: organics (17.3 percent), wood debris (16.9 percent), construction materials (12.3 percent), plastic packaging (11.1 percent), and paper packaging (10.01 percent). Figure 2-6 shows the Southwest waste disposal breakdown in detail.

**Figure 2-6. Southwest Region Overall Disposed Waste Stream**




Sources: 2020–2021 Washington State Waste Characterization Study, August 2021.

The 2020–2021 Washington State Waste Characterization Study provided details on the Southwest region's waste stream. Table 2-7 ranks the top 15 materials that are discarded in the Southwest region, their percentage of the waste stream, and their estimated tonnage.

**Table 2-7. Overall Southwest Region Waste Stream, Top 15 Materials**

| Material | Estimated Percentage | Estimated Tons | Cumulative Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Edible Food Waste – Vegetative | 6.0% | 29,909 | 6.0% |
| Painted Wood | 4.9% | 24,611 | 10.9% |
| Cardboard & Kraft Packaging | 4.4% | 22,215 | 15.3% |
| Compostable Paper Products | 3.7% | 18,591 | 19.1% |
| Inedible Food Waste – Vegetative | 3.4% | 17,032 | 22.5% |
| Dimensional Lumber | 3.3% | 16,546 | 25.8% |
| Pallets & Crates | 3.0% | 15,141 | 28.8% |
| Drywall | 3.0% | 15,034 | 31.8% |
| Mixed/Low-Grade Paper Packaging | 2.8% | 14,139 | 34.6% |
| Engineered Wood | 2.7% | 13,300 | 37.3% |
| Remainder/Composite Construction Materials | 2.6% | 13,108 | 39.9% |
| Packaging Film Plastic | 2.4% | 12,227 | 42.2% |
| #7 Other/Unknown Plastic Packaging | 2.4% | 11,899 | 44.7% |
| Food Processing Wastes | 2.4% | 11,854 | 47.1% |

| Material | Estimated Percentage | Estimated Tons | Cumulative Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Animal Manure | 2.2% | 10,801 | 49.3% |
| **Totals for Top Materials** | **49.3%** | **246,406** | **49.3%** |

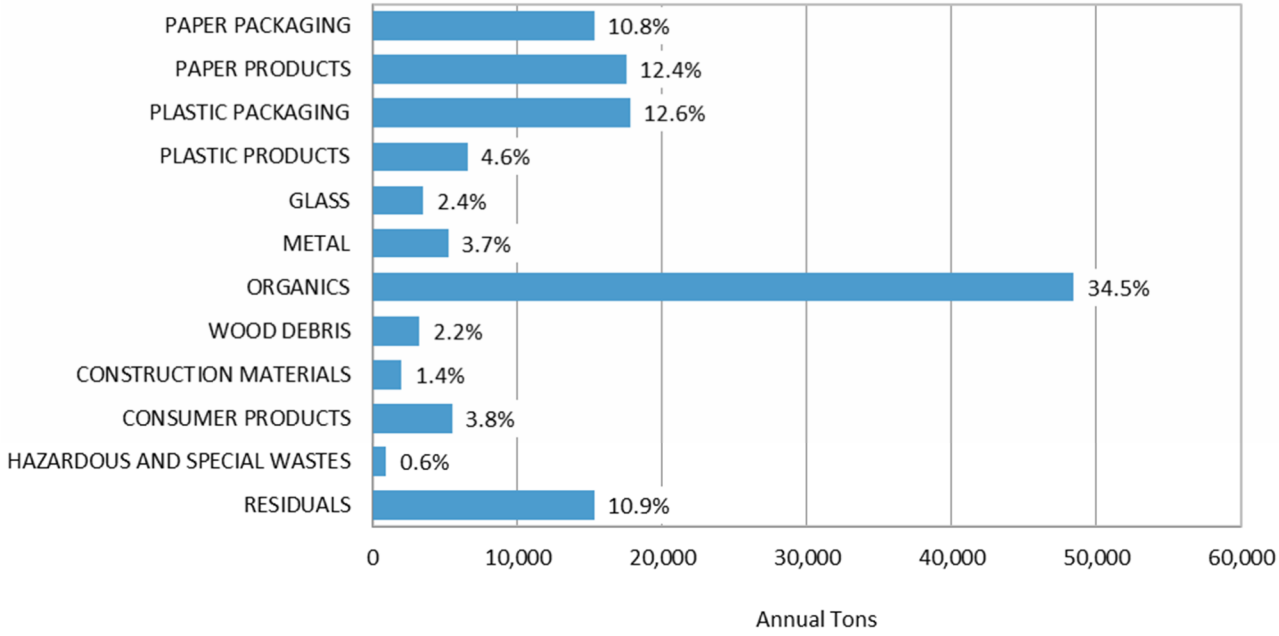
Percentages for material types may not total 100 percent due to rounding.
Sources: 2020–2021 Washington State Waste Characterization Study, August 2021.

### 2.3.2.3. Residential Results

The 2020–2021 Washington State Waste Characterization Study examined specific solid waste sectors: residential, commercial, and self-haul. Looking at these specific sectors can inform decision makers about certain waste streams that can be targeted for waste reduction education programs in the future.

Figure 2-7 shows that organics (34.5 percent) make up more than one third of materials that residential customers are throwing away. Organics include edible food waste (13 percent), inedible food waste – vegetative (8.8 percent), and animal manure (6.2 percent).

**Figure 2-7. Southwest Region Residential Subtotals by Material Class**




Sources: 2020–2021 Washington State Waste Characterization Study, August 2021.

The study looked specifically at what materials were being thrown away in the organics category along with several of the other materials in the top 15 list for the residential section. Table 2-8 shows the breakdown of materials.

**Table 2-8. Overall Southwest Residential Waste Stream, Top 15 Materials**

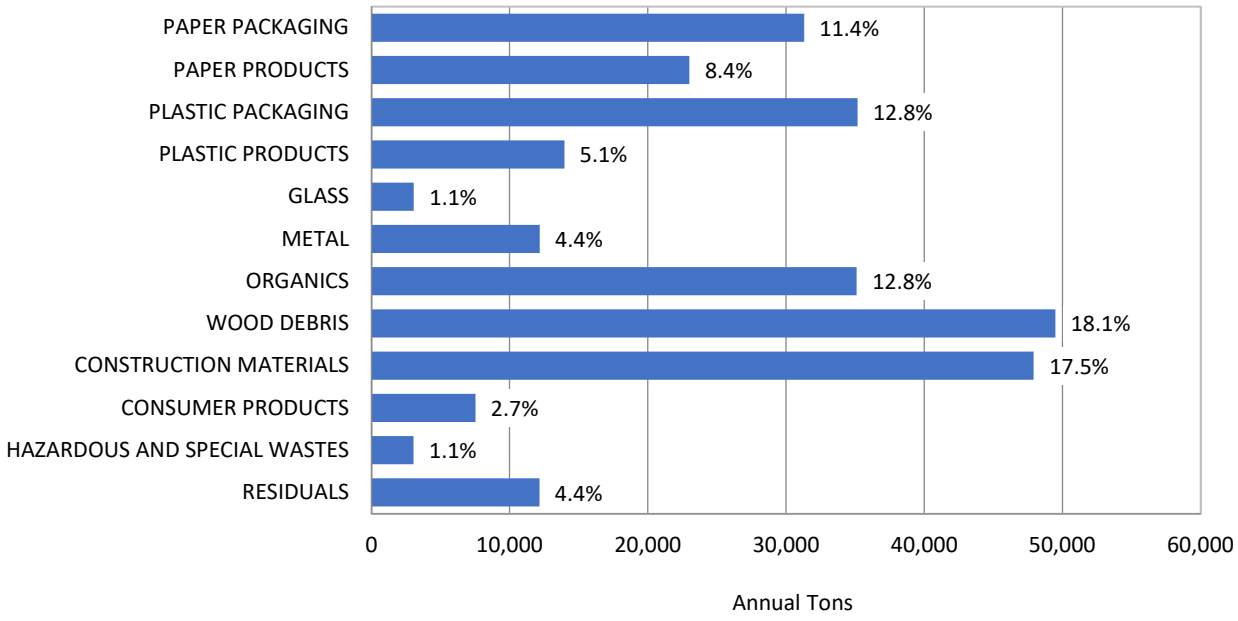
| Material | Estimated Percentage | Estimated Tons | Cumulative Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Edible Food Waste – Vegetative | 13.0% | 18,267 | 13.0% |
| Inedible Food Waste – Vegetative | 8.8% | 12,372 | 21.8% |
| Compostable Paper Products | 8.6% | 11,999 | 30.4% |
| Animal Manure | 6.2% | 8,647 | 36.6% |
| Packaging Film Plastic | 4.4% | 6,240 | 41.0% |
| Cardboard & Kraft Packaging | 3.5% | 4,968 | 44.6% |
| Compostable Paper Packaging | 3.1% | 4,320 | 47.6% |
| Mixed/Low-Grade Paper Products | 2.5% | 3,493 | 55.6% |
| Edible Food Waste – Meats/Fats/Oils | 2.5% | 3,510 | 53.1% |
| Mixed/Low-Grade Paper Products | 2.5% | 3,493 | 55.6% |
| Plastic Garbage Bags | 2.3% | 3,186 | 57.9% |
| #5 PP Plastic Packaging | 1.8% | 2,591 | 59.7% |
| Yard/Garden Waste – Prunings | 1.5% | 2,147 | 61.2% |
| Clear Glass Containers | 1.4% | 1,930 | 62.6% |
| #1 PETE Plastic Bottles | 1.3% | 1,760 | 63.9% |
| **Totals for Top Materials** | **63.9%** | **89,582** | **63.9%** |

Percentages for material types may not total 100 percent due to rounding.
Sources: 2020–2021 Washington State Waste Characterization Study, August 2021.

#### 2.3.2.4. Commercial Results

The commercial sector, presented in Figure 2-8, has wood debris (18.1 percent), construction materials (17.5 percent), and plastic packaging and organics (each at 12.8 percent) as the largest portions of discarded materials.

**Figure 2-8. Southwest Region Commercial Subtotals by Material Class**




Sources: 2020–2021 Washington State Waste Characterization Study, August 2021.

Cascadia split these categories into specific materials and Table 2-9 indicates the top 15 materials for the commercial sector.

**Table 2-9. Overall Commercial Waste Stream, Top 15 Materials**

| Material | Estimated Percentage | Estimated Tons | Cumulative Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Drywall | 5.3% | 14,523 | 5.3% |
| Cardboard & Kraft Packaging | 5.2% | 14,355 | 10.5% |
| Pallets & Crates | 4.6% | 12,558 | 15.1% |
| Painted Wood | 4.6% | 12,474 | 19.7% |
| Food Processing Wastes | 4.3% | 11,854 | 24.0% |
| #7 Other/Unknown Plastic Packaging | 4.0% | 10,945 | 28.0% |
| Edible Food Waste – Vegetative | 4.0% | 10,928 | 32.0% |
| Dimensional Lumber | 3.8% | 10,528 | 35.9% |
| Remainer/Composite Construction Materials | 3.7% | 10,083 | 39.5% |
| Mixed/Low-Grade Paper Packaging | 3.5% | 9,587 | 43.0% |
| Concrete | 3.5% | 9,583 | 46.5% |
| Other Ferrous Metal | 2.7% | 7,515 | 49.3% |
| Remainder/Composite Plastic Packaging | 2.5% | 6,906 | 51.8% |
| Engineered Wood | 2.3% | 6,297 | 54.1% |
| Compostable Paper Packaging | 2.2% | 6,031 | 56.3% |

| Material | Estimated Percentage | Estimated Tons | Cumulative Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Totals for Top Materials** | **56.3%** | **154,164** | **56.3%** |

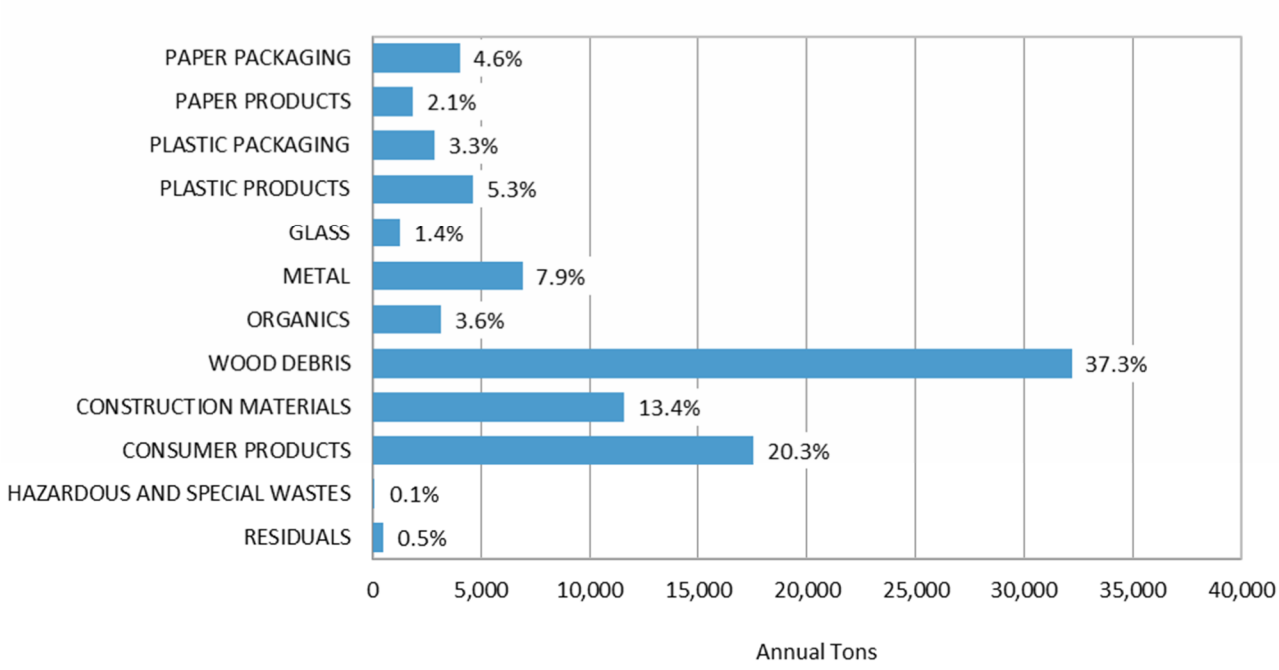
Percentages for material types may not total 100 percent due to rounding.
Sources: 2020–2021 Washington State Waste Characterization Study, August 2021.

### 2.3.2.5. Self-Haul Results

The self-haul category is comprised of transfer station customers who haul their own waste, regardless of whether they are commercial or residential customers. The self-haul category includes vehicles not operated by a franchise or municipality and includes waste generated as a result of construction or demolition activities.

Figure 2-9, below, shows the most frequently disposed items by self-haul customers. Wood debris made up the largest portion of the waste stream at 37.3 percent. It was followed by consumer products (20.3 percent), construction materials (13.4 percent), and metals (7.9 percent).

**Figure 2-9. Southwest Region Self-Haul Subtotals by Material Class**




Sources: 2020–2021 Washington State Waste Characterization Study, August 2021.

For the self-haul section, Table 2-10 displays the top 15 disposed of materials.

**Table 2-10. Overall Southwest Self-Haul Waste Stream, Top 15 Materials**

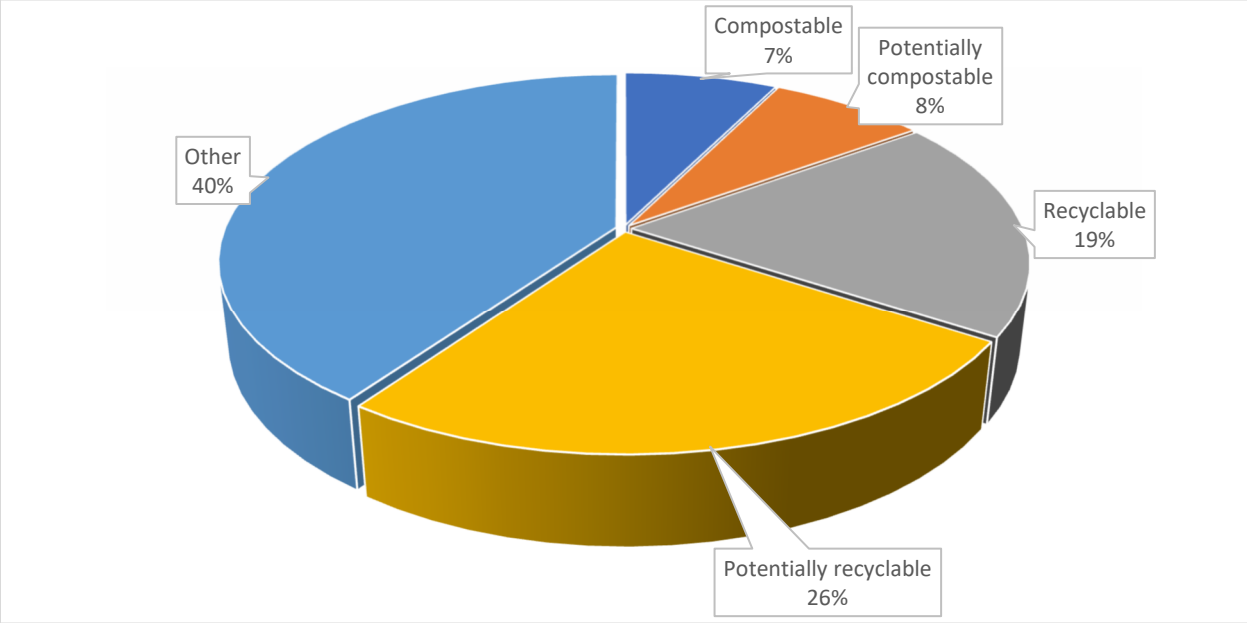
| Material | Estimated Percentage | Estimated Tons | Cumulative Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Painted Wood | 12.4 percent | 10,673 | 12.4% |
| Remainder/Composite Wood Debris | 7.6% | 6,533 | 20.0% |

| Material | Estimated Percentage | Estimated Tons | Cumulative Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Engineered Wood | 7.5% | 6,473 | 27.5% |
| Dimensional Lumber | 6.4% | 5,534 | 33.9% |
| Remainder/Composite Metal | 4.2% | 3,654 | 38.2% |
| Soil, Rocks, & Sand | 4.0% | 3,446 | 42.2% |
| Remainder/Composite Construction Materials | 3.4% | 2,899 | 45.6% |
| Cardboard & Kraft Packaging | 3.4% | 2,892 | 48.9% |
| Asphalt Roofing | 3.3% | 2,860 | 52.2% |
| Bulky Rigid Plastic Products | 3.1% | 2,663 | 55.3% |
| Pallets & Crates | 2.8% | 2,425 | 58.2% |
| Other Ferrous Metal | 1.6% | 1,411 | 59.8% |
| Remainder/Composite Plastic Packaging | 1.4% | 1,219 | 61.2% |
| Inedible Food Waste – Vegetative | 1.4% | 1,178 | 62.6% |
| White Goods | 1.2% | 1,051 | 63.8% |
| **Totals for Top Materials** | **63.8%** | **54,911** | **63.8%** |

Percentages for material types may not total 100 percent due to rounding.
Sources: 2020–2021 Washington State Waste Characterization Study, August 2021.

Figure 2-10 shows the overall waste composition in Lewis County. Most of the materials disposed of in Lewis County is not recyclable or compostable. 40 percent of waste is not recyclable or compostable, and 34 percent is potentially recyclable or compostable.

**Figure 2-10. Overview of Overall Waste Composition**



## 2.4. ECONOMICS

Lewis County's economy has historically been linked to its natural resource base, particularly timber, mining, and agriculture. Changes over time have moved jobs away from the timber industry and more recently mining with the closure of a section of the TransAlta Mine. Jobs still exist in timber, mining, and agriculture, and other sectors are growing. For example, Lewis County ranks number one in the state for production of cut Christmas trees and ranks high for production of poultry, eggs, and broiler chicken meat, according to the 2017 Census of Agriculture. This report noted the number of farms grew 5 percent from 2012 to 2017, but farm acreage decreased by 8 percent to 122,370 acres. The top ten employers in Lewis County are Providence Hospital, government, Centralia School District, Centralia College, Centralia Factory Outlets, Walmart, Fred Meyer Distribution Center, Chehalis School District, UNFI Distribution Center, and Hampton Lumber Mills. They employ nearly 5,000 people, according to the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce 2021 Annual Directory. Lewis County's top employers are in the medical field, local government, education, retail, supply chain/distribution, and the timber industry.

**Table 2-11. Lewis County Employment**

| Lewis County Employer Type | Number of Employees |
|---|---|
| **Total Nonfarm** | **26,660** |
| **Total Private** | **21,210** |
| **Goods Producing** | **5,240** |
| Mining, Logging, and Construction | 1,880 |
| Mining and Logging | 570 |
| Construction | 1,310 |
| Manufacturing | 3,360 |
| **Service Providing** | **21,420** |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 5,910 |
| Wholesale Trade | 790 |
| Retail Trade | 3,560 |
| Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities | 1,570 |
| Information and Financial Activities | 880 |
| Professional and Business Services | 1,470 |
| Education and Health Services | 4,260 |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 2,820 |
| Government | 5,440 |
| Federal Government | 220 |
| State and Local Government | 5,220 |
| State and Local Government Education | 2,880 |

Sources: Washington Employment Security Department, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, March 2020.

Service industries, including retail trades, transportation, and utilities, government and health care are the leading employment sectors in recent years. Jobs in construction, mining and logging have decreased significantly since the 2008 Plan, noting a 16 percent decrease in 2009, according to the State Employment Security Department's Lewis County data tables, 2022. However, construction, mining, and logging job numbers have rebounded and are nearly identical to the 2008 plan's which cited 5,280 jobs in the Goods Producing category, compared to this plan update which cites 5,240 jobs.

Evaluating employment trends is helpful to solid waste planning because different industries generate different types of waste. If there are significant changes in the employment distribution or plans for a new employer locating in the area, strategies can be developed to accommodate the addition to the waste stream for proper disposal or waste recovery. For example, if agricultural production increases with the number of farms in Lewis County, solid waste facilities could see an increase in organic materials and yard waste. To accommodate the growth in agriculture and changing regulations, Lewis County should focus on development of organics facilities such as Meridian Hill Compost Facility.

# 3. COLLECTION, TRANSFER, EXPORT, AND DISPOSAL

This chapter discusses existing collection services and transfer and disposal practices in Lewis County and the participating cities and towns, identifies relevant planning issues, and develops alternative strategies.

Since April 1, 1994, Lewis County has collected, transferred, and exported MSW for disposal. Waste transfer is the process of consolidating small waste loads into larger containers for more efficient and economical transport. Waste export refers to the inter-county, and at times inter-state movement of solid waste. This CSHWMP does not address waste that may pass through Lewis County without handling or processing, such as waste in containers passing through by truck on Interstate 5 or by rail.

## 3.1. BACKGROUND

This section provides information regarding regulatory requirements regarding solid waste collection.

### 3.1.1. Legal Authority

Ecology, WUTC, Lewis County, cities and towns, share the legal authority for solid waste collection within Lewis County. RCW 70A.205.010 assigns primary responsibility for solid waste handling (management) to local government. Private industry's role in waste management is reflected in the legislative language: "It is the intent of the legislature that local governments be encouraged to use the expertise of private industry and to contract with private industry to the fullest extent possible to carry out solid waste recovery and/or recycling programs" (70A.205.010).

For information regarding establishment of collection and disposal districts as allowed by RCW 36.58A, refer to Chapter 8 Administration and Enforcement. Refer to Chapter 5 Wastes Requiring Special Handling for information on the "Sham Recycling Bill" and the Recyclable Materials Transporter and Facility Requirements (WAC 173-345).

### 3.1.2. Incorporated Areas

Cities and towns have three alternatives for collecting solid waste within their boundaries:

1. Municipal collection: Collect waste using municipal employees.
2. Contracted/Franchised collection: The municipality conducts a competitive procurement process and selects a private company to provide collection services.
3. Permitted Solid Waste Carriers: If a city does not wish to be involved in managing garbage collection within its boundaries, a WUTC certified hauler for the area can provide those services. The city may pass an ordinance requiring that certain services be provided. A city may also require a permitted hauler to secure a license from the city.

### 3.1.3. Unincorporated Areas

Waste collection companies are included as a regulated transportation industry. As such, the WUTC grants exclusive rights to specific haulers, referred to as "Solid Waste Carriers," in

unincorporated areas. RCW 81.77.030 allows the WUTC to supervise and regulate waste collection companies by the following:

1. Fixing and altering its rates, charges, classifications, rules and regulations;
2. Regulating the accounts, service, and safety of operations;
3. Requiring the filing of annual and other reports and data;
4. Supervising and regulating such persons or companies in all other matters affecting the relationship between them and the public which they serve;
5. Requiring compliance with local SWMPs and related implementation ordinances; and
6. Requiring certificate holders to use rate structures and billing systems consistent with the solid waste management priorities set forth under RCW 70A.205.005 and the minimum levels of solid waste collection and recycling services pursuant to local comprehensive SWMPs. Rate structures can allow for discounts for low-income and low-income senior customers and can be requested by Lewis County.

WAC 480-70 implements RCW 81.77 by establishing standards for public safety; fair practices; just and reasonable charges; nondiscriminatory application of rates; adequate and dependable service; consumer protection; and compliance with statutes, rules, and commission orders. At the time of this writing, there are two collection companies with authority to operate in Lewis County, Certificate G-98 as issued to Harold LeMay Enterprises, Inc., doing business as City Sanitary, White Pass Garbage and Joe's Refuse Service; and Certificate G-219 as issued to Jeffery Cummins doing business as Community Waste & Recycling. The service area explanations are included in the WUTC certificates which can be found in Appendix F.

In addition, the WUTC approves solid waste company tariffs which enable solid waste companies to operate and regulates the rates companies may charge. In Lewis County, LeMay operates under Tariff No. 10 and Community Waste & Recycling operates under Tariff No. 4.

## 3.2. SOLID WASTE COLLECTION

Overall goals of the collection system continue to be the following:

- Ensure that residents and businesses of Lewis County have access to refuse collection service.
- Ensure that residents living in, or businesses located in, the unincorporated areas of Lewis County have access to a site where they can properly dispose of their solid waste.
- Work with contracted and certificated haulers throughout Lewis County to ensure that collection services are compatible with all elements of the solid waste management system, as identified in this CSHWMP.

### 3.2.1. Existing Conditions

Solid waste collection in Lewis County is provided exclusively by private companies. These companies operate either under the regulations of the WUTC or through contracts or franchise agreements with the municipalities they serve.

The cities of Centralia, Chehalis, Morton, Napavine, and Vader have agreements with private refuse companies and the cities of Toledo, Winlock, Mossyrock, and Pe Ell have opted to allow Lewis County's WUTC-designated certificated hauler to pick up their refuse. Unincorporated Lewis County is also served by a certificated hauler. Table 3-1 summarizes solid waste collection services and routing to either CTS or East Lewis County Transfer Station (ELCTS). The sections that follow describe these services.

**Table 3-1. Solid Waste Collection Services**

| Jurisdiction | Municipal Contractor | WUTC Certificated | Garbage Immediate Destination[1] | Collection Services Offered | Garbage Disposal Destination[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Centralia | LeMay | G-98 | CTS | Garbage, Recycling, Organics | Headquarters Landfill / Wasco County |
| Chehalis | LeMay | G-98 | CTS | Garbage, Recycling, Organics | Headquarters Landfill / Wasco County |
| Morton | LeMay | G-98 | ELCTS | Garbage, Recycling, Organics[3] | Headquarters Landfill / Wasco County |
| Mossyrock | LeMay | G-98 | ELCTS | Garbage, Recycling | Headquarters Landfill / Wasco County |
| Napavine | LeMay | G-98 | CTS | Garbage, Recycling, Organics | Headquarters Landfill / Wasco County |
| Pe Ell | LeMay | G-98 | CTS | Garbage, Recycling | Headquarters Landfill / Wasco County |
| Toledo | LeMay | G-98 | CTS | Garbage, Recycling | Headquarters Landfill / Wasco County |
| Winlock | LeMay | G-98 | CTS | Garbage, Recycling, Organics | Headquarters Landfill / Wasco County |
| Vader | LeMay | G-98 | CTS | Garbage, Recycling | Headquarters Landfill / Wasco County |
| Unincorporated Lewis County | LeMay | G-98 | CTS and ELCTS | Garbage, Recycling | Headquarters Landfill / Wasco County |
| | Community Waste & Recycling | G-219 | CTS | Garbage, Recycling | Headquarters Landfill / Wasco County |

[1] CTS and ELCTS are immediate destinations for garbage only. Curbside recycling is routed to Pioneer Recycling in Pierce County and organics are routed to a compost facility.

[2] Headquarters Landfill is the primary disposal location for garbage. Wasco County serves only as a backup destination.

[3] This includes City of Morton and its UGA.

### 3.2.2. Waste Collection Services

Contracted collection is the primary type of collection service in cities within Lewis County. Under contracts or franchise agreements with the cities, private companies collect solid waste in the cities of Centralia, Chehalis, Morton, Napavine, and Vader. In each city, collection services are offered universally and charged to each residence. LeMay Inc. serves Centralia, Chehalis, Morton, and Napavine, and Vader.

Outside these municipalities that offer either municipal or contracted collection, WUTC-regulated service is provided by privately owned firms. The regulated companies that operate within Lewis County does so under the following Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity issued by the WUTC:

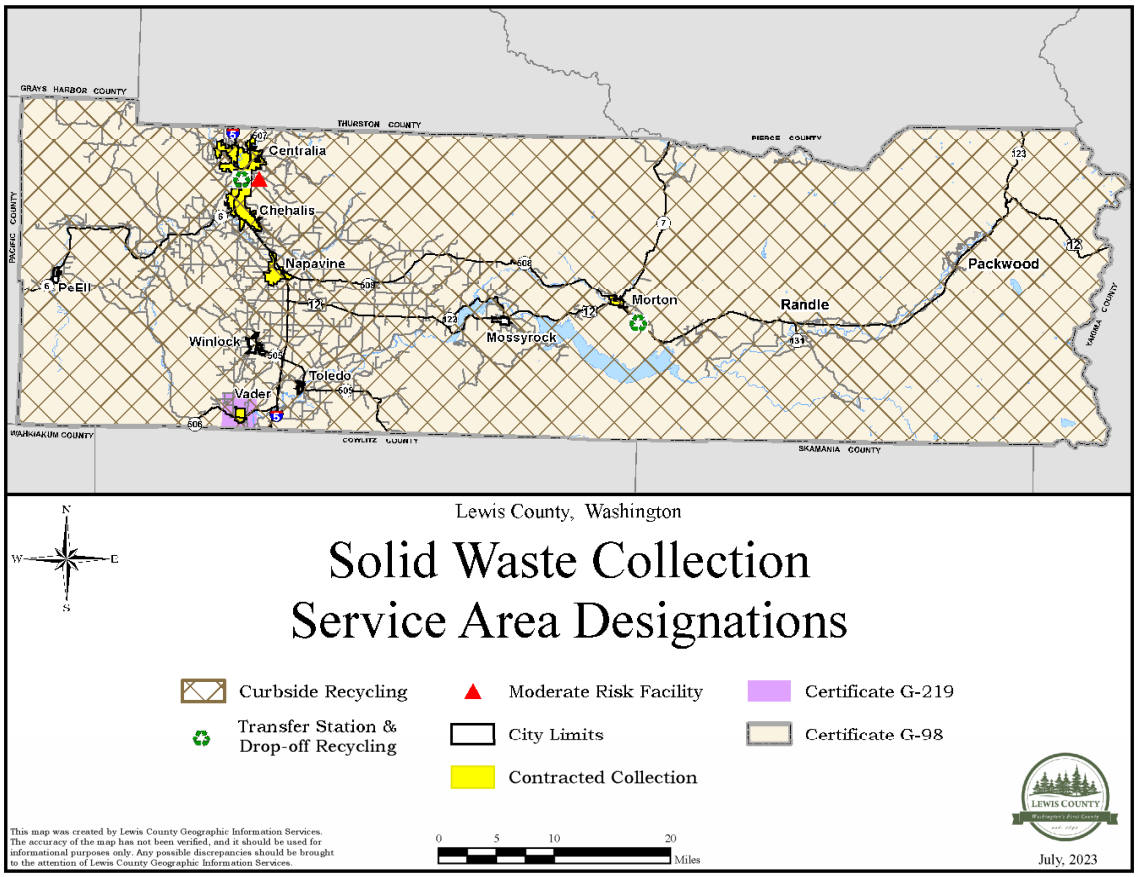
Harold LeMay Enterprises, Inc. (G-98)
P.O. Box 44459
Tacoma, WA 98448
Doing business as City Sanitary, White Pass Garbage and Joe's Refuse Service

Community Waste and Recycling (G-219)
157 Black Bird Lane
Chehalis, WA 98532
Doing business as Community Waste and Recycling

The approximate service area designated in each WUTC Certificate is identified in Figure 3-1.

Legal descriptions of each service area designation are provided in Appendix F. The unincorporated area surrounding Vader is part of Community Waste and Recycling's G-219 Certificate, but it has been designated as a dual certificate area. Customers can choose to contact LeMay or Community Waste and Recycling for service.

**Figure 3-1. Solid Waste Collection Area Designations, Lewis County, Washington**




## 3.2.3. Incentive Rates

Financial incentives to reduce the amount of solid waste disposed are embedded in the rate structures for all the services described above. For example, as specified in LCC 8.10.100: "In order to encourage residents to choose the lowest level of garbage service to meet their needs, and thereby encourage participation in a recycling program, several options for garbage service will be provided to residential customers in RSA 1." These options form variable can rates, with rates increasing with the size of the container and frequency of service. The variable can rate in RSA-1 changed with the BOCC adoption of Ordinance 1339 (described in Chapter 1).

## 3.2.4. Needs and Opportunities

Curbside MSW collection and recycling services are available to all residents and businesses in Lewis County. Curbside organics pick-up is available from Lewis County's western border to the City of Morton, and its UGA. More awareness is needed about the availability and level of services provided by local garbage, recycling, and organics hauling companies.

Given the population growth in the area, Lewis County is considering upgrades to its existing CTS in Centralia to accommodate more customers and tonnage or building a new transfer station south of Chehalis. Possible changes at the existing transfer stations include improving traffic

flow, expanding hours by remaining open on Sundays, moving the recycling area to the entrance of the transfer station, and offering self-service disposal for customers with credits cards.

### 3.2.5. Alternatives and Evaluations

Existing service gaps and other issues connected to collection are discussed below.

#### 3.2.5.1. Expand Hauler Options

If issues arise, such as a current hauler becoming unable to provide curbside recycling and organics pickup to municipalities' citizens, encourage those municipalities to work with another hauler. This will require researching available hauler options and reaching out to them for service quotes.

#### 3.2.5.2. Expand Awareness of Program Options

Expand awareness of garbage disposal options, and recycling and composting programs through educational campaigns by local haulers, real estate associations, the chamber of commerce and other organizations.

### 3.2.6. Recommendations

3-1 Encourage municipalities to work with other haulers as needed.

3-2 Expand awareness of garbage disposal options, and recycling and composting programs.

## 3.3. SOLID WASTE TRANSFER

Goals of the solid waste transfer system are to perform the following functions:

- Utilize transfer facilities and systems that provide cost and operational efficiency to the waste disposal system.
- Provide convenient waste transfer locations for public and commercial needs.
- Provide recycling opportunities to the public at all transfer locations.
- Evaluate the needs of the system and maintain it and update it appropriately to operate an efficient waste disposal system.

### 3.3.1. Existing Conditions

Lewis County transfer facilities consist of the CTS and the ELCTS. By 2009, Lewis County solid waste drop boxes were closed. The two transfer stations are owned and operated by Lewis County. As noted below, the CTS transfer station building is owned by Lewis County and located on property owned by the City of Centralia.

#### 3.3.1.1. Central Transfer Station

CTS is located in Centralia. It was built in 1993 at a cost of $3,790,504. The LCSWDD rents CTS from Lewis County for a monthly fee and pays the City of Centralia a fee for siting the transfer station on its closed landfill and the long-haul garbage trucks operating within its city limits. The fee paid to Centralia compensates for the real property value of the 9.8-acre site, and for ongoing impact costs to the property and city streets. The five-year lease agreement was renegotiated in 2018, with options to renew for five-year terms at the same rate for up to a maximum of 50 years. During the first two years of the agreement, LCSWDD paid $18,750 per month. That monthly fee was reduced to $16,750 for the remaining three years of the agreement. The lower monthly fee will continue for the extended agreement from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2029.

The maximum capacity of the CTS is 746 tons per 8-hour day. Tipping floor space available for temporary storage is approximately 70 feet wide by 50 feet on the public side and 70 feet wide by 90 feet on the commercial side. The tipping floor has a temporary storage capacity of 600 tons.

The total tonnage of solid waste processed through the CTS has fluctuated from approximately 63,439 tons in 2008 to approximately 92,328 tons in 2022. In January of 2008, the peak month for that year, 9,316 tons of solid waste was processed. The continued clean up from the December 2007 flood caused the spike in tonnage in January 2008. Assuming 26 days of operation, approximately 358 tons of solid waste was processed each 10-hour day. This equates to approximately 287 tons per 8-hour day, less than capacity.

Solid waste is transferred to trailers and hauled by truck to a landfill in Cowlitz County. In addition to transferring solid waste, the CTS is a drop-off collection point for recyclables, electronic waste, MRW, and yard debris. These topics are addressed in Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7, respectively. The Utility has a Capital Improvement Plan that is updated annually that looks 20 years into the future and anticipates what projects will need to be completed to keep both transfer stations operating efficiently. The plan also has a six-year window that assesses the most immediate needs for the facilities. Recent improvement projects have included replacement of the scales at the CTS, upgrading the financial software for the Utility, resurfacing the tipping floor at the Centralia site and replacing the cranes and equipment in Centralia. In addition, upgrades to the landfill gas collection and control systems are anticipated to comply with the Landfill Methane Emissions rule.

Future projects and capital equipment replacement costs can be found in Table 9-2 Lewis County 6-Year Budget Projections.

#### 3.3.1.2. East Lewis County Transfer Station

The ELCTS, also known as the Morton Transfer Station, is located on U.S. Highway 12 approximately 2 miles east of Morton. It was built in 1977 at a cost of $317,000, plus an additional $8,500 for 7 acres of land. The LCSWDD rents the facility from Lewis County on a monthly basis. Since the initial construction of the site, a number of upgrades have been made to the ELCTS, including the installation of a computerized scale system, repair of the roof and support beam, remodeling of an office, replacement of tipping floor chutes and belting, and replacement and repair of material handling equipment.

Tipping floor space available for temporary storage is approximately 100 feet by 80 feet. The current operating system uses one transfer trailer onsite at any given time and has an estimated

maximum daily capacity of 56 tons per day. During emergency situations, a second trailer is added, and two tractors are used for long-haul transfer. The total tonnage of solid waste processed through the ELCTS has fluctuated in recent years from 6,674 tons in 2008 to 9,126 tons in 2021.

Solid waste is transferred to trailers and transported directly to the landfill for disposal. The ELCTS is also a drop-off collection point for yard waste, recyclables, electronic waste and some MRW every day the site is open, such as oil and antifreeze. Certain materials, such as lawn and garden chemicals, however, are only collected during a monthly drop-off day, when the Lewis County's hazardous waste coordinator is onsite for satellite collection events.

The Capital Improvement Plan also evaluates needs for upgrades and improvements at the Morton facility. Future projects include resurfacing of the tipping floor and installing a new septic system.

#### 3.3.1.3. Closure of Drop Box Facilities

The LCSWDD operated eight drop box sites near the communities of Onalaska, Packwood, Meskill, Mineral, and Randle, and the cities of Mossyrock, Toledo, and Winlock. One of Lewis County's previous goals had been to make its solid waste services more convenient. It was this goal that led to the establishment of the satellite drop box locations more than 40 years ago. Because the drop box facilities consistently operated at a financial loss, Lewis County started closing the drop boxes in 2002. The Meskill, Mossyrock, Randle, and Mineral sites were closed that year. The remaining sites, Onalaska, Winlock, Toledo, and Packwood were closed in 2009.

#### 3.3.1.4. Operating Hours and Rate Schedules

Days of operation and hours for the CTS and ELCTS are recommended by the SWAC and adopted by the LCSWDD. The current hours and rate schedules are listed in Appendix G.

Lewis County operates according to RCW 36.58 under the auspices of the LCSWDD. Rates are set by Lewis County's BOCC acting in their role as the LCSWDD Commissioners. Revenue and expenditure data are used by Solid Waste Utility staff to develop rate models. These models are then reviewed by the SWAC and the LCSWDD Executive Advisory Committee. The two committees forward recommendations to the LCSWDD for consideration. The LCSWDD board holds a public hearing, tastes public testimony on the proposed rates, then votes on the proposed fee increases. Once the rates are established by the LCSWDD, they are then forwarded to the WUTC. Per RCW 70A.205.160, Lewis County must provide solid waste collection companies 75 days' notice of any change in tipping fees and disposal rate schedules. A solid waste collection company may agree to a shorter period as long as the notice period is not less than the 45 days' notice period required for public comment.

### 3.3.2. Needs and Opportunities

As previously discussed, citizens of Lewis County are more likely to participate in solid waste management programs when the services provided are convenient and affordable. Lewis County's population is expected to grow in the future. This growth may necessitate changes in the way solid waste is collected. Expanded services may be required. Likewise, if the growth brings people more accustomed to a higher level of service, then additional services may be appropriate. CTS is nearing capacity, but there are reconfiguration options to allow for some expansion. Population growth may also necessitate the development of a new transfer station. Staff will

continue to monitor customer counts and waste capacity to determine the best approach: reconfiguration of the existing facility, explore an alternative site, or propose a different type of waste disposal, such as incineration.

### 3.3.3. Alternatives and Evaluations

Existing service gaps and other issues connected to solid waste transfer are discussed below.

#### 3.3.3.1. Transfer Station Efficiencies

Currently, CTS operates Monday – Saturday 7:30am – 5:30pm, and ELCTS operates Monday – Saturday 8:30am – 4:30pm. Lewis County should consider expanding hours at the transfer stations to improve service, reduce line times. Lewis County may reconfigure transfer stations to improve traffic. At the current transfer stations, Lewis County may create a commercial only scale and entrance with card scanning entrances. Lewis County may reconfigure ELCTS to improve flow of traffic by adding an exit scale, so each scale is one-way.

#### 3.3.3.2. Collect Data for Transfer Station Planning

Track the volume or weight of solid waste and recyclables processed through the CTS to their geographic origin (e.g., zip codes and communities). Use the data to (1) help evaluate the costs and benefits of a new transfer station site and (2) help identify additional opportunities to improve the operation of the CTS and the convenience of solid waste services in Lewis County.

#### 3.3.3.3. Budget for New Transfer Station

Consider budgeting for and initiating the preliminary design of a new transfer station. Use the design to establish a budget to build the new transfer station.

#### 3.3.3.4. Review Data

Continue to review data sources for tracking disposal and recycling quantities to ensure that a consistent methodology is applied. This improves the ability to analyze trends and the effectiveness of solid waste services and diversion programs. In particular, Lewis County needs to monitor recycling programs for market availability, pricing, and contamination.

### 3.3.4. Recommendations:

3-3 Evaluate efficiencies at the transfer stations.

3-4 Track the amount of solid waste and recyclables processed through the CTS.

3-5 Budget for and initiate preliminary design of a new transfer station.

3-6 Review data sources for tracking disposal and recycling quantities.

## 3.4. SOLID WASTE EXPORT AND DISPOSAL

The goal of the solid waste export and disposal system is to comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws pertaining to the long-haul and export of waste.

### 3.4.1. Existing Conditions

Lewis County does not currently operate a landfill. The Centralia Landfill was closed in 1994. City of Centralia staff were responsible for post-closure monitoring until 2017. In mid-2017, the employee, who had been in charge of monitoring, retired. At that time, Lewis County Solid Waste Utility employees from the CTS took over landfill monitoring and maintenance. Additional information on the closed Centralia Landfill site can be found at the Ecology website: https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/2657

In 1992 and in anticipation of the landfill's planned closure, Lewis County (1) formed Disposal District No. 1, (2) built the CTS, and (3) entered into a 20-year agreement with the Rabanco Company for the export of MSW to the Roosevelt Regional Landfill. Waste export began in April 1994. That contract was extended through 2016 and ended in 2017. Then, a new contract with Waste Connections/LeMay Enterprises, Inc., started on April 1, 2017, to long-haul waste by truck from both the CTS and the ELCTS to Wasco County Landfill in north-central Oregon, near The Dalles. A closer disposal option recently opened for Lewis County's waste: the Headquarters Landfill, near Castle Rock in Cowlitz County. This landfill, formerly developed and owned by Weyerhaeuser as a Limited Purpose Landfill for disposal of industrial timber waste, was purchased by Cowlitz County in 2013. Lewis County staff negotiated an ILA between Lewis and Cowlitz counties and drafted a request for proposals for waste hauling services. The ILA between Lewis and Cowlitz counties was completed in 2024 and is included in Appendix E.

Lewis County does not plan to site or operate a MSW landfill during the planning horizon of this CSHWMP. However, if a municipality or a private entity chooses to attempt the siting of a MSW landfill in the future, the locational standards promulgated under WAC 173-351 will have to be met, as well as the permitting requirements of Environmental Health, and other local and regional agencies.

### 3.4.2. Needs and Opportunities

Lewis County completed an ILA with Cowlitz County in 2024 for disposing of its waste at the Headquarters Landfill and secured a contractor for hauling the waste to the Castle Rock site. Lewis County should annually review the ILA and consider its options for its waste export and disposal.

In the past, Lewis County has not pursued incineration or waste-to-energy plants as disposal options, primarily because it has not been economically viable. Depending on changes in regulations, technology, and other factors, this alternative may become more viable.

### 3.4.3. Alternatives and Evaluations

Existing service gaps and other issues connected to disposal are discussed below.

#### 3.4.3.1. Maintenance of Cowlitz County Interlocal Agreement

Lewis County completed its ILA with Cowlitz County in 2024. Lewis County should annually review the ILA to ensure it meets its needs for waste export and disposal, and also meets the expectations of both parties.

### 3.4.4. Recommendations

3-7 Annually review ILA with Cowlitz County for waste export and disposal.

## 3.5. ENERGY RECOVERY

This section addresses emerging technologies in energy recovery capable of decreasing waste disposal and generation of greenhouse gases.

### 3.5.1. Background

Waste processing and conversion technology options can be grouped into the following main technology classes:

- Thermal Technologies
  - Direct Combustion (various forms of traditional waste-to-energy)
  - Gasification
  - Plasma Arc Gasification
  - Pyrolysis
- Biological Technologies
  - Aerobic Composting
  - Anaerobic Digestion with Production of Electricity or Fuel Generation
- Chemical Technologies
  - Hydrolysis
  - Catalytic and Thermal Depolymerization
- Mechanical Technologies
  - Autoclave and Steam Classification
  - Advanced Materials Recovery
  - Refused Derived Fuel Production

There are also waste conversion technologies that are a combination of two or more technology classes. For example, Mechanical Biological Treatment technologies combine mechanical separation and treatment with biological processing, while Waste-to-Fuel technologies combine mechanical pre-processing with thermal and chemical conversion processes.

### 3.5.2. Existing Conditions

Lewis County's waste stream is too small to economically support the capital expenditures required for construction and operation of waste processing and conversion technology alternatives. Waste collected in Lewis County is disposed at landfills. Ample capacity is currently available at these landfills for the planning period covered by this CSHWMP.

### 3.5.3. Alternatives and Evaluations

Monitor developments and progress in waste processing and conversion technologies. Revisit other options for disposal if applicable and economically viable.

### 3.5.4. Recommendations

3-8 Monitor developments and progress in disposal technologies.

## 3.6. WASTE IMPORT

This section describes the limited import of waste into Lewis County.

### 3.6.1. Existing Conditions

Scenarios for waste import include residents living just outside county boundaries occasionally self-hauling waste to transfer stations, or private processors (e.g., metal recyclers, medical waste) operating in Lewis County bringing in targeted waste streams to their facilities. LeMay has a route in the northern end of Centralia that may cross over into Thurston County; mixed MSW from this route is taken to the CTS. Otherwise, certificated and contracted haulers operating outside Lewis County are not routinely importing mixed MSW.

In addition, Waste Connections is in the process of constructing the Meridian Hills Compost Facility that could import organic waste from outside Lewis County. Additional information on this facility can be found in Chapter 7 Organics.

### 3.6.2. Alternatives and Evaluations

Lewis County should develop a section within its operations plan to manage out-of-county customers in the event that nearby transfer stations were to temporarily close. Closure of a nearby transfer station would increase traffic in the area and would increase customers at Lewis County transfer stations.

### 3.6.3. Recommendations

3-9 Develop a section in the operations plan to address management of out-of-county customers in the event nearby transfer stations temporarily close.

# 4. WASTE REDUCTION, RECYCLING, AND EDUCATION

This chapter discusses existing waste reduction, recycling, and education programs, identifies relevant planning issues to meet local and state goals, and develops and evaluates alternative strategies for future implementation.

Recycling collection is available to residents and businesses throughout Lewis County with curbside services, drop-off opportunities and one buy-back recycling center available. Since the last plan update, there have been key changes to recycling services in Lewis County. Curbside yard waste and food waste collection has increased diversion to commercial composting, and commingled recycling collection is now provided to all Lewis County residents. These and other changes are described further in the sections below.

## 4.1. BACKGROUND

This section describes the applicable Washington State laws and rules regarding waste reduction and recycling programs.

### 4.1.1. State Legislation, Regulations, and Guidelines

Chapter 4 provides an update of diversion options away from landfill disposal and explains compliance with Washington State requirements regarding waste reduction and recycling opportunities and programs. The State's requirements are based on ESHB 1671, which declared that waste reduction and recycling must become a fundamental strategy for solid waste management in Washington State. This law is reflected in various sections of RCW and WAC. RCW 70A.205 includes the following goals (among others) and requires that SWMPs demonstrate how these goals will be met:

- Washington State is to achieve a statewide recycling rate of 50 percent.
- Source separation of waste (at a minimum, separation into recyclable and non-recyclable fractions) must be a fundamental strategy of solid waste management.
- Steps should be taken to make recycling at least as affordable and convenient to the ratepayer as disposal of mixed solid waste.
- Other applicable Washington State requirements are as follows:
    - Develop clear criteria for designating areas as urban or rural for the purpose of providing solid waste and recycling services (RCW 70A.205.050).
    - Collect recyclables from homes and apartments in urban areas (RCW 70A.205.045).
    - Monitor the collection of source-separated waste from non-residential sources when there is sufficient density to economically sustain a commercial collection program (RCW 70A.205.045).

RCW 70A.205.050 also requires development of clear criteria for designating areas as urban or rural for the purpose of providing solid waste and recycling services. RCW 70A.205.045(7)(b)(i) requires recyclables to be collected from homes and apartments in urban areas (with some exceptions), whereas drop-off centers and other methods can be used in rural areas.

RCW 70A.205.045 requires a monitoring program for collection of source-separated waste from non-residential sources when there is sufficient density to economically sustain a commercial collection program. Lewis County achieves this by working cooperatively with Ecology and using the data Ecology collects through the annual Washington State Recycling Survey.

In addition, public education is an important element for solid waste management systems. Lewis County residents and businesses need to be informed as to the proper and available methods for waste reduction, disposal, and recycling. The programs described in this chapter encourage residents and businesses to take extra steps to recycle or compost appropriate waste streams, or to avoid generating waste in the first place.

### 4.1.2. Moving Washington Beyond Waste and Toxics Goals

Ecology released an updated State Solid and Hazardous Waste Plan in December 2021; Moving Washington Beyond Waste and Toxics, which focuses on a sustainable materials management approach for waste prevention. Moving Washington Beyond Waste and Toxics Plan provides the following goals pertaining to recycling programs in Lewis County:

- Washington's recycling system provides usable feedstocks for remanufacturing from major sectors and waste streams (GOAL SWM 5).
    - Work with trade organizations, solid waste collection companies, local governments, and other parties to maintain and promote best management practices (BMPs) for curbside and drop-box recycling. Design outcomes to yield the highest value within the recycling stream and minimize contamination, cross-contamination, and other system-loss issues.
- Plastics in the waste stream are reduced. Plastics are managed systemically with a priority on prevention, reduction, reuse, and recycling to minimize impacts to the environment (GOAL SWM 7).
    - Engage in efforts to address plastic packaging and single-use plastics— including improved labeling, recycled content and other policy solutions. Assess and promote policies with the best impacts. Stay abreast of emerging technologies, life cycle impacts, and marine debris. Coordinate with others to develop expertise on microplastics.
    - Support and provide technical assistance to help shift to the use of durable, reusable products and away from a reliance on single-use products.
- Effective design, policies, and programs prevent and pick-up litter (GOAL SWM 8).
    - Create an effective, inclusive, comprehensive, litter-prevention campaign that is embraced by diverse stakeholders and residents.
    - Analyze the efficiency, effectiveness, equity, and safety of our litter programs, and make appropriate updates and improvements.
- Sham recycling and improper disposal decrease (GOAL SWM 9).
    - Communicate and work with local governments and recycling businesses to uphold and enforce recycling laws, rules, and requirements. Explore options for enforcement.

### 4.1.3. Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plan

HB 1543, Sustainable Recycling, was signed on April 29, 2019, and took effect July 1, 2019. The act required Ecology to create a state recycling CROP by July 1, 2020, with local jurisdictions required to either create their own CROP or adopt the state CROP by July 1, 2021. Lewis County chose to create its own CROP by the deadline. It has been updated as part of this CSHWMP.

RCW 70A.205.045 stipulates the requirements to be included in a CROP as follows:

- A list of actions for reduction of contamination in recycling programs for single-family and multi-family residences, commercial locations, and drop boxes.
- A list of key contaminants identified by the jurisdiction or Ecology.
- A discussion of problem contaminants and the contaminants' impacts on the collection system.
- An analysis of the costs and other impacts associated with contaminants to the recycling system.
- An implementation schedule and details of how outreach is to be conducted, which may include sharing community-wide messaging through newsletters, articles, mailers, social media, websites, or community events; informing recycling drop-box customers about contamination; direct outreach through route collection drivers; and improving signage.

### 4.1.4. Local Regulations and Guidelines

#### Ordinance 1124

Pursuant to RCW 36.58.100, Ordinance 1124 LCSWDD provides Lewis County with the power to govern solid waste decisions in the county.

#### Ordinance 1339

Ordinance 1339 was passed in January 2023 by the BOCC and expands RSA-1 curbside recycling to include all of Lewis County. It amends Ordinances 1136, 1136A, 1157, and 1196. In addition, this ordinance requires the Lewis County SWAC review, and if needed revise the recycling program at least every five years to ensure service area needs are being met.

#### Ordinance 1344

Ordinance 1344 follows the passing of HB 1799 and establishes a compost procurement policy in Lewis County which was adopted January 1, 2023. Lewis County shall purchase finished compost products where appropriate for use in county projects or on county land. Additionally, Lewis County shall purchase finished compost products locally and shall conduct educational outreach to inform residents about the value of compost.

## 4.2. WASTE REDUCTION

Waste reduction, as defined by Ecology, is the reduction of the amount or toxicity of waste generated. It involves reuse of materials, repair and restoration of broken items, elimination of excess packaging, use of durable products instead of disposable items, onsite waste management (e.g., composting), and other efficient uses of resources.

Waste reduction can be the most effective, economical, and environmentally sound way to manage waste. A focus on waste reduction precludes the need to develop and finance systems to handle recyclables and garbage. Thus, waste reduction is Washington State's top priority solid waste management method.

### 4.2.1. Existing Conditions

In 2018, Lewis County had a recycling rate of approximately 32 percent. Lewis County has a number of ongoing waste reduction outreach and education programs and is expanding on those programs to offer further assistance to residents and businesses to reuse household items, as well as provide technical recycling assistance to in areas of waste reduction and recycling.

Lewis County promotes waste reduction through outreach at schools, community events, online resources, and the Master Recycler Composter (MRC) Program. Lewis County partners with the local Washington State University (WSU) Cooperative Extension to run the MRC Program, a volunteer-based outreach and education program. One full training session is conducted each year through this program, which has 20 active volunteers. Volunteers educate community members on waste reduction strategies such as purchasing durable items, repairing items instead of throwing them away, backyard composting, renting, or borrowing instead of buying new products, avoiding excess packaging, and reducing junk mail.

Lewis County plans to continue and extend its waste reduction programs using LSWFA funds from Ecology. LSWFA funds also support coordinated public education and outreach on waste diversion, including waste prevention and recycling. Consistent messages concerning proper solid waste management and resource conservation would be continued and delivered through school presentations, community events, the website, and published materials.

RCW 70.93.093 requires public event recycling in communities where there is an established curbside service and where recycling service is available to businesses. A recycling program must be provided at every official gathering and at every sports facility by the vendors who sell beverages in single-use aluminum, glass, or plastic bottles or cans. A recycling program includes provision of receptacles or reverse vending machines, and provisions to transport and recycle the collected materials. Facility managers or event coordinators may choose to work with vendors to coordinate the recycling program. The recycling receptacles or reverse vending machines must be clearly marked, and must be provided for the aluminum, glass, or plastic bottles or cans that contain the beverages sold by the vendor.

Part of the LSWFA funds could also cover coordination with the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce to promote business technical assistance in the areas of solid waste and MRW reduction and recycling.

### 4.2.2. Needs and Opportunities

Waste reduction is the highest priority for solid waste management according to RCW 70.95 and is preferred over recycling and composting because the social, environmental, and economic costs are typically lower for avoiding the creation of waste. Onsite composting can reduce the amount of yard debris disposed of as garbage or composted commercially. Other opportunities for reuse and waste reduction that are available in Lewis County include yard sales, material donations and

reuse, local government public surplus sales, repair events, upcycling and classified advertisements websites which may be used to buy and sell second-hand goods locally.

### 4.2.3. Alternatives

Existing service gaps and other issues connected to waste reduction, recycling, and education components of solid waste management are discussed below.

### 4.2.4. Waste Reduction Programs

Lewis County conducts waste reduction education through outreach to schools, community events, development of online programs, and the MRC program. Lewis County should continue the MRC volunteer program which educates community members on waste reduction strategies and should research ways to expand their education program.

### 4.2.5. Business Technical Assistance Program

Utilize LSWFA funds to provide businesses with technical assistance on solid waste and MRW reduction and recycling.

### 4.2.6. Recommendations

4-1 Continue waste reduction programs.

4-2 Implement the business technical assistance program.

### 4.2.7. Monitoring and Evaluation

Lewis County will monitor and evaluate its continued and expanded waste reduction programs according to the metrics specified in the LSWFA application. These include the following activities:

- Lewis County gathers information from Ecology on recycled quantities and an estimate of its countywide recycling rate. Annual figures for recycled tonnages are reported on a voluntary basis by both public- and private-sector entities.
- Lewis County staff will keep a count of the number of students participating in programs. Staff will randomly give students quizzes before and after they participate in programs to determine what they have learned.
- Lewis County staff will maintain records on the number of participants and estimated material diverted through Repair and Sustainability Fair events.

## 4.3. MARKETS

Washington State regulations (RCW 70.95.090.7.c) require "a description of markets for recyclables," which is provided below. This description is intended to be only a brief report of current conditions, and it should be noted that market conditions for recyclables can change drastically and rapidly.

In July 2017, China's government announced that it would ban 24 recyclables, including "unsorted mixed paper" and "mixed plastics," starting in 2018. This ban originates from China's "National Sword" campaign to crackdown on smuggling and contaminated scrap imports. China

applied a stricter contamination standard for other recyclables. Starting in March 2018, scrap materials imported into China may not exceed 0.5 percent contamination. This is below typical processing standards of 3–5 percent at Washington recycling facilities, and it risks excluding domestic recyclables from sale in China. With a few exceptions, China has frozen the approval of scrap paper import permits. As a result, most scrap paper import companies cannot import any scrap paper into China, causing a total suspension of imports since September 2017.

In 2018, China's government implemented new restrictions on what recyclables may be imported into the country, impacting Washington's recycling programs. China was a major buyer of Washington's recyclables. China no longer allows the importation of low-grade plastics and unsorted paper. The regulations aim to increase the quality of recyclables entering China by requiring a low amount of contamination in recyclables it imports.

At the time, the import ban created a disruption in Washington and throughout the region, but markets have generally recovered. Material recovery facilities in Washington, which receive mixed recyclables and sort them for resale to commodities brokers, slowed down their processing of recyclable materials to reduce contamination. This slowdown has reduced the amount of material that can be processed but has produced more markable commodities.

Table 4-1 shows the list of "designated recyclable materials," required by WAC 173-350, which should be used for guidance as to the materials to be recycled. This list is based on existing conditions for 2023 (collection programs and markets), so future markets and technologies may warrant changes in this list. Because market conditions for recyclables can change rapidly, the list of designated materials is accompanied by a description of the process for its revision, if needed, before the next major Plan update.

**Table 4-1. List of Designated Recyclable Materials**

| Priority Level | Materials |
|---|---|
| **Routine Collection:**<br>Materials feasible to be collected by curbside commingled program and drop-off programs | 1. Aluminum Cans<br>2. Tin Cans<br>3. Corrugated Cardboard<br>4. Paperboard<br>5. Mixed Paper<br>6. Newspaper<br>7. Magazines<br>8. Plastic bottles<br>9. Plastics Jugs |
| **Dropoff Recyclables:**<br>Materials feasible to be collected by drop-off programs at transfer stations and drop boxes | 1. Glass Bottles and Jars<br>2. Aluminum Cans<br>3. Tin Cans<br>4. Scrap Metal<br>5. Mixed Paper (newspapers, magazines, and paperboard)<br>6. Corrugated Cardboard |

| Priority Level | Materials |
|---|---|
| **Limited Collection:**<br>Materials that can be recycled but that have collection or marketing limitations | 1. Electronics covered by E-Cycle Washington<br>2. Mercury-Containing Lights covered by LightRecycle Washington (the sale of these lights is banned starting January 1, 2029)<br>3. Non-Industrial Grade Paint and Latex Paint covered by PaintCare Washington<br>4. Textiles<br>5. Ferrous Metals<br>6. Non-Ferrous Metals<br>7. Vehicle Batteries<br>8. Yard Waste and Food Waste<br>9. Wood Waste<br>10. Cell Phones<br>11. Ink Cartridges<br>12. Motor Oil<br>13. Antifreeze<br>14. Solar Panels<br>15. Plastic Dairy Containers |
| **Potentially Recyclable:**<br>Hard to recycle materials that could be recycled if markets are available. | 1. Milk and Juice Cartons<br>2. Plastics, #3 through #7<br>3. Plastic Containers (Non-Bottle)<br>4. Plastic Film<br>5. Poly-Coated Paper<br>6. Batteries covered by the Product Stewardship Program beginning 2027: E2SSB 5144<br>7. Plastic Packaging |

This list is not intended to create a requirement that recycling programs in Lewis County collect every designated material. Instead, the intent is that if materials become feasible for recycling, Lewis County will review the feasibility of collection in respect to markets, ease of collection, size of waste stream, special events or removal of collection limitations and consider programs for collection so that residents and businesses have an opportunity to recycle the designated materials listed through at least one program.

The following conditions are grounds for additions or deletions to the list of designated materials:

- The market price for an existing material becomes so low that it is no longer feasible to collect, process, or transport it to markets.
- Local markets or brokers expand their list of acceptable items based on new uses for materials or technologies that increase demand.
- New local or regional processing or demand for a particular material develops.

- No market can be found for an existing recyclable material, causing the material to be stockpiled with no apparent solution in the near future.
- The potential for increased amounts of diversion.
- Legislative mandate.
- Other conditions not anticipated at this time.

Proposed changes to the list of designated materials should be submitted to the Lewis County Department of Public Works Solid Waste Utility Manager for review and may be forwarded to the SWAC for concurrence. Unless there are objections from the SWAC, the Solid Waste Utility Manager can make minor changes to the list. These will be adopted depending on the schedule of Lewis County Commissioners' meetings without formally amending the CSHWMP. Should the Solid Waste Utility Manager conclude the proposed change is a "major change" (what constitutes a "major change" is expected to be self-evident at the time, although criteria such as opposition by the SWAC or difficulty in achieving consensus for adoption could be used as indicators of a "major change"), then an amendment to the CSHWMP would be necessary (a process that could take 120 days or longer to complete). In either case, Ecology should be notified of changes made to the list of designated materials or of the initiation of an amendment process.

## 4.4. RECYCLING

Table 4-2 presents the types and estimated quantities of materials that were collected at the transfer stations in 2024. The table also provides market information for these materials. Approximately 2,639 tons of recyclable materials were collected at the transfer stations in 2024.

**Table 4-2. Types and Quantities of Materials Recycled at ELCTS & CTS, 2024**

| Material | Tons | Markets |
|---|---|---|
| Mixed Glass | 151.44 | Price is typically zero (i.e., Lewis County is not charged to recycle glass bottles and jars). |
| Tires | 145.25 | Tires are recycled for a fee. |
| Christmas Tree Recycling | 5.16 | Trees are collected post-holiday for free and are included with the wood waste chipping and export. |
| Cardboard | 275.89 | The markets for cardboard (used in packaging) have been fluctuating and are generally positive. |
| Paper | 102.93 | The markets are fluctuating due to supply and demand from various markets and processors but has generally been positive. |
| Yard Waste-Compost | 199 | Yard Debris are composted for a fee. |
| CTS Wood Waste | 1,295 | Wood debris is chipped to use for carbon in a municipal biosolids composting process. |
| Scrap Metal Recycling | 469.82 | Aluminum prices have been fairly stable, but steel has tended to fluctuate, but generally metals' markets are positive. |

### 4.4.1. Existing Residential Recycling

Lewis County passed a commingled recycling ordinance in October 2007. Ordinance 1196 expanded the number of eligible households to a larger section of Lewis County, allowed for commingling of recyclables, and provided incentives to encourage participation. Ordinance 1339, passed in January 2023, made curbside recycling available county-wide. Under the county-wide program, curbside recycling is now provided to customers with garbage service as well as to those who have signed up for recycling-only service. Residents who do not wish to participate can request the recycling container be removed, although they will still be charged unless they subscribe to once per month garbage service or occasional service with a 32-gallon can prepaid or "occasional use bag." The availability of smaller garbage containers and less frequent garbage service, each at lower cost, provide incentives to recycle. The recyclables that will be accepted in the new curbside program (designated recyclable materials) are as follows:

- Newspaper,
- Cardboard,
- Aluminum cans,
- Magazines,
- Paperboard,
- Tin cans,
- Plastic bottles and jugs, and dairy containers, and
- Mixed wastepaper.

Glass bottles and jars are not collected in commingled curbside recycling; but drop-off locations are available at the following locations:

- CTS in Centralia
- ELCTS in Morton
- Sewer Treatment Plant in Pe Ell
- Forest Grange in Chehalis

### 4.4.2. Existing Commercial Recycling

Commercial recycling collection services for paper, cardboard, wood debris, and organics, including food waste, are available through private haulers.

### 4.4.3. Existing Self-Haul Recycling

Lewis County businesses and residents can self-haul recyclables to a number of drop-off locations or one buy-back center. Recyclables can be dropped off at the two transfer stations and at the facilities of a few private recyclers. For a more detailed list of recycling drop-off opportunities in Lewis County, please see Appendix H.

One privately runs facility located in Lewis County accepts a variety of materials. Sutter Metals accepts steel products and non-ferrous metals, including aluminum cans, copper, light iron/tin, electronics, and some appliances. Refer to www.suttermetals.com for more information.

### 4.4.4. Addressing Recyclables Key Contaminants

The following is the initial list of key contaminants to be addressed in the current recyclables as required by RCW 70A.205.045 CROP:

- Plastic bags, film, and clamshells

- Non-program plastics
- Food and liquids
- Hose, wire, and rope (tanglers)
- Textiles and toys

Additional contaminants also to be addressed include:

- Hazardous materials
- Hypodermic needles

Contamination in recyclables is best addressed through a variety of means and actions, to include:

- Visual inspections of self-haul loads of recyclables delivered to the recycling drop-box locations and advising customers of proper segregation techniques.
- Visual inspections of curbside recyclables collected, with customers advised of proper segregation techniques.
- Updated signage at the recycling drop-box locations to advise system users on contamination in commodities and acceptable recyclable materials.
- Cooperation between the County, cities, and waste collection companies to implement a coordinated County-wide messaging campaign.

Costs for contaminants in the recycling system are currently covered through curbside fees for collection assessed to users, commodity pricing for recyclables, and tipping fees charged at the disposal facilities. Implementation costs for the CROP are discussed in Chapter 9 – Funding and Implementation Plan.

### 4.4.5. Needs and Opportunities

As Lewis County establishes recycling goals and service levels for the next five to seven years, questions of equity and cost arise when considering what type of service to provide in the incorporated and unincorporated areas. Issues to consider included the following:

- Addressing how to provide equity between residents in terms of opportunities for and convenience of recycling.
- Providing rural residents with adequate service at a reasonable cost.
- Planning for whether these service levels will need to be adjusted in the future.

Lewis County plans to conduct cart-tagging efforts every other year to reinforce education on contamination and what can be recycled, if funding is available. Lewis County conducted a cart-tagging project thanks to a Waste Reduction and Recycling Education Grant in 2023. A consulting firm, Resource Synergy, placed educational tags on all 20,000 residential curbside customers in April 2023, and then repeated the process in June 2023. About 15 percent of the customers also received “Oops” tags that informed them of contaminants in their recycling containers. The project resulted in a nearly 20 percent decrease in contamination rates from the first round to the second round.

Washington State law requires public events to provide recycling containers in communities where there is an established curbside service and where recycling service is available to businesses (RCW 70.93.093). To support this requirement, Lewis County could offer portable recycling containers specifically designed to collect beverage containers at public events. This program is a low-cost public service with high visibility that provides a positive benefit for those involved. Signatory cities could partner with Lewis County to support and increase promotion of this program.

Some facilities may claim they are recycling materials but actually dispose of it. Some haulers transport garbage as "mixed recycling" they claim constitutes recyclable materials to avoid flow control policies in areas with high transfer station or landfill tip fees. These practices can both be considered "sham recycling." Though Washington State's 2005 "Sham Recycling Bill" and the Recyclable Materials Transporter and Facility Requirements (WAC 173 345) limit this practice by requiring recycling haulers to register with Washington State and prohibiting delivery of recyclable materials to transfer stations and landfills, sham recycling may still occur. In recent years, however, no sham recycling has been documented in Lewis County.

## 4.4.6. Alternatives and Evaluations

Existing service gaps and other issues related to diversion are discussed below.

### 4.4.6.1. Performance Targets

Lewis County and signatory cities should set specific performance targets for waste reduction, recycling, and composting programs. Setting diversion goals provides a benchmark for measuring future performance.

### 4.4.6.2. Designated Materials Update

Maintain an updated list of designated materials through periodic review and updates, while considering changes in the market and changes to programs in neighboring counties. Updates should be incorporated into educational outreach efforts.

### 4.4.6.3. Expand Business Recycling

Expand business participation in recycling through the following methods:

- Promoting convenience of the commingled recycling program through mailings, radio ads, and garbage bill inserts.
- Recruiting assistance from cities to identify businesses with large amounts of recyclables.
- Providing on-call waste audits and technical assistance to selected waste generators (based on size or toxicity) to decrease their waste disposal.
- Producing and distributing newsletters to medium and large businesses to raise awareness about waste reduction and recycling.

### 4.4.6.4. Business Recognition Program

Renew the business recognition program to publicly acknowledge recycling efforts at certain businesses. This effort would involve the following activities:

- Forming a SWAC subcommittee to accept and review nominations and select annual award recipients.
- Recognizing businesses via newspaper, radio, and/or social media, as well as in materials for the business to post onsite.
- Holding an annual award ceremony, possibly in conjunction with Lewis County Commission or Chamber of Commerce meeting, where awards are presented by the SWAC Chair, County Commissioner, or Chamber president.

#### 4.4.6.5. Public Event Recycling

Washington State law requires public events to provide recycling containers in communities where there is an established curbside service and where recycling service is available to businesses. Lewis County should offer portable recycling containers specifically designed to collect beverage containers at public events.

#### 4.4.6.6. Minimize Recycling Contamination

Increase recycling and minimize contamination through promotion, monitor usage of programs as well as contamination levels, and implement the CROP. Continue to conduct cart tagging and lid lift audits biannually, if funding allows, to reinforce education on proper recycling and reduce contamination.

#### 4.4.6.7. Waste Composition Study

Conduct a waste composition study to assess types and quantities of materials in the waste stream to guide future waste and recycling planning if funding allows and rely on statewide waste characterization studies to inform decision making. For instance, obtaining information about food and yard waste in the waste stream would provide a baseline to gauge the success of organics diversion programs.

#### 4.4.6.8. Promote Recycling through Community Partnerships

The Utility could connect with community partners, such as Love INC in Chehalis, to salvage and divert reusable furniture and bedding received at Lewis County facilities. Materials that could be recycled and donated through Love Inc's partner churches.

#### 4.4.6.9. Recycling Contamination Reduction Campaigns

By collaborating with a certificated hauler, Lewis County could develop and implement cart-tagging campaign(s) for single-family collection services. This system can provide the most direct education and feedback for single-family residents on reducing contamination in recyclables collected.

In addition, Lewis County, cities and haulers can develop and implement a recycling drop-box site contamination reduction campaign for direct contact with residents and businesses utilizing the drop-box sites. The campaign could include County staff members visiting drop-box sites and providing educational materials, updating site signage and providing assistance to customers on proper methods of recycling segregations and commodity acceptance.

### 4.4.7. Recommendations

4-3 Set specific performance targets.

4-4 Maintain the list of designated materials.

4-5 Expand business participation in recycling.

4-6 Provide support for recycling at public events.

4-7 Minimize recycling contamination and continue cart tagging efforts biannually.

4-8 Work cooperatively with County, city and hauler staff to create and implement recycling contamination reduction campaigns for curbside and drop-box recycling programs.

## 4.5. EDUCATION

This section provides information regarding public outreach and education.

### 4.5.1. Existing Conditions

The Utility should continue to take the lead in establishing, expanding, and incorporating public education and promotion of waste management programs to ensure that citizens are aware of opportunities and programs available when managing waste. Efforts to inform residents and businesses about recycling and waste reduction options need to be conducted on an ongoing basis and coordinated with participating municipalities, schools, businesses, and waste collection companies.

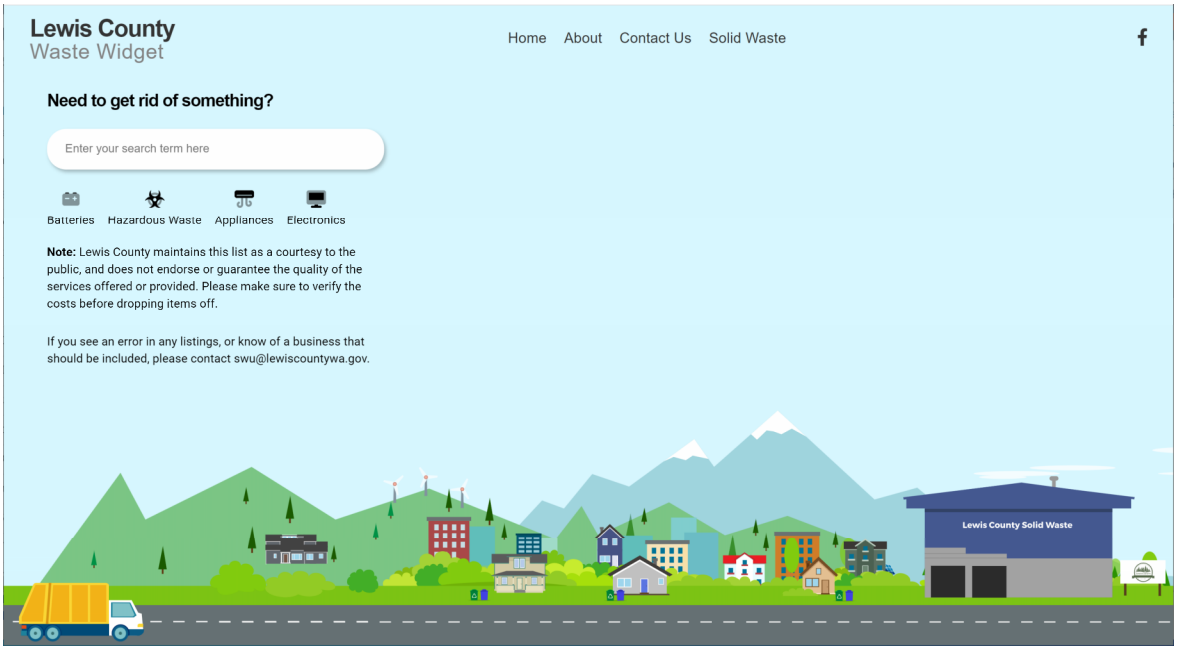
Solid Waste staff are also available to provide community members with tours of the CTS.

Additionally, Solid Waste staff and MRC volunteers are available to provide classroom presentations to educate students about waste reduction, recycling, composting, proper hazardous waste management, and garbage.

As mentioned above, in coordination with Resource Synergy, the Utility has conducted cart-tagging and lid-lift audits to determine what items customers are improperly recycling and provide more targeted educational outreach. Results from the first round of audits can be found here: https://creatorapp.zohopublic.com/erikmakinson/lewis-county-cart-tagging-lid-lifts/report-perma/Lid_Lift_Locations.

The Lewis County Waste Widget, see Figure 4-1, is a search tool that allows customers to enter specific waste items and in return they are provided with a list of drop off locations for disposal. This tool helps customers direct waste to correct location, and learn how to properly prepare items for recycling, thereby reducing contamination in the waste stream.

**Figure 4-1. Lewis County Waste Widget Screenshot**

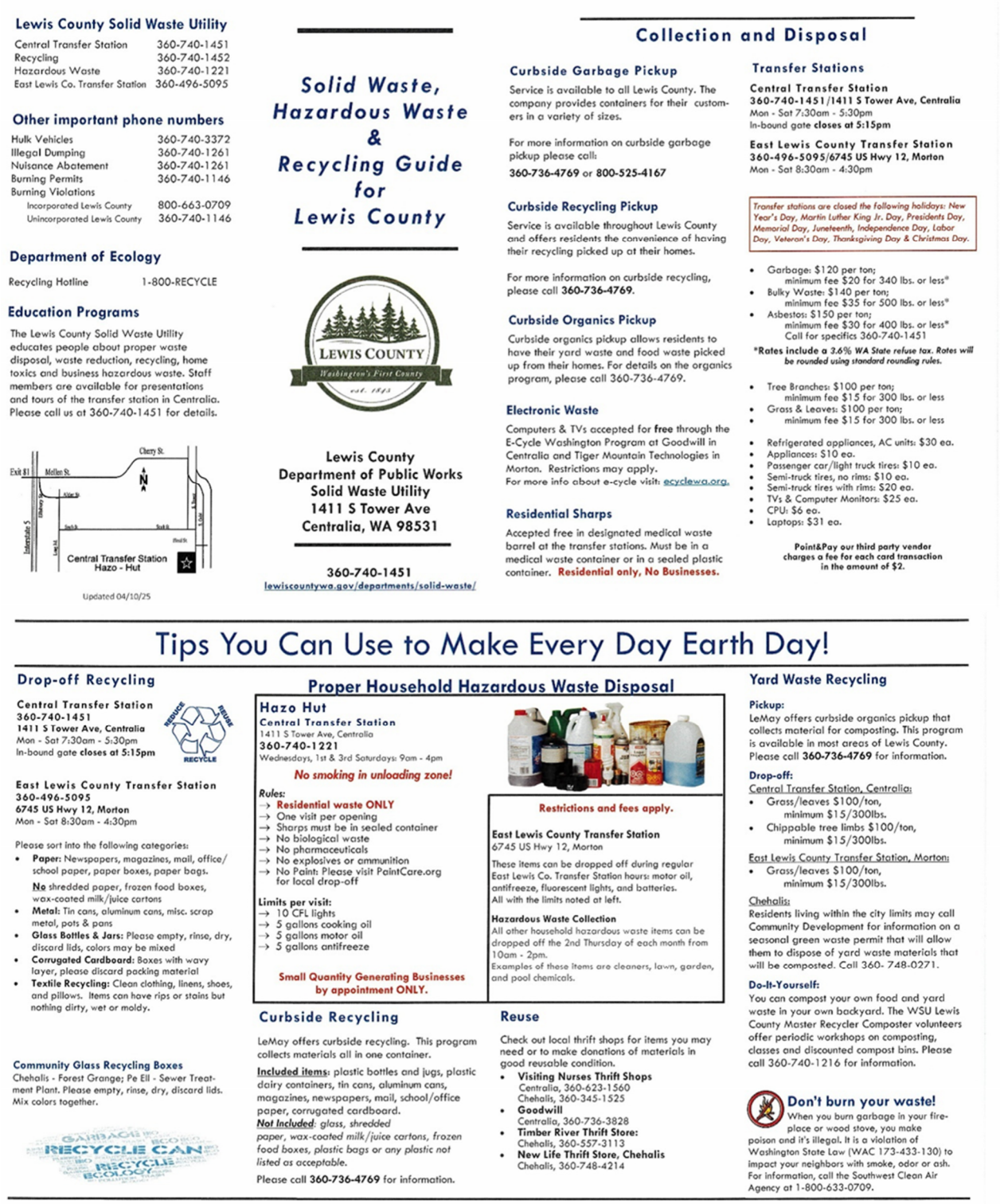



Public education and outreach programs supporting waste reduction and reuse, recycling, and organics management activities are ongoing through the support of grant funding. Utility staff provide year-round educational programs to the community. Staff and MRC volunteers host educational booths at community events, some of which include the following:

- Home and Garden Show
- Earth Day
- Repair & Sustainability Fairs
- Spring Youth Fair
- Egg Days in Winlock
- Cheese Days in Toledo
- Southwest Washington Fair

Figure 4-2 shows Lewis County's 2025 Solid Waste, Hazardous Waste, and Recycling Guide.

**Figure 4-2. 2025 Solid Waste, Hazardous Waste, and Recycling Guide**



## Lewis County Solid Waste Utility

| | |
|---|---|
| Central Transfer Station | 360-740-1451 |
| Recycling | 360-740-1452 |
| Hazardous Waste | 360-740-1221 |
| East Lewis Co. Transfer Station | 360-496-5095 |

### Other important phone numbers

| | |
|---|---|
| Hulk Vehicles | 360-740-3372 |
| Illegal Dumping | 360-740-1261 |
| Nuisance Abatement | 360-740-1261 |
| Burning Permits | 360-740-1146 |
| Burning Violations | |
| Incorporated Lewis County | 800-663-0709 |
| Unincorporated Lewis County | 360-740-1146 |

### Department of Ecology

Recycling Hotline 1-800-RECYCLE

### Education Programs

The Lewis County Solid Waste Utility educates people about proper waste disposal, waste reduction, recycling, home toxics and business hazardous waste. Staff members are available for presentations and tours of the transfer station in Centralia. Please call us at 360-740-1451 for details.




Updated 04/10/25

# Solid Waste, Hazardous Waste & Recycling Guide for Lewis County

LEWIS COUNTY
Washington's First County
est. 1845

**Lewis County**
**Department of Public Works**
**Solid Waste Utility**
**1411 S Tower Ave**
**Centralia, WA 98531**

**360-740-1451**
lewiscountywa.gov/departments/solid-waste/

## Collection and Disposal

### Curbside Garbage Pickup

Service is available to all Lewis County. The company provides containers for their customers in a variety of sizes.

For more information on curbside garbage pickup please call:
**360-736-4769** or **800-525-4167**

### Curbside Recycling Pickup

Service is available throughout Lewis County and offers residents the convenience of having their recycling picked up at their homes.

For more information on curbside recycling, please call **360-736-4769**.

### Curbside Organics Pickup

Curbside organics pickup allows residents to have their yard waste and food waste picked up from their homes. For details on the organics program, please call 360-736-4769.

### Electronic Waste

Computers & TVs accepted for **free** through the E-Cycle Washington Program at Goodwill in Centralia and Tiger Mountain Technologies in Morton. Restrictions may apply.
For more info about e-cycle visit: ecyclewa.org.

### Residential Sharps

Accepted free in designated medical waste barrel at the transfer stations. Must be in a medical waste container or in a sealed plastic container. **Residential only, No Businesses.**

### Transfer Stations

**Central Transfer Station**
**360-740-1451/1411 S Tower Ave, Centralia**
Mon - Sat 7:30am - 5:30pm
In-bound gate **closes at 5:15pm**

**East Lewis County Transfer Station**
**360-496-5095/6745 US Hwy 12, Morton**
Mon - Sat 8:30am - 4:30pm

*Transfer stations are closed the following holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day & Christmas Day.*

- Garbage: $120 per ton; minimum fee $20 for 340 lbs. or less*
- Bulky Waste: $140 per ton; minimum fee $35 for 500 lbs. or less*
- Asbestos: $150 per ton; minimum fee $30 for 400 lbs. or less* Call for specifics 360-740-1451

*Rates include a 3.6% WA State refuse tax. Rates will be rounded using standard rounding rules.*

- Tree Branches: $100 per ton; minimum fee $15 for 300 lbs. or less
- Grass & Leaves: $100 per ton; minimum fee $15 for 300 lbs. or less

- Refrigerated appliances, AC units: $30 ea.
- Appliances: $10 ea.
- Passenger car/light truck tires: $10 ea.
- Semi-truck tires, no rims: $10 ea.
- Semi-truck tires with rims: $20 ea.
- TVs & Computer Monitors: $25 ea.
- CPU: $6 ea.
- Laptops: $31 ea.

**Point&Pay our third party vendor charges a fee for each card transaction in the amount of $2.**

## Tips You Can Use to Make Every Day Earth Day!

### Drop-off Recycling

**Central Transfer Station**
**360-740-1451**
**1411 S Tower Ave, Centralia**
Mon - Sat 7:30am - 5:30pm
In-bound gate **closes at 5:15pm**

**East Lewis County Transfer Station**
**360-496-5095**
**6745 US Hwy 12, Morton**
Mon - Sat 8:30am - 4:30pm

Please sort into the following categories:

- **Paper:** Newspapers, magazines, mail, office/school paper, paper boxes, paper bags.
  **No** shredded paper, frozen food boxes, wax-coated milk/juice cartons
- **Metal:** Tin cans, aluminum cans, misc. scrap metal, pots & pans
- **Glass Bottles & Jars:** Please empty, rinse, dry, discard lids, colors may be mixed
- **Corrugated Cardboard:** Boxes with wavy layer, please discard packing material
- **Textile Recycling:** Clean clothing, linens, shoes, and pillows. Items can have rips or stains but nothing dirty, wet or moldy.

**Community Glass Recycling Boxes**
Chehalis - Forest Grange; Pe Ell - Sewer Treatment Plant. Please empty, rinse, dry, discard lids. Mix colors together.

### Proper Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

**Hazo Hut**
**Central Transfer Station**
1411 S Tower Ave, Centralia
**360-740-1221**
Wednesdays, 1st & 3rd Saturdays: 9am - 4pm

*No smoking in unloading zone!*

*Rules:*
→ **Residential waste ONLY**
→ One visit per opening
→ Sharps must be in sealed container
→ No biological waste
→ No pharmaceuticals
→ No explosives or ammunition
→ No Paint: Please visit PaintCare.org for local drop-off

**Limits per visit:**
→ 10 CFL lights
→ 5 gallons cooking oil
→ 5 gallons motor oil
→ 5 gallons antifreeze

**Small Quantity Generating Businesses by appointment ONLY.**



**Restrictions and fees apply.**

**East Lewis County Transfer Station**
6745 US Hwy 12, Morton

These items can be dropped off during regular East Lewis Co. Transfer Station hours: motor oil, antifreeze, fluorescent lights, and batteries. All with the limits noted at left.

**Hazardous Waste Collection**
All other household hazardous waste items can be dropped off the 2nd Thursday of each month from 10am - 2pm.
Examples of these items are cleaners, lawn, garden, and pool chemicals.

### Curbside Recycling

LeMay offers curbside recycling. This program collects materials all in one container.

**Included items:** plastic bottles and jugs, plastic dairy containers, tin cans, aluminum cans, magazines, newspapers, mail, school/office paper, corrugated cardboard.
***Not Included**: glass, shredded paper, wax-coated milk/juice cartons, frozen food boxes, plastic bags or any plastic not listed as acceptable.*

Please call **360-736-4769** for information.

### Reuse

Check out local thrift shops for items you may need or to make donations of materials in good reusable condition.

- **Visiting Nurses Thrift Shops**
  Centralia, 360-623-1560
  Chehalis, 360-345-1525
- **Goodwill**
  Centralia, 360-736-3828
- **Timber River Thrift Store:**
  Chehalis, 360-557-3113
- **New Life Thrift Store, Chehalis**
  Chehalis, 360-748-4214

### Yard Waste Recycling

**Pickup:**
LeMay offers curbside organics pickup that collects material for composting. This program is available in most areas of Lewis County. Please call **360-736-4769** for information.

**Drop-off:**
Central Transfer Station, Centralia:
- Grass/leaves $100/ton, minimum $15/300lbs.
- Chippable tree limbs $100/ton, minimum $15/300lbs.

East Lewis County Transfer Station, Morton:
- Grass/leaves $100/ton, minimum $15/300lbs.

Chehalis:
Residents living within the city limits may call Community Development for information on a seasonal green waste permit that will allow them to dispose of yard waste materials that will be composted. Call 360- 748-0271.

**Do-It-Yourself:**
You can compost your own food and yard waste in your own backyard. The WSU Lewis County Master Recycler Composter volunteers offer periodic workshops on composting, classes and discounted compost bins. Please call 360-740-1216 for information.

**Don't burn your waste!**
When you burn garbage in your fireplace or wood stove, you make poison and it's illegal. It is a violation of Washington State Law (WAC 173-433-130) to impact your neighbors with smoke, odor or ash. For information, call the Southwest Clean Air Agency at 1-800-633-0709.

The MRC frequently hosts workshops that teach community members about waste, recycling, and composting. At the corner of Floral Street and Tower Avenue, near the entrance to CTS, the MRC are developing the Floral Park Sustainability Project. This project is creating an educational

site where the MRC can show the public how to compost using store-bought compost bins and homemade bins, repurpose tires and filing cabinets into planters and retaining walls, upcycle discarded items, such electric wire spools into picnic tables, build hügelkultur beds, collect rainwater for gardening, and more. Figure 4-3 shows the Floral Park Sustainability Project.

**Figure 4-3. Floral Park Sustainability Project**


## 4.5.2. Needs and Opportunities

The MRC has received for a Public Partnership Grant from Ecology to develop a tool library and host sustainability fairs that will help people repair belongings. With the grant, the group is hosting spring Repair & Sustainability Fairs in Centralia and Morton, and a fall event in Centralia. Volunteers are working on the infrastructure for the Tool Library and hoping to open on a small scale in 2025, and expand in future years as space and volunteer availability allows.

## 4.5.3. Alternatives and Evaluations

Alternatives related to education and outreach are discussed below.

### 4.5.3.1. Public Tours

Lewis County should continue to offer tours of CTS to community members. Utility staff members are available to provide transfer station tours and tours can be set up through a call or email to the transfer station office.

#### 4.5.3.2. Lid-Lift Audit Results for Education

Utilize the results of Resource Synergy's lid-lift audit in Lewis County to create educational resources. As previously mentioned, Resource Synergy conducted cart-tagging and lid-lift audits to determine what items customers are improperly disposing of and to help provide more targeted educational outreach.

#### 4.5.3.3. Improve Education at Transfer Stations

Expand and improve the education and promotion program. Update recycling signage and educational efforts at transfer stations to increase recycling and reduce contamination. This effort would involve the following activities:

- Replacing current signs directing customers to the recycling area and explaining where to properly place recyclable materials.
- Monitoring levels of contamination regularly to assess whether education efforts are sufficient.
- Providing a brochure of recycling opportunities to customers at the scalehouse, with consideration to prepare a version in Spanish, the second most common language in Lewis County. The 2025 Solid Waste, Hazardous Waste, and Recycling Guide could also be translated to Spanish to assist Spanish speaking residents with understanding diversion programs.

### 4.5.4. Recommendations

4-9 Continue to provide public tours of the CTS.

4-10 Utilize the lid-lift audit results to create targeted educational outreach materials.

4-11 Expand and improve the education and promotion program at the transfer stations.

# 5. MISCELLANEOUS WASTES REQUIRING SPECIAL HANDLING

This chapter discusses existing programs, identifies relevant planning issues, and develops and evaluates alternative strategies for the management of miscellaneous wastes requiring special handling.

## 5.1. INTRODUCTION

Miscellaneous wastes requiring special handling fall outside the category of mixed MSW because they require special handling and disposal methods, and recycling opportunities may not be readily available.

Goals for miscellaneous wastes requiring special handling continue to be the following:

- Ensure that these wastes are handled, disposed, and/or recycled in a manner that is cost-effective, while still maintaining a system that protects public health and the environment.
- Manage these waste streams in a manner that complies with all applicable local, state, and federal regulations.
- Monitor handling procedures and practices for these waste types to ensure that the most currently available BMPs are being used.
- Lewis County has appropriate programs in place for miscellaneous wastes.

## 5.2. BACKGROUND

Miscellaneous waste types described in this chapter have some similarities to "normal" MSW and can be managed in a similar fashion with additional precautions or special handling procedures. Each type of miscellaneous waste is governed by slightly different regulations, based on its physical and chemical characteristics and the degree of environmental, health, or safety risk it poses. This Chapter is subdivided into the sections shown in the below table to describe regulations, current programs, and planning issues for each type of miscellaneous waste.

**Table 5-1. Miscellaneous Wastes Requiring Special Handling**

| Section | Waste Type |
|---|---|
| 5.4 | Agricultural Waste |
| 5.5 | Animal Carcasses |
| 5.6 | Appliances |
| 5.7 | Asbestos |
| 5.8 | Biomedical and Infectious Waste |
| 5.9 | Construction and Demolition Debris |
| 5.10 | Disaster Debris |
| 5.11 | Electronic Waste |
| 5.12 | Junk Vehicles |

| Section | Waste Type |
|---|---|
| 5.13 | Mobile Homes and Bulky Items |
| 5.14 | Petroleum Contaminated Soils |
| 5.15 | Pharmaceuticals |
| 5.16 | Street Sweepings/Vactor Waste |
| 5.17 | Tires |
| 5.18 | Wood Waste |

## 5.3. AGRICULTURAL WASTE

This section addresses disposal of agricultural waste within Lewis County.

### 5.3.1. Regulations and Guidelines

WAC 173-350-100 defines agricultural wastes as, "wastes on farms resulting from the raising or growing of plants and animals including, but not limited to, crop residue, manure from herbivores and non-herbivores, animal bedding, and carcasses of dead animals." WAC 173-350-230 addresses land application, the beneficial use of solid waste applied to land for its agronomic value or soil-amending capability.

### 5.3.2. Current Practice

Most agricultural wastes are reused on farms or managed forestlands. As defined above, little of the agricultural waste generated is disposed of through Lewis County's solid waste programs. Hence, agricultural wastes are not under the purview of this CSHWMP. Agricultural wastes, whether crop residues or animal manures, can be returned to the land where they were generated. Exceptions to this are the disposal of animal carcasses which is addressed below in Section 5.5. Typically, as long as agricultural wastes are land-applied at agronomic rates, no Environmental Health permit is necessary. If rates exceed agronomic rates, water quality discharge and/or solid waste permits are needed, depending upon the site. Wastes that are not reused on farms or managed forestlands are handled through the private solid waste system.

### 5.3.3. Planning Issues

Current agricultural waste management and disposal practices are generally adequate and should be maintained.

## 5.4. ANIMAL CARCASSES

This section addresses disposal of animal carcasses within Lewis County.

### 5.4.1. Regulations and Guidelines

Animal carcass disposal requirements generally differ according to cause of death, as follows:

1. Animals that die of natural causes (but not an infectious disease) can be buried on site (typically on a farm) in accordance with state and local regulations, taken to a rendering facility, or taken to a transfer station for disposal.

2. Animals killed by collision with motor vehicles ("roadkill") are taken to a transfer station for disposal.
3. The carcasses of animals that die from an infectious disease must be treated to destroy the disease-causing agent to prevent it from infecting other animals or humans. This involves coordination with Lewis County.

### 5.4.2. Current Practice

Lewis County's policy and procedures for disposal of animals can be summarized as follows:

- Animal carcasses are accepted for disposal at ELCTS and CTS.
- Lewis County facilities do not accept diseased animals, animals preserved in formaldehyde, or animals that were euthanized with a drug.
- Customers are charged the same rate as for garbage disposal.
- Customers wishing to dispose of infectious and/or diseased animals are directed to Environmental Health for further instructions.

Lewis County transfer stations have a specific category for dead animals. In 2024, there were nine transactions for 1.14 tons of dead animals dropped off at CTS and ELCTS.

### 5.4.3. Planning Issues

Because they can potentially infect humans, two of the most important animal diseases are bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and avian flu.

BSE-infected cattle must be buried in a lined landfill. In addition, BSE-infected cattle cannot be disposed in a landfill where the leachate goes to a sewage treatment plant, because chlorination does not deactivate prions. Incineration is also an accepted method of BSE-cattle disposal.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A (HPA1) or "avian flu" is caused by bird influenza viruses. Since 1997, HPA1 has infected and killed humans who had close contact with infected poultry. There is concern the HPA1 virus could mutate and eventually acquire the ability to spread easily from one person to another, without birds as the carrier. Onsite composting has been proven to be an effective mass disposal method for dead poultry, as the avian influenza virus is deactivated after 10 days of composting at 60 degrees Celsius (140 degrees Fahrenheit). Single birds may also be accepted as MSW if they are double bagged. In larger quantities, the birds are required to be disposed of at a lined landfill or incinerated.

### 5.4.4. Animal Carcass Collection

Lewis County should continue to collect animal carcasses at CTS and ELCTS for disposal. Lewis County should promote availability of these services through its website, social media, and local educational pamphlets.

### 5.4.5. Emergency Disposal Plan

Create an emergency disposal plan in coordination with Environmental Health to ensure Lewis County is prepared for disposal of a mass quantity of animal carcasses in case of an epidemic or disaster. In case of an epidemic, customers should be referred to Environmental Health. In case of

a natural disaster (i.e., a flood), Lewis County should coordinate with LeMay and Environmental Health to prepare disposal options.

### 5.4.6. Recommendations

5-1 Collect animal carcasses at the CTS and ELCTS.

5-2 Create an emergency plan for the disposal of a mass quantity of animal carcasses.

## 5.5. APPLIANCES

This section addresses recycling of appliances within Lewis County.

### 5.5.1. Regulations and Guidelines

Major appliances, also known as white goods, are considered a miscellaneous waste because their size makes then difficult to handle in the "normal" solid waste collection system, and because some types of appliances contain chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) also known as Freon that must be removed prior to recycling. On the federal level, the Clean Air Act prohibits the release of CFCs, and state law (RCW 70.94, the Washington Clean Air Act) also requires that CFCs be handled in a manner that prevents release into the atmosphere. Furthermore, CFCs and hydrochlorofluorocarbons are designated as dangerous wastes under WAC 173-303, although they are exempt from these rules, if recycled properly.

### 5.5.2. Current Practice

Appliances are currently accepted for recycling at the two transfer stations. Non-refrigerated appliances can typically recycled at no charge at the local scrap metal recycler, called buy-back centers. Sutter Metals in Centralia site Operates a buy-back center near the transfer station in Centralia. Buy-back centers typically pay for the recycling of certain metal items, or at least accept them for no charge, such as non-refrigerated white goods.

Lewis County collected 798 refrigerated appliances and 1,288 non-refrigerated appliances at the transfer station in 2024.

### 5.5.3. Planning Issues

Current appliance management and disposal practices are adequate and should be maintained.

## 5.6. ASBESTOS

This section addresses disposal of asbestos within Lewis County.

### 5.6.1. Regulations and Guidelines

Asbestos is a naturally occurring crystalline material that breaks down into small particles that float in air, and once inhaled these particles can become lodged in a person's lungs and cause cancer. Several federal laws address asbestos removal and disposal, including the Toxic Substances Control Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Clean Water Act. There are also several state laws that address asbestos through worker training

and protection requirements as well as disposal rules under the Dangerous Waste Regulations (WAC 173-303).

### 5.6.2. Current Practice

Many of the state-mandated asbestos removal programs at schools and other facilities were completed during the early 1990s. As a result, Lewis County has experienced a decline in the amount of asbestos being processed through the CTS. However, the CTS still accepts asbestos under designated procedural conditions. To dispose of asbestos in Lewis County, customers must make an appointment to bring the material to the CTS. The ELCTS does not have processes in place to handle this material. Customers must acquire forms required by the Southwest Washington Air Pollution Control Authority, and properly complete them. Customers must also prepare their asbestos material for transport in a specified manner, then make an appointment with CTS staff to dispose of it. At the CTS, the asbestos is stored in a secured container until a large enough load is collected for hauling to the regional landfill. In 2021, only eight customers brought in 1.39 tons of asbestos, which up down from the 2018 year-end total of nine customers who brought in 1.89 tons. Lewis County has a successful program for public education and notification regarding asbestos.

### 5.6.3. Planning Issues

Current asbestos waste management and disposal practices are adequate and should be maintained.

## 5.7. Biomedical and Infectious Waste

This section addresses disposal of biomedical and infectious waste within Lewis County.

### 5.7.1. Regulations and Guidelines

Biomedical waste is defined by RCW 70A.228.020, and includes animal waste, tissue and culture samples from humans and animals, sharps and "biosafety level 4 disease waste, which is "waste contaminated with blood, excretions, exudates, or secretions from humans or animals who are isolated to protect others from highly communicable infectious diseases that are identified as pathogenic organisms assigned to biosafety level 4 by the centers for disease control, national institute of health, biosafety in microbiological and biomedical laboratories, current edition."

Medical wastes pose not only a health risk because of the presence of pathogens, but also a physical risk from the presence of sharp items. Examples of pathogenic wastes include needles and syringes (sharps), tissue, bandages, and animal bodies.

Washington State's definition of biomedical waste (RCW 70A.228.010) includes the following waste types:

- **Animal waste:** animal carcasses, body parts and bedding of animals that are known to be infected with, or have been inoculated with, pathogenic microorganisms infectious to humans.
- **Biosafety level 4 disease waste:** contaminated with blood, excretions, exudates, or secretions from humans or animals who are isolated to protect others from highly

communicable infectious diseases that are identified as pathogenic organisms assigned to biosafety level 4 by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

- **Cultures and stocks:** waste infectious to humans, including specimen cultures, cultures and stocks of etiologic agents, wastes from production of biologicals and serums, discarded live and attenuated vaccines, and laboratory waste that has come into contact with cultures and stocks of etiologic agents or blood specimens. Such waste includes, but is not limited to, culture dishes, blood specimen tubes, and devices used to transfer and inoculate cultures.
- **Human blood and blood products:** discarded waste human blood and blood components, and materials containing free flowing blood and blood products.
- **Pathological waste:** human source biopsy materials, tissues, and anatomical parts that emanate from surgery, obstetrical procedures, and autopsy. Does not include teeth, human corpses, remains and anatomical parts that are intended for interment or cremation.
- **Sharps waste:** all hypodermic needles, syringes and intravenous tubing with needles attached, scalpel blades, and lancets that have been removed from the original sterile package.

WUTC regulates transporters of biomedical wastes. Its regulations also allow regular solid waste haulers of refuse to haul wastes that they observe to contain infectious wastes as defined by the WUTC.

### 5.7.2. Current Practice

Stericycle, Inc., collects biomedical/infectious wastes for business customers in Lewis County. Due to privacy considerations, Stericycle does not provide information about where these wastes are generated.

For residential users, sharps are currently accepted in special drop-off containers at CTS and ELCTS. Customers must package their sharps in sealed medical waste containers or hard plastic, sealed containers such as laundry detergent jugs that are marked “sharps.” Residents also have the option of subscribing to a mail-in service for their sharps disposal.

### 5.7.3. Planning Issues

The list of potential generators of biomedical waste includes medical and dental practices, hospitals and clinics, veterinary clinics, farms, and ranches, as well as individual residences. Some of these generators may not always dispose of biomedical wastes properly. There is no definitive estimate of the quantity of syringes and other biomedical wastes that are improperly disposed locally, but haulers in other areas often report seeing syringes sticking out of garbage bags. This problem is expected to increase due to an aging population and additional medications (e.g., for human immunodeficiency virus, arthritis, osteoporosis, and psoriasis) delivered via syringe that have become available for home use.

### 5.7.4. Alternatives and Evaluations

Provide residents and businesses with educational materials on sharps disposal to encourage disposal in approved sharps containers. Educational materials may include educational pamphlets posted at solid waste facilities, hospitals, and health centers.

### 5.7.5. Recommendations

5-3 Provide residents and businesses with educational materials on proper sharps disposal.

## 5.8. Construction and Demolition Debris

This section addresses disposal of C&D debris within Lewis County.

### 5.8.1. Regulations and Guidelines

Construction, demolition, and land clearing wastes are a solid waste resulting from the construction, renovation, and demolition of buildings, roads, and other manmade structures. Construction wastes generally include wood scraps, drywall scraps, and excess concrete, as well as cardboard boxes and other packaging used to hold materials or products prior to installation. Demolition wastes typically contain concrete, brick, wood, drywall, and other materials. Land clearing debris (tree stumps, brush, and soil) is often included with C&D wastes, but little of this material is actually sent to disposal facilities. Another component of C&D wastes are reusable building materials, which are salvaged materials from construction or demolition that would otherwise be landfilled.

C&D wastes are generated by construction companies, homeowners, and others. Large amounts of C&D wastes generated by construction companies and contractors are more likely to be collected separately from normal garbage and brought to inert waste disposal sites. Homeowners are more likely to bring small, mixed loads containing both C&D wastes and MSW to disposal facilities.

WAC 173-350-400 allows many types of C&D wastes to be disposed in limited purpose landfills. In addition, state law prohibits the open or unregulated burning of "treated wood, metal and construction debris." Ecology released an updated waste and toxics reduction plan in December 2021, Moving Washington Beyond Waste and Toxics, which focuses on reducing waste through design and recycling. Moving Washington Beyond Waste and Toxics Plan provides the following goals pertaining to C&D waste:

- Waste generation will be reduced throughout the system by both businesses and residents (GOAL SWM 4).
    - Research best strategies for addressing waste prevention and reduction and analyze policy solutions.
- Sham recycling and improper disposal decrease (GOAL SWM 9).
    - Work with local governments and recycling businesses to uphold and enforce recycling laws, rules, and requirements. Explore options for enforcement.
    - Work with the WUTC to ensure implementation of the Transporter Law provisions with more enforcement.

The state legislature passed the "Sham Recycling Bill" in 2005, requiring transporters of recyclable materials to register with Washington, and requiring certain recycling facilities to notify the state before commencing operation. A new state rule, the Recyclable Materials Transporter and Facility Requirements (WAC 173-345), was developed in response to this legislation. Although originally directed at C&D recycling issues, the new rule includes recyclable materials (all materials designated as recyclable in this Plan). The new rule prohibits delivery of recyclable materials to transfer stations and landfills without drop-offs where source-separated materials can be diverted. The rule does not apply to several entities, including residential self-haulers, cities and city contractors, and charities.

C&D debris recycling and transfer facilities must comply with WAC 173-350, sections 210, 300, and 310, respectively. Inert, limited purpose landfills must comply with WAC 173-350, section 400 and 410.

C&D debris are generated at a rate that is proportional to the construction activity in Lewis County; therefore, annual amounts vary depending on population growth and the economic conditions. Large, one-time projects (e.g., highway expansion, bridge replacement) or emergencies (e.g., earthquakes, floods) also have a significant impact on annual amounts.

### 5.8.2. Current Practice

In Lewis County, C&D debris is managed as a component of the MSW stream and is accepted at the transfer stations. Recycling opportunities for some of these materials, such as concrete, asphalt, brick, and gypsum wallboard, also exist regionally. There are some local businesses, such as New Life Thrift Store and Building Supply that offer reuse and salvage opportunities for reusable building materials. C&D debris is accepted at all Lewis County transfer stations. Standard solid waste tipping fees apply. A "bulky rate," which is higher than the regular MSW tipping fee, is applied if the C&D debris exceeds 8-feet in length.

Numerous exchange programs also exist on local social media sites.

A few private recycling outlets exist locally for some of this material for a processing fee. For example, Alderbrook Quarry accepts concrete, asphalt, and dirt. Concrete can also be recycled at an Olympia business for a fee, which is reduced if the material is clean or increased if rebar and other debris is mixed into it. Local processors/recyclers of other C&D debris are not available in Lewis County, so any C&D debris destined for recycling is typically transported to either Thurston County or Pierce County. C&D debris separated by material is more broadly accepted and at a reduced rate (compared to disposal). According to LeMay, a company in Pierce County accepts commingled C&D debris for recycling, but when transportation costs are added, the rate is not substantially less than the disposal fees through the Lewis County transfer stations.

### 5.8.3. Planning Issues

Decreasing the amount of C&D disposed and increasing the amount of this material recycled is an on-going state-wide focus. Even though no C&D recycling programs exist locally, Lewis County can encourage businesses to implement careful planning so little waste is generated and materials with recycled content can be used, where appropriate.

### 5.8.4. Alternatives and Evaluations

Create a green building promotional campaign. Green building is a means towards reducing waste, reducing the use of toxic substances, and supporting resource conservation in buildings. As part of this effort:

- Create a list of local resources for green building.
- Provide educational materials, such as those available from Ecology, at the building permit office and at local building supply stores.
- Work through the Chamber of Commerce and Lewis County Chapter of the Olympia Master Builders to conduct outreach to builders to provide assistance and direct them to resources.

### 5.8.5. C&D Disposal Monitoring

Monitor the number and location of companies in the region accepting regional commingled C&D debris for recycling. Also, monitor the tipping fees and transportation costs. If availability and cost become more attractive, potentially promote this option.

### 5.8.6. Recommendations

5-4 Create a green building promotional campaign.

5-5 Monitor commingled C&D debris for recycling locations.

## 5.9. DISASTER DEBRIS

This section addresses management and disposal of wastes generated during disasters within Lewis County.

### 5.9.1. Regulations and Guidelines

Natural and man-made disasters can result in a surge of unanticipated debris that can inhibit or obstruct emergency services and overwhelm normal Lewis County Department of Public Works capabilities. It is critical to clear debris immediately after a disaster to allow emergency vehicles to respond to life-threatening situations. Once the debris is cleared from the right-of-way and vehicle access is achieved, the removal and disposal of debris are important for the community's recovery.

Being prepared with a plan to address the increased quantity and potential types of disaster debris can help to protect the health and safety of the community. Successful implementation of that plan can positively affect speed and cost of recovery, and the ability to obtain financial assistance for the recovery efforts.

Lewis County Public Works and Solid Waste developed a disaster debris management plan (DDMP) and published it in June 2022. The plan outlines removal and disposal of debris in a manner that is consistent with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) guidelines (see Appendix I) and the Lewis County Comprehensive Emergency Plan (CEMP).

### 5.9.2. Current Practice

Disaster debris are collected at CTS and ELCTS then loaded into long haul trailer for disposal. Curbside Solid Waste collection services also collect disaster debris and are provided by contract and franchise hauling firms. Additional satellite drop off locations may be implemented, depending on the severity of the disaster and volume of debris for disposal. During a disaster, waste is typically directed to the transfer stations located within City of Centralia limits and on State Highway 12, approximately four miles east of the City of Morton. The addresses and phone numbers of the sites are as follows:

Central Transfer Station
360-740-1481
1411 South Tower Ave
Centralia, WA 98531

East Lewis County Transfer Station
360-496-5095
6745 US Highway 12
Morton, WA 98356

HHW generated during a disaster will be collected and processed at the Lewis County HHW facility located at the CTS. Additional collection and processing may be handled directly by Ecology depending on the type and severity of the event.

In the event of a disaster, the LCSWDD can activate free or reduced rate disposal after damage assessments have been completed by Emergency Management officials or an entity designated by Lewis County Emergency Management. The damage assessments will provide the information necessary to determine the extent of the damage and the need for free or reduced disposal opportunities.

LCSWDD may authorize free or reduced disposal of disaster debris at the transfer stations if damage assessments indicate significant damage. Utility personnel will open the transfer stations as soon as physically possible. Waste will be accepted from the public and commercial sources on a first-come first-served basis. Waste will be screened for unacceptable and hazardous waste as defined in the Transfer Station Operations Plan. LCSWDD will be responsible for determining how many days of free or reduced disposal will be offered. A resolution authorizing free disposal must be signed by LCSWDD before disposal can occur. Refer to the 2022 Disaster Debris Management Plan for additional information (Appendix J).

**Table 5-2. Potential Disasters and Resultant Debris**

| Debris | Biodisaster/ Epidemic | High Winds | Floods | Wildfires | Winter Storms | Volcanoes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C&D Material: concrete, asphalt, metal, wallboard, brick, glass, wood | | XX | X | X | X | X |

| Debris | Biodisaster/ Epidemic | High Winds | Floods | Wildfires | Winter Storms | Volcanoes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Personal Property: appliances, e-waste, MRW, furniture, other personal belongings | | XX | X | X | | |
| Vehicles and vessels | | X | X | X | | |
| Vegetative Debris: trees, yard debris, woody debris | | X | XX | X | XX | X |
| Animal carcasses, bedding, manure, contaminated items | XX | | X | X | X | |
| Displaced Sediments: sand, soil, rock, sediment | | | XX | X | | X |
| Mixed other debris | | X | X | X | | X |

X = smaller quantity, XX = significant quantity

### 5.9.3. Planning Issues

Current disaster debris management and disposal practices are adequate and should be maintained.

## 5.10. ELECTRONIC WASTE

This section addresses disposal of electronic and electronic equipment waste, commonly referred to as "e-waste," generated within Lewis County.

### 5.10.1. Regulations and Guidelines

Electronic products may contain heavy metals and other chemicals at hazardous levels that make them difficult to dispose of safely. The Electronic Product Recycling law (RWC 70.95N) requires manufacturers of computers, monitors, laptops and portable computers to provide recycling services throughout the state at no cost to households, small businesses, small local governments, charities and school districts. This law led to the E-Cycle Washington program developed by Ecology. Names and locations of collection sites can be obtained by calling 1-800-RECYCLE or going to www.ecyclewashington.org.

### 5.10.2. Current Practice

Electronic wastes are old computers, computer monitors, laptops, and televisions. In 2005, Lewis County began accepting monitors and computers at the CTS and the ELCTS. The Utility continues to collect these items for a fee at its transfer stations. In 2024, the transfer stations collected 812 televisions, 39 central processing units, 37 computer monitors, and 7 laptops.

Washington State began its E-Cycle program in January 2009. In the E-Cycle Washington program manufacturers pay into a state fund that pays for the recycling of old computers, computer monitors, televisions, laptops, tablets, e-readers, and portable DVD players. These electronic items are disassembled for recycling in Washington State. Metals, plastics, and glass are separated and sold as commodities to be reused as raw materials in the manufacturing of new products. About 2 percent of the total volume goes to landfills. Hazardous materials, such as

batteries, leaded glass, circuit boards and fluorescent tubes are required to be managed properly by approved recyclers. The E-cycle program collected more than 12.8 million pounds of this material in 2024. Of this total, 77.5 percent was televisions, 13.3 percent was computer monitors, and 9.2 percent was computers (including laptops). Based on the E-Cycle statistics, the statewide program is working well.

In Lewis County, businesses partnering with the E-Cycle Washington program to accept computer and televisions for free are Goodwill, and Tiger Mountain Technologies.

In addition to the E-Cycle Washington program, some retailers, such as Staples, accept computers, peripherals, and other electronic items, but they limit the number of units customers can bring in per day. Sutter Metals also allow for the drop off of some electronic items for recycling.

The transfer stations accept computers and televisions for a fee. Televisions and computer monitors are $25 each, computer towers are $6 each and laptops are $31 each.

### 5.10.3. Planning Issues

Computers, televisions, and other electronics will continue to be discarded at high rates with newer, better, and improved technology being offered at a continuous basis. Recycling programs for these technologies will need to be fine-tuned and continued. With the miniaturization of some electronic units, the expected tonnage may decrease. For example, some big bulky television units are being replaced with thin profile, lighter units, although at the same time televisions tend to be getting larger.

A small electronics and appliance recycling program was offered through the Utility's Hazardous Waste program during the 2013–2015 grant cycle. While it was a popular program with the public, this material was costly to collect, recycle, and transport those items to be processed. Staff evaluated the program and determined that it was not feasible to continue the program at the end of the pilot project. In the future, however, staff could re-visit this program and study whether current market conditions would support the program without any grant funding.

### 5.10.4. Alternatives and Evaluations

The following are considerations related to electronic wastes:

- Electronic Waste Collection - Continue to collect electronic wastes at the CTS and ELCTS. Promote the availability of these services through educational pamphlets.
- Promote E-Waste Take-Back Programs - Promote the E-Cycle Washington partners in Lewis County as well as retailers that take-back these materials.
- Small Electronics and Appliance Recycling Program - Re-visit the Utility's small electronics and small appliance recycling pilot program to determine whether it should return, if recycling markets become available.

### 5.10.5. Recommendations

5-6 Continue to collect certain electronic wastes for recycling.

5-7 Promote the E-Cycle Washington partners.

## 5.11. JUNK VEHICLES

This section addresses disposal of junk vehicles within Lewis County.

### 5.11.1. Regulations and Guidelines

RCW 70A.200.060 prohibits the abandonment of junk vehicles upon any property located in a county unincorporated area. Abandoned vehicles are also regulated under RCW 46.55, which establishes rules for removal and disposal of junk vehicles. If a junk vehicle is abandoned in violation of RCW 70A.200.060, the vehicle's removal, disposal, sale, and penalties that may be imposed against the registered owner are governed by RCW 46.55.230.

### 5.11.2. Current Practice

Vehicle hulks are abandoned automobiles and trucks. Lewis County regulates vehicle hulks in Chapter 8.05 of the LCC. Environmental Health administers a successful vehicle hulk management program, which involves a system of notification and removal. When residents have a vehicle hulk with no title on their property, they may call the hulk vehicle officer and request assistance. State law requires licensing of vehicle wrecking operators and places reporting requirements on the disposal of some automobile components. Vehicle hulks must be disposed of by licensed hulk haulers. Lewis County's code enforcement officers 295processed 443 hulk vehicle affidavits in 2024.

### 5.11.3. Planning Issues

Current junk vehicle management and disposal practices are generally adequate and should be maintained.

## 5.12. MOBILE HOMES AND BULKY ITEMS

This section addresses disposal of mobile homes and bulky items within Lewis County. In the Solid Waste Utility's disposal fee rate structure, the category for "mobile homes" was eliminated as few weere disposed of at the transfer stations in recent years. A "bulky rate" was established for items larger than 8-feet in length or items needing special handling by transfer station operations staff because of their large nature.

### 5.12.1. Regulations and Guidelines

RCW 46.44.170 requires a signed affidavit of destruction to be filed with the county assessor prior to the removal of a mobile home to a disposal site.

### 5.12.2. Current Practice

A bulky waste rate was established for items that are transported into one of Lewis County's transfer stations that require special handling by operations staff. In July 2024, this fee was increase to $140 per ton with a $35 minimum for 500 pounds or less.

The higher rate was established to help offset the additional staff time to manage the material, and the wear on equipment.

Some common items to which this rate is applied include campers, recreation vehicles, hot tubs, boats, and bridge timbers. Larger loads, such as ones with C&D debris, railroad ties or telephone poles longer than 8 feet in length are included in this rate. Additionally, semi-trucks with large loads requiring solid waste staff and equipment to unload will be charged at this rate.

Older mobile homes can also have asbestos in the floor tiles, lights, window frames and other building material. To be disposed of at the CTS, the contractor is required to show CTS personnel proof of a formal asbestos inspection for the mobile homes. The documents must show that the inspection was completed, and the unit passed inspection for disposal. Documentation must show that the asbestos containing materials were properly removed.

In 2024, 236.54 tons of bulky waste were disposed of at Lewis County transfer stations.

### 5.12.3. Planning Issues

Bulky items are difficult to dispose of because they require additional staff and time. Mobile homes are especially challenging for operations staff to manage because of their size. There is limited space on the tipping floors and transfer station employees must pack the units into long-haul trailers. Workers must make sure the tipping floor is clear, and then guide the transporters onto the tipping floor so the units can be tipped off the trailers, and then pushed into the garbage trailers.

### 5.12.4. Alternatives and Evaluations

Create a separate space at a future transfer station for disposal of bulky items to reduce strain on time and space.

### 5.12.5. Recommendations

5-8 Create a space for disposal of bulky items.

## 5.13. PETROLEUM CONTAMINATED SOILS

This section addresses disposal of petroleum and contaminated soils (PCS) within Lewis County.

### 5.13.1. Regulations and Guidelines

PCS consist primarily of soils containing gasoline, kerosene, diesel, oil, or residues. PCS require clean-up when they exceed hydrocarbon contamination levels specified in Ecology's Model Toxics Control Act Cleanup Regulation (WAC 173-340, MTCA). MTCA designates soils as industrial or residential in origin, and then gives maximum hydrocarbon contamination levels according to the source of contamination. The soils are tested upon removal to determine their level of contamination. Soils over the MTCA levels are required to be reported to Ecology within 24 hours. Depending upon the degree and type of contamination, PCS may be classified as solid waste, problem waste, or dangerous waste. Handling and disposal of PCS is regulated by WAC 173 340, unless sufficient contamination is present to classify the soils as dangerous wastes, in which case WAC 173-303 applies.

Depending on the contamination levels, large amounts may need to be treated by a process that reduces, removes, or destroys the contamination. Treatment processes include aeration, bioremediation, thermal stripping, and incineration.

### 5.13.2. Current Practice

PCS with contamination of less than 1,000 parts per million total petroleum hydrocarbons can be disposed at the CTS with prior authorization and notification. Pre-authorization must be obtained from Environmental Health and the regional disposal company. Under current Ecology guidelines, activities involving more than 100 cubic yards of PCS in Lewis County require that Environmental Health be notified. Larger quantities of PCS are generally adequately handled through the private sector.

The amount of PCS brought into the CTS fluctuates. In 2022, there was a significant increase in the amount of PCS that passed through the transfer station system. That year, a construction project in Centralia encountered an area of contamination during the excavation process for foundation work. As the contractor continued to dig deeper in the area of development, workers kept having tests indicting presence of PCS. Because the project was under a tight deadline, the developers opted to dispose of the contaminated soil rather than do treatment onsite. In 2022, 4,467.3 tons of PCS were disposed. As a comparison, in 2024, CTS accepted 22.12 tons of PCS.

Over the years, the transfer stations have received small amounts from a variety of customers. Some loads were the result of fuel spilled during motor vehicle accidents. Some generators of PCS-contaminated soil have opted to store the contaminated soil, covered -- but out in the open -- so the petroleum can dissipate. Once the petroleum numbers test below a certain level, the soil can be used in as regular soil again, such as fill material, instead of being disposed. Lewis County Environmental Health should be consulted regarding potential designation and disposal options for PCS.

### 5.13.3. Planning Issues

Current management and disposal practices are generally adequate to handle the volume of PCS generated within Lewis County.

## 5.14. PHARMACEUTICALS/MEDICAL WASTE

This section addresses disposal of pharmaceuticals/medical waste within Lewis County.

### 5.14.1. Regulations and Guidelines

Lewis County Infectious Waste Ordinance No. 1112 (Chapter 8.20 LCC) provides for comprehensive medical waste handling, documentation, labeling, and storage requirements.

For the purpose of this CSHWMP, “pharmaceuticals” are considered pharmaceutical waste.

Pharmaceuticals become waste when they have been rejected for use by the patient or otherwise cannot be returned to the supplier for reuse. Pharmaceutical waste is regulated by the Washington State Department of Health’s Board of Pharmacy, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, and Ecology.

1. Generally, two types of pharmaceuticals are of interest to Lewis County waste management:
2. Controlled substances (prescription drugs and illegal drugs)

3. Over the counter, nonprescription substances (for example aspirin, vitamins, other health supplements, and cold medicines). Controlled substances are covered by their own regulations, which do not address disposal other than to prevent their reuse. Over-the-counter substances are not specifically addressed by solid waste regulations.

### 5.14.2. Current Practice

Medical facilities have the responsibility to determine which medical wastes are considered biomedical, and then arrange for the proper handling and disposal of these wastes. Thus, under normal circumstances, Lewis County does not accept most medical wastes from medical facilities, which typically have their own outlet. For example, Stericycle, an international company with a facility in Morton, collects medical waste from Providence Hospital and other medical facilities in Lewis County. Stericycle and other companies offer a mail-back program. For the purpose of this CSHWMP, pharmaceutical wastes are being considered a subset of medical wastes. The increase in the use of prescription medicine has made disposal of unwanted prescriptions a challenge for counties and cities. If unwanted medicines are thrown in the trash, they can be picked out by others. If they are flushed down toilets, the medicines get into the wastewater treatment systems.

Lewis County recognizes the need to prevent the disposal of prescription and over-the-counter drugs in the landfill and wastewater treatment plants. Therefore, the Utility manages and disposes of drugs according to the conditional exclusion found in WAC-173-303-071(3) (nn).

The Washington Secure Drug Take-Back Act was signed into law on March 22, 2018. The MED-Project, administered by the Washington State Department of Health, launched in November of 2021. It provides the safe, free, convenient, and environmentally responsible take back of household medicine prescribed to people and pets. It is not designed for business-generated medication.

The program allows residential customers to drop off unwanted medicine for free at secure kiosks located at medical offices, some law enforcement agencies, pharmacies throughout the state, request a prepaid mailer in which to send the medicine, or drop-off the medicine at the take-back event.

MED-Project has a searchable database, located at the following website: https://med-project.org/locations/washington/find-a-location/, where residents can type in their zip code and find the nearest kiosk location. The program also takes over-the-counter medication, but cannot accept the following: vitamins, minerals and supplements; homeopathic and herbal-based remedies; cosmetics, shampoo, toothpaste and sunscreen; empty injectors, empty inhalers, and medical devices that do not contain medication; livestock medication; pet pesticide products; or illicit or illegal drugs.

The mailing option gives customers three mailer types from which to choose: medicine mail-back envelopes, inhaler mail-back envelopes, and injector mail-back envelopes. Customers can request mailers online at https://med-project.org/locations/washington/mail-back-services/ or call toll-free 844-633-7765 to make a request.

Take-back events are scheduled periodically across the state. To find the most current list of events, residents can check the following website: https://med-project.org/locations/washington/take-back-events/. See Section 6.6.2 for take-back locations.

In the waste acceptance policy for the transfer stations, medical waste is defined as wastes generated by medical/hospice facilities used in direct patient care (such as sharps, bedding, biomedical, radiological, infectious wastes, etc.). Some types of medical wastes are accepted at the CTS with restrictions. Wastes such as bedding, clothing, tubing, etc., must be sterilized.

Sharps must be contained in medical waste containers, plastic (laundry jug) containers, and then placed in storage barrels at the CTS and ELCTS. The following materials are not accepted in the sharps container: pathological or biological waste, or any materials that would likely pose a threat to health or safety. Used, secured sharps can also be part of a subscription-based mail-back program. Several options can be found online.

### 5.14.3. Planning Issues

Utility staff receive frequent calls from citizens about managing medical wastes such as sharps and pharmaceutical waste. Pharmaceutical wastes become a solid waste management concern when they are disposed inappropriately. Some unused medications when flushed down a drain or toilet and treated through a wastewater treatment plant (or individual septic system) can potentially contaminate groundwater and surface waters.

Currently, the EPA lists pharmaceuticals and personal care products as "contaminants of emerging concern." For household pharmaceuticals, the EPA's interim recommendation is to not flush medications into the sewer or septic tank. Rather, the EPA recommends that residents double bag medications and place them directly into exterior garbage cans to avoid children or pets accessing them.

Take Back Your Meds is a group of over 270 organizations in Washington State that supported creation of a statewide program for the safe return and disposal of unwanted medicines. Resources for this can be found at www.takebackyourmeds.org.

### 5.14.4. Alternatives and Evaluations

Alternatives related to pharmaceuticals are discussed below:

- Pharmaceutical Waste Brochure - Create a brochure for pharmacies, doctors' offices and other medical facilities explaining the proper disposal of sharps and pharmaceutical waste.
- Promote Take Back Your Meds Program - Develop educational resources to inform people about the Take Back Your Meds program which is a group of over 270 organizations where unwanted medicines can be safely disposed of.
- Monitor Pharmaceutical Waste Guidance - Monitor EPA and Washington State guidance regarding pharmaceutical waste and implement changes as needed to comply with statewide medicine take-back programs.

### 5.14.5. Recommendations

5-9 Create a brochure for disposal of sharps and pharmaceutical waste.

5-10 Promote the Take Back Your Meds Program.

5-11 Monitor guidance regarding pharmaceutical waste.

## 5.15. STREET SWEEPINGS/VACTOR WASTE

This section addresses disposal of wastes generated from maintaining paved areas within Lewis County.

### 5.15.1. Regulations and Guidelines

Street sweepings and vactor wastes may be contaminated with a variety of materials, depending on the locale, unauthorized or accidental discharges, and frequency of cleaning. Both street sweepings and vactor waste may contain small amounts of petroleum hydrocarbons from motor oil that leaks from vehicles traveling on public streets. Depending on the level of contamination, vactor wastes could be classified as clean material usable as fill, as a solid waste that requires a permit for its management or disposal in a permitted facility, or as a dangerous waste subject to management or disposal under the dangerous waste regulations. Lewis County Environmental Health should be consulted regarding the distinction between material being used as fill or being a solid waste. The determination of the need for a solid waste permit may depend on a combination of the contaminant concentrations in the waste, the proposed location for the fill, and the use of the site.

### 5.15.2. Current Practice

Vactor waste is periodically collected in Lewis County, but there is no set maintenance schedule or contract in place. If tests indicate presence of contaminants, the waste may be handled as PCS, or dangerous wastes depending on concentrations and disposed accordingly. Additional information on municipal stormwater handling, vactor waste, and permits can be found at:

https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/permits-certifications/stormwater-general-permits/municipal-stormwater-general-permits

### 5.15.3. Planning Issues

Current waste management and disposal practices for street sweepings and Vactor waste are generally adequate.

## 5.16. TIRES

This section addresses the recycling of tires within Lewis County.

### 5.16.1. Regulations and Guidelines

WAC 173-350-100 defines waste tires as any tires that are no longer suitable for their original intended purpose because of wear, damage, or defect. WAC 173-350-350 imposes restrictions on outdoor piles of more than 800 tires.

Businesses that sell new tires are required by RCW 70A.205.405, the Waste Tire Program, to collect a $1.00 fee for each new replacement tire sold. The dollar fee for new replacement tires is ultimately deposited in Ecology's Waste Tire Removal Account to help clean up illegally discarded tires. In 2023, this account has a budget of $500,000, funding the contracts for waste tire removal services, assists local governments in waste ire pile prevention and education, manages the fees collected from the sale of new tires, and license businesses that haul, store, and dispose of waste tires. Part of this fund pays for Ecology's Tire Amnesty Program that allows counties to host periodic free tire recycling events where local residents can bring in a certain number of tires for free.

## 5.16.2. Current Practice

Thanks to the amnesty funding and cooperation with volunteers and staff from Lewis County cities and communities, Lewis County residents recycled nearly 300 tons of waste tires at special events during 2021. The Utility typically works with Environmental Health's Code Enforcement staff so they can give property owners with tires accumulated a chance to voluntarily clean up their property. Events were organized in Chehalis, Morton, Packwood, Pe Ell, and Winlock.

A number of other options are available for the recycling of used tires:

- Lewis County offers a recycling program for vehicle tires at its transfer stations. Fees depend on the type of tire. Customers must find alternative options, such as local tire retailers, to dispose of heavy equipment and farm tires. In 2024, the two transfer stations collected 8,115 tires. This number can be broken down into specific tire categories: 6,650 passenger or light truck tires off the rim, 907 passenger or light truck tires on the rim, 510 semi-truck tires off the rim, and 48 semi-truck tires on the rim.
- Liberty Tire is the company that recycles Lewis County tires and from other automotive businesses in the area. In previous years, there were other tire recycling companies in the Pacific Northwest. Those, however, have either gone out of business or merged with Liberty Tire.

## 5.16.3. Planning Issues

The areas of primary concern are large tire stockpiles, loads of tires that are illegally dumped on public or private property, and small quantities of tires stored by residents and businesses for disposal at some indeterminate future date. Because there are limited tire recycling opportunities in the region, there is concern about the long-term nature of tire recycling outlets. In addition, illegal dumping of tires continues to be a problem.

## 5.16.4. Alternatives and Evaluations

Alternatives related to tire management are presented below:

- Tire Waste Disposal - Produce and distribute educational materials on tire recycling options to encourage more frequent proper disposal.
- Tire Waste Disposal - Monitor the number and location of companies in the region accepting tires for recycling in order to update educational materials.

### 5.16.5. Recommendations

5-12 Produce educational materials on tire recycling.

5-13 Monitor companies accepting tires for recycling.

## 5.17. WOOD WASTE

This section addresses disposal of wood waste within Lewis County.

### 5.17.1. Regulations and Guidelines

Treated wood and wood products are not accepted from commercial customers. Treated wood includes, but is not limited to, creosote- and arsenical-treated wood that fails the test for the toxicity characteristics of 173-303-090(8) WAC, or which fails any state criteria for dangerous wastes. Commercial customers should contact C&D facilities for disposal.

### 5.17.2. Current Practice

Construction wood waste and organic wood material are handled differently. There are few markets for untreated wood debris locally. There are regional reuse opportunities privately, such as Habitat for Humanity in Thurston County, social media marketplaces, and other reuse building supplies. The transfer stations do not offer separate collection for any dimensional lumber.

Wood product businesses have found alternative processes and markets and report little wood waste in need of disposal. Some material is recycled as fuel, animal bedding, or glue extender, while other waste products such as wood ash are landfilled.

Logging and tree farm operations manage their silviculture wastes onsite. This waste is regulated by the Forest Practices Act silviculture rules. Generators of land clearing debris in Lewis County either process and use the material onsite or have the material removed for off-site processing or disposal. Off-site processors provide an alternative to onsite open burning of the debris. However, open burning remains an option for disposal of land clearing debris generated outside the Urban Growth Boundary, subject to periodic burn bans. Only land clearing debris generated onsite can be burned (i.e., no debris can be transported from the property to be burned). LeMay also offers drop boxes for the recycling of C&D debris (including wood waste). Separated clean wood waste is taken to a composting facility.

The transfer station in Centralia does offer an option for organic chippable, wood debris, and that program is detailed in Chapter 7 Organics.

### 5.17.3. Planning Issues

Current waste management and disposal practices for wood waste are generally adequate.

## 5.18. NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The status of the recommendations made by the 2008 Plan can be found in Appendix C.

## 5.19. ALTERNATIVES AND EVALUATIONS

Existing service gaps and other issues connected to miscellaneous wastes requiring special handling are discussed below.

### 5.19.1. Future Disposal Needs

Collection programs may be required or desired in the future for materials that cannot be fully anticipated at this time. As these needs arise or are identified, options should be evaluated, and feasible cost-effective solutions implemented, as necessary. Possible steps that could be taken include the following:

- **Increased education:** additional education for generators who are the sources of the waste stream could be conducted to promote safe handling and disposal practices.
- **Collection programs:** additional or new collection programs could be developed, or existing ones expanded to include additional materials or sources.
- **Product stewardship:** new product stewardship programs could be considered or supported to address specific waste materials.

### 5.19.2. Construction and Demolition Debris Alternatives

There are currently few opportunities in Lewis County for C&D recycling, although specific types of C&D materials (such as concrete, asphalt, and dirt) can be diverted to various recovery operations. In general, reuse and recycling options for C&D wastes could include:

- **Salvage for onsite and off-site reuse:** This option generally applies to demolition projects, although a small amount of reusable materials and products are also generated at construction sites. To be effective, salvaging requires pre-demolition removal of reusable materials and hence requires some additional time and steps in a project's schedule. Off-site reuse could be accomplished through a variety of means, including reuse stores and private efforts.
- **Onsite crushing and grinding for reuse and recycling:** This generally applies to concrete and asphalt, which could be crushed to serve as road base or replace other basic materials, although in some cases wood and other materials could also be handled onsite.
- **Source-separation for off-site processing:** Source separation at C&D sites could allow recycling of wood, cardboard, and other materials.
- **Mixed C&D processing off-site:** This option would require a significant investment in one or more facilities that are properly equipped and operated to process and market C&D waste.
- **Central site for recycling and reuse:** An ideal option would be a facility, or a series of local facilities, which combine reuse and recycling as appropriate for the material. These facilities could sell salvaged products (such as doors, windows, and cabinets), as well as crush or grind other materials (such as concrete and wood) for use as aggregate or hog fuel.
- **Collection depots at transfer and disposal facilities:** Collection containers for reusable and/or recyclable C&D materials at transfer stations and drop box sites could allow these

materials to be transferred to a central processing or salvage facility. Transportation costs can be a significant barrier, however, since the recovered materials typically have a low monetary value.

- **Promote Recycling through Habitat for Humanity ReStore**: The Utility could partner with the Habitat for Humanity Restore locations in Yelm, Longview or Olympia to salvage and divert recyclable materials received at Lewis County facilities. Materials that could be recycled and resold through the Habitat for Humanity ReStore could be set aside for pickup.
- **Promote Recycling through Reliable Enterprises**: The Utility could partner with Reliable Enterprises in Centralia to salvage and divert recyclable materials received at Lewis County facilities. Reliable Enterprises accepts appliances that less than 5-years old, various used building materials, and lumber. Materials that could be recycled and resold through Reliable Enterprises could be set aside for pickup.

Lewis County could partner with businesses that recycle material to salvage and divert recyclable materials received at transfer stations and drop box sites. Materials that are suitable to be recycled and resold could be set aside for pickup or customers could be redirected to specific businesses that resell or reuse materials.

Contractors and homeowners could benefit from more information about the potentially hazardous materials that can be uncovered during demolition activities. Information could include proper handling and disposal, as well as the potential health impacts. Disposers of C&D waste can most easily identify potential hazards if they separate their demolished waste. Others can learn about the hazards they are exposing themselves to with Lewis County-provided brochures. Contractors and homeowners could be given a brochure when they apply for a permit.

Once diversion programs are established for C&D debris, Lewis County could pass an ordinance requiring contractors to recycle specific types of C&D materials such as clean wood, cardboard, metals, and reusable building materials.

### 5.19.3. Evaluation of Alternative Strategies

For the most part, management practices for miscellaneous wastes in Lewis County are adequate. Continue to dispose miscellaneous wastes requiring special handling through a cooperative effort with Lewis County, LeMay, and Ecology.

## 5.20. RECOMMENDATIONS

5-14 Prepare for future disposal needs.

5-15 Expand C&D recycling options.

5-16 Continue to dispose miscellaneous wastes requiring special handling through a cooperative effort.

# 6. MODERATE RISK WASTE

This chapter discusses programs for MRW, identifies relevant planning issues, and develops and evaluates alternative strategies.

## 6.1. BACKGROUND

This section provides definitions, regulations and guidance, and Lewis County objectives for managing MRW.

### 6.1.1. Moderate Risk Waste Collection

Lewis County holds eight MRW turn-in events, four in spring and four in fall, twelve at ELCTS for residents living in outlying areas and offers a fixed facility that is open six times per month at CTS. These programs serve residential customers and small quantity generators (SQG) by appointment. During these collection events, a hazardous waste representative is onsite to collect, identify, contain, transport, store, process and dispose of waste collected at the event.

Wastes are prescreened to check that only acceptable MRW is collected. Participants fill out a collection event survey and sign a form certifying that they generated the MRW.

Hazardous waste personnel transfer the collected MRW from the participant, determine the appropriate Department of Transportation (DOT) shipping classification and place the waste into drums. Once the collection event is completed, the waste is manifested and loaded into a properly placarded transport vehicle prior to leaving the site.

### 6.1.2. Definitions

MRW refers to materials that have the characteristics of and pose the same risks as hazardous wastes, they are flammable, corrosive, toxic, and/or reactive. State and Federal law do not regulate MRW as hazardous wastes due to their relatively small quantities. MRW is regulated by WAC 173-350-360 under the authority of RCW 70A.300 and RCW 70A.205. MRW is defined as solid waste that is limited to conditionally exempt SQG waste and HHW.

Hazardous waste means those solid wastes designated by 40 CFR Part 261 and regulated as hazardous by the United State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Hazardous wastes can be solid, liquid, or gaseous materials. Hazardous wastes are divided into specific hazard categories. These categories include the following:

- Explosives
- Flammable gases
- Flammable liquids
- Oxidizers
- Reactives
- Poisons
- Radioactive material
- Corrosive
- Marine hazard

HHW is described by the Hazardous Household Substances List developed by Ecology is shown in Table 6-1. When generated in a residence, these products become HHW when discarded.

**Table 6-1. Hazardous Household Substances List**

| Substances or Class of Substance | Flammable | Toxic | Corrosive | Reactive |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Group 1: Repair and Remodeling** | | | | |
| Adhesives, Glues, Cements | X | X | | |
| Roof coating, Sealants | | X | | |
| Caulking and Sealants | | X | | |
| Epoxy Resins | X | X | | X |
| Solvent Based Paints | X | X | | |
| Solvents and Thinners | X | X | X | X |
| Paint Removers and Strippers | | X | X | |
| **Group 2: Cleaning Agents** | | | | |
| Oven Cleaners | | X | X | |
| Degreasers and Spot Removers | X | X | X | |
| Toilet, Drain, and Septic Cleaners | | X | X | |
| Polishes, Waxes, and Strippers | X | X | X | |
| Deck, Patio, and Chimney Cleaners | X | X | X | |
| Solvent Cleaning Fluid | X | X | X | X |
| Household Bleach (<8 percent solution) | | | X | |
| **Group 3: Pesticides** | | | | |
| Insecticides | X | X | | |
| Fungicides | | X | | |
| Rodenticides | | X | | |
| Molluscicides | | X | | |
| Wood Preservatives | | X | | |
| Moss Retardants | | X | X | |
| Herbicides | | X | | |
| Fertilizers | | X | X | X |
| **Group 4: Auto, Boat, and Equipment Maintenance** | | | | |
| Batteries | | X | X | X |
| Waxes and Cleaners | X | X | X | |
| Paints, Solvents, and Cleaners | X | X | X | X |
| Additives | X | X | X | X |
| Gasoline | X | X | X | X |
| Flushes | X | X | X | X |
| Auto Repair Materials | X | X | | |

| Substances or Class of Substance | Flammable | Toxic | Corrosive | Reactive |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Motor Oil | | X | | |
| Diesel Oil | X | X | | |
| Antifreeze | | X | | |
| **Group 5: Hobby and Recreation** | | | | |
| Paints, Thinners, and Solvents | X | X | X | X |
| Pool/Sauna Chemicals | X | X | X | X |
| Photo Processing Chemicals | X | X | X | X |
| Glues and Cements | X | X | X | |
| Inks and Dyes | X | X | | |
| Glazes | | X | | |
| Chemistry Sets | X | X | X | X |
| Pressurized Bottled Gas | X | X | | X |
| White Gas | X | X | | X |
| Charcoal Lighter Fluid | X | X | | |
| Batteries | | X | X | X |
| **Group 6: Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxins (PBTs)** | | | | |
| Mercury-Containing Products | | X | X | |
| Lead-Containing Products | | X | | |
| Polybrominated Diphenyl Ether (PBDEs) | | X | | |
| Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) | | X | | |
| Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) | | X | | |
| **Group 7: Miscellaneous** | | | | |
| Ammunition | X | X | X | X |
| Asbestos | | X | | |
| Fireworks | X | X | X | X |
| Marine Aerial Flares | X | X | | |
| Pharmaceuticals | | X | | |
| Non-Controlled Substances | | X | | |
| Sharps | | X | | |
| Personal Care Products | X | X | X | X |

Source: Guidelines for Developing and Updating Local Hazardous Waste Plans – Ecology, 2010. https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/1007006.pdf.

Many businesses and institutions produce small quantities of hazardous wastes; the list is the same as for HHW (see Table 6-1). SQGs produce hazardous waste at rates less than 220 pounds per month or per batch (or 2.2 pounds per month or per batch of extremely hazardous waste) and accumulate less than 2,200 pounds of hazardous waste onsite (or 22 pounds of extremely hazardous waste). Extremely hazardous wastes include certain pesticides and other poisons that

are more toxic and pose greater risks than other HHW. SQGs are conditionally exempt from State and Federal regulation, meaning they are exempt only as long as they properly manage and dispose of their wastes.

### 6.1.3. Regulations and Guidance

MRW is regulated primarily by state and federal laws that govern proper handling and disposal of these wastes. A review of the recent regulatory changes affecting solid wastes and MRW is provided in Chapter 1, and the relevant details are reproduced below.

#### 6.1.3.1. Moving Washington Beyond Waste and Toxics Plan

Ecology released an updated waste and toxics reduction plan in December 2021. Moving Washington Beyond Waste and Toxics focuses on reducing waste and toxics by adopting a sustainable materials management approach which is also used by EPA. This approach looks at the full life cycle of materials from the design and manufacturing, through use, to disposal or recycling. The EPA believes a sustainable materials management approach can help identify more sustainable ways to produce products that are less impactful to the environment. Moving Washington Beyond Waste and Toxics' vision is as follows: "We can transition to a society where waste is viewed as inefficient, and where most wastes and toxic substances have been eliminated. This will contribute to economic, social and environmental vitality."

One of the five sections of Moving Washington Beyond Waste and Toxics Plan is "Managing Hazardous Waste and Materials." Moving Washington Beyond Waste and Toxics Plan provides the following goals pertaining to Lewis County MRW programs:

- Facilities have the necessary awareness and information resources to effectively make compliance corrections (GOAL HWM 3).
- MRW locations and programs provide increased services for residents, businesses, and underserved communities, with a focus on equity and accessibility (GOAL HWM 10).
- Facilities that collect MRW are properly permitted (if required) and in compliance with applicable laws and rules (GOAL HWM 11).

#### 6.1.3.2. Hazardous Waste Management Act (RCW 70A.300)

The Hazardous Waste Management Act establishes requirements for state and local hazardous waste management plans, rules for hazardous waste generation and handling, criteria for siting hazardous waste management facilities, and local zoning designations that permit hazardous waste management facilities. The Hazardous Waste Management Act also establishes waste management priorities for hazardous wastes. In order of decreasing priority, the management priorities are:

- Waste reduction,
- Waste recycling,
- Physical, chemical, and biological treatment,
- Incineration,
- Solidification/stabilization/treatment, or
- Landfill.

The waste hierarchy is a key element in determining compliance of this CSHWMP with state requirements.

Rules implementing the Hazardous Waste Management Act are codified in the Dangerous Waste Regulations (Chapter 173-303 WAC). This regulation defines dangerous waste materials and establishes minimum handling requirements. State rules specifically exclude HHW and SQG wastes from Dangerous Waste Regulations, which have been amended several times over the years, most recently in 2014. The 2014 amendments allow mercury-containing equipment to be managed as a universal waste, require recyclers and used oil processors to develop closure plans and meet financial responsibility requirements, and provides several other changes and updates.

#### 6.1.3.3. Mercury-Containing Lights Product Stewardship Program

Washington State rules (WAC 173-910) established a product stewardship program for mercury-containing lights. Producers of mercury containing lights sold for residential use must finance and participate in the stewardship program. Counties can choose to have a collection site at their facilities and retailers can also be designated collection sites for spent mercury-containing lights. A bill was passed during the 2024 Washington State Legislature that extends the Mercury-Containing Light Stewardship program that was scheduled to sunset in 2025. The program now bans the sale of all mercury-containing lights starting July 1, 2029. Stores are prohibited from adding mercury-containing lights to their inventory after January 1, 2029.. Additional information on Mercury-Containing Lights Product Stewardship can be found in Chapter 1 Planning Process and Background.

#### 6.1.3.4. Paint Stewardship

In 2019, SHB 1652 (codified as RCW70A.515) was approved by the Legislature to require producers of architectural paints sold in Washington State to participate in an approved paint stewardship program. The program collects architectural interior and exterior paints, in five-gallon containers or smaller, at designated drop-off locations. Local households and businesses are invited to drop-off latex paint at any of these locations, while oil-based paints may only be collected from households and SQGs. These locations include retail stores, hazardous waste facilities, and other solid waste sites, aiming to provide access to all residents. Once collected, the leftover paint is reused as fuel, mixed into recycled paint, or safely and properly disposed of. The goals of SHB 1652 are for paint manufacturers to:

- Assume responsibility for the development and implementation of a cost-effective architectural paint stewardship program;
- Develop and implement strategies to reduce the generation of leftover paint;
- Promote the reuse of postconsumer architectural paint; and
- Collect, transport, and process postconsumer architectural paint for end-of-product-life management.

Additional information on paint stewardship can be found in Section 1.13.6.

#### 6.1.3.5. Used Oil

Washington State law (RCW 70A.224) requires local governments to manage used oil in conjunction with their MRW programs and to submit annual reports to Ecology.

#### 6.1.3.6. Battery Recycling

SB 5144, passed in 2023, requires the creation of a Product Stewardship Program aimed towards batteries in Washington. The intent of this program is to ensure the proper handling, recycling, and end-of-life management of used batteries to prevent the release of toxic materials into the environment and recover useful materials for reuse. This program requires producers of batteries and products containing batteries to participate in a state approved battery stewardship plan, and in 2027, retailers will only be permitted to sell batteries if the producer is on a state-approved list. This program is covered under RCW 70A.205.505 through RCW 70A.205.530 and WAC 173-331.

### 6.1.4. Moderate Risk Waste Generation

RCW 70A.300.350(1)(a) requires local governments to prepare hazardous waste plans that contain an assessment of the quantities, types, generators, and fate of hazardous waste in each jurisdiction. This CSHWMP serves to compile that data for Lewis County and this Chapter focuses on the MRW associated with HHW and SQG aspects/quantities of hazardous waste. The following subsections focus on the generators of this waste in Lewis County.

### 6.1.5. Hazardous Waste Inventory

The following information helps provide an inventory of hazardous waste management in Lewis County by addressing dangerous waste generators (i.e., large-quantity generators), contaminated sites, transporters and processing facilities, and locations where hazardous waste facilities can be sited ("zone designations").

Lewis County is generally a rural county with a majority of the residents reside within the limits of the following cities and communities: Centralia, Chehalis, Napavine, Pe Ell, Winlock, Toledo, Mossyrock, Onalaska, Winlock, and Packwood. The remainder of the population resides in the rural areas of the county. Lewis County employment is generally found in the following categories: agriculture; light industrial; commercial services; professional services; retail; schools; and government.

#### 6.1.5.1. Household Hazardous Wastes

Hazardous waste generated by households is referred to as HHW. The major categories of HHW are as follows:

1. Petroleum/Automobile waste
    - Engine oil, transmission fluid, gear oil, brake fluid, spent antifreeze
    - Fuel Oil, diesel, gasoline, 2 cycle mixed, kerosene, stove oil, lamp oil
2. Lighting
    - Fluorescent
    - HID (high intensity discharge)
    - CFLs
    - Lighting Ballasts (if containing PCB)
3. Electronics

- Televisions and computer monitors
- Computer towers, laptops, and hard drives

4. Batteries
    - Automotive type batteries
    - Household batteries – carbon zinc, lithium, silver oxide
    - Rechargeable batteries – Lithium ion, NiCad, Nimh, small sealed Pb acid
5. Paint
    - Oil-based paint – stain, varnish, epoxy, urethane, lacquer
    - Hobby/craft paint and nail polish
    - Aerosol paint cans
6. Cleaning products: Most cleaning products used in residential dwellings contain chemicals including bleach, ammonia, ammonium chlorides, acids, and solvents.
7. Lawn and garden chemicals and fertilizers: Lawn and garden chemicals contain the following chemicals: Diazinon, malathion, carbaryl, chlorpyriphos, diquat, 2,4-D, glyphosate; casoron, triclopyr, and amitrole.

Most residential dwellings have an accumulation of left-over hazardous products. These products are designated as HHW when the product will not be used for its intended purpose. This waste will be managed as HHW at some time in the future. Lewis County's Hazardous Waste Collection Facility, known as the Hazo Hut, is the main facility for the collection of HHW. The accumulations of HHW are turned in at four distinct occurrences. These four occurrences account for the majority of HHW turned in at the Hazo Hut:

1. The resident is moving and is choosing to dispose of the HHW.
2. The resident has become infirm or has died. The family is preparing the property for sale and must remove the HHW from the property and turn it in for disposal.
3. A new owner has occupied the dwelling and has found HHW and desires to dispose of it.
4. The property has been acquired through foreclosure or abandonment and the HHW is being disposed of along with other solid waste.

In December 2015 Ecology released the 24th Annual Solid Waste in Washington State Annual Status Report (Publication No. 17-07-007). In Chapter 6, MRW Management, data was presented that determine past, present, and future inventories of hazardous waste in Lewis County. In 2020, the number of residential units was 34,165 and the population was 77,066. There were 1,226 residential visits yielding a participation rate of 3.5 percent. Each visit brought in an average of 54 pounds of HHW. This data is used to generate the past and future projections of hazardous waste in Lewis County from residential and small businesses presented Tables 6-2 and 6-3.

**Table 6-2. HHW Inventory**

| Waste Type | Pounds of Material per Year | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 2020 | 2025 | 2035 |
| Latex paint | 49,000 | 77,808 | 87,716 |
| Oil based paint | 35,055 | 41,305 | 53,805 |
| Misc. Chemicals | 26,380 | 30,495 | 40,225 |
| Garden chemicals | 11,976 | 14,071 | 18,261 |
| Used Oil | 66,790 | 78,475 | 101,845 |
| Fluorescent lights | 12,342 | 14,502 | 18,822 |
| Electronics | 11,880 | 13,955 | 18,105 |

**Table 6-3. Small Business Hazardous Waste Inventory**

| Waste Type | Pounds of Material per Year | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 2020 | 2025 | 2035 |
| Latex paint | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Oil based paint | N/A | | |
| Misc. Chemicals | 6,169 | 7,244 | 9,394 |
| Batteries | N/A | | |
| Used oil | 1,665 | 1,955 | 2,535 |
| Fluorescent lights | N/A | | |
| Electronics | N/A | | |

### 6.1.5.2. Small Quantity Generator and Regulated Wastes

Businesses in Lewis County, for the most part, do not create hazardous waste while doing business. Businesses make between 50 and 100 visits each year to the Hazo Hut to dispose of hazardous waste. Visits should increase slightly each year as more businesses turn in fluorescent lights. A significant shift in the number of visits should not occur unless small manufacturing businesses come to Lewis County and these businesses are generators of hazardous waste. Following are common users of the Hazo Hut:

- Dental offices generate amalgam and use fixer/developer.
- Light industrial businesses generate used paint and thinner.
- Automotive repair shops utilize to dispose of used motor oil and spent antifreeze.
- Schools dispose of outdated cleaners and fluorescent lights.
- Government agencies dispose of left over paint and fluorescent lights.

Ecology provided data on Lewis County businesses and hazardous waste sites and transporters. This data can be found in Appendix K.

### 6.1.6. Dangerous Waste Generators

Ecology records (latest data as of 2022) indicate that 45 businesses and institutions in Lewis County are registered as hazardous waste generators and reported generation of waste. Four businesses and institutions in Lewis County are registered with EPA or state identification numbers but did not report generating waste in 2022. Additional information can be found in Appendix K.

### 6.1.7. Remedial Actions Sites

Ecology's list of confirmed and suspected contaminated sites in Lewis County can be found at https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/reports/cleanup/contaminated. As of April 2023, there were 167 of these sites identified in Lewis County.

### 6.1.8. Hazardous Waste Services (transporters and facilities)

Using EPA's facility search, ECHO, no facilities are currently managing hazardous waste as a Treatment, Storage, or Disposal Facility in the County's jurisdiction.

A search through ECHO for transporters noted two facilities that are currently located within Lewis County's jurisdiction.

### 6.1.9. Zone Designations

RCW 70A.300.370 requires each County to identify zoning districts where hazardous waste facilities would be permitted to operate. Each city and the county identify these zoning districts within their own zoning codes. Based on information received by Ecology, the following jurisdictions in Lewis County have either designated zones to allow for hazardous waste management facilities or have met exemption criteria:

- Lewis County
- City of Chehalis
- City of Toledo
- City of Mossyrock (exempt)
- City of Napavine
- City of Centralia
- City of Morton
- City of Pe Ell

An example description of what the eligible zones designated would read like comes from the City of Chehalis: "On-site and off-site hazardous waste treatment and storage facilities are permitted in the C-1 Commercial Zone and I Industrial Zone, provided such facilities meet state citing criteria."

## 6.2. INVENTORY OF MODERATE RISK WASTE GENERATORS

As stated above, MRW generators include HHW from local residents, as well as SQG from local businesses and institutions. The 2022 population is 85,370 residents, currently residing in an estimated 35,892 housing units (2021). However, not all residents and businesses are generators of MRW. For residential sources in particular, products may be stored for several years before the resident determines that the material is no longer useful and takes it to a MRW facility for

disposal. In addition, although quantities and types of MRW collected and shipped are tracked, it is unknown how many residents are recycling or disposing of wastes through drop-off programs and private collection services. Also unknown is the number of SQGs and large-quantity generators utilizing the services of private collection companies for their hazardous wastes.

## 6.3. MEDIUM AND LARGE GENERATORS

Businesses and institutions producing hazardous waste over the regulatory limits of a SQG are medium- or large-quantity generators, and these generators, and the wastes generated, are not addressed in this chapter. Medium- and large-quantity generators must comply with the Hazardous Waste Management Act of 1976 (RCW 70A.300), Subtitle C of Public Law 94.580 and Chapter 173-303 WAC. Hazardous waste managers for these generators should contact their compliance officer at Ecology or call the hazardous waste division at Ecology at 360-407-6300. Ecology maintains a detailed website with a multitude of information on the management of hazardous waste. To see a list of generators in Lewis County, refer to Appendix K. To learn more about the other generators not addressed, check out Ecology's Hazardous Waste Facilities in Washington State search tool and enter any RCRA ID number from Appendix K for more information on that generator.

### 6.3.1. Current Moderate Risk Waste and Oil Programs

This section describes existing programs to manage MRW in Lewis County.

#### 6.3.1.1. MRW Collection at Hazo Hut

Lewis County's Hazo Hut is located on the site of the CTS in Centralia and collects hazardous waste from households and qualifying small businesses. The Hazo Hut accepts a full range of hazardous waste, but does not accept PaintCare.org designated products, ammunition or explosives, biomedical waste, critically unstable materials, or radioactive wastes. Hazardous waste acceptance policies are subject to revision periodically. The Utility website includes a list of hazardous waste accepted for free disposal, accepted for disposal with a fee, and not accepted for disposal. The Hazo Hut is open Wednesdays and the first and third Saturday of the month to residential customers.

Businesses or schools must first qualify as a SQG (see above) and be approved to bring hazardous waste to the Hazo Hut by the Lewis County Hazardous Waste Coordinator. In 2024, 108 businesses qualified and were approved to bring their hazardous waste to Hazo Hut for disposal. After being qualified and approved, the business may bring hazardous waste to the Hazo Hut by appointment only. Applicable fees must be paid at the time the hazardous waste is brought in. A receipt for the hazardous waste brought in will be given to the business to use for record-keeping purposes. The Hazo Hut disposed of the following hazardous waste from SQGs in 2024:

- Used Oil: 1,222 pounds
- Toxics and Miscellaneous: 18,134 pounds

The Utility staff, as well as contracted workers, process and consolidate hazardous waste brought to Hazo Hut. Staff prepares hazardous waste for shipping by placing the hazardous waste in drums, DOT boxes or other approved containers. Staff adds shipping and identification labels to the containers. Lewis County utilizes a contractor to transport hazardous waste to a treatment,

storage, disposal, and recycling site for proper disposal or recycling. The following are four methods of waste disposal that Lewis County most commonly uses:

- Recycling, a process of transforming material into usable or marketable material.
- Energy recovery, a process of converting waste into usable energy, e.g., used oil burned to recover energy or heat buildings.
- Disposal to a hazardous waste landfill.
- Treatment/solid waste landfill, physical, chemical processing of waste prior to solid waste landfill.

Lewis County, using Eco Lights offers free fluorescent light recycling to residents. Under the updated Light-Cycle WA program the first fifteen lights, an unlimited number of screw-based compact fluorescent lamps, and two high intensity discharge lamps are accepted for free. The goal of the free recycling program is to encourage more recycling of these lights. In 2020, 12,342 pounds of florescent lights were recycled in Lewis County, which is an estimated 10 percent increase in two years. The Utility maintains two collection sites: Hazo Hut and satellite collection at ELCTS. As collection increases the threat from mercury releases to the environment will decrease and human health in Lewis County will be protected. This program had been scheduled to sunset in 2025; however, it was renewed during the 2024 Legislative session. With the amended legislation, a ban on the sale of mercury containing lights begins on January 1, 2029. At this time, stores can sell off their inventory. In July of that year, mercury containing lights can no longer be sold.

Table 6-4 summarizes the participation and collection at Hazo Hut.

**Table 6-4. 2024 Hazo Hut Participation and Collection Summary**

| Activity | Amount |
|---|---|
| Residential customers (visits) | 2,176 |
| Business customers (visits) | 108 |
| Paint Related Materials recycled (pounds) | 47,375 |
| Used motor oil (gallons) | 4,323 |
| Spent antifreeze (gallons) | 10,584 |
| NiCad/NIMH/Lithium batteries (pounds) | 4,25 |
| Toxics recycled (pounds) | 2,735 |
| Toxics disposed (pounds) | 18,738 |
| Flammables converted into usable energy (pounds) | 22,340 |
| Corrosives disposed (pounds) | 10,655 |
| Fluorescent lamps (pounds) | 6,584 |
| Used Cooking Oil (pounds) | 4,142 |

#### 6.3.1.2. Special Collection Events

Special collection events were held throughout the county beginning in 2021. In 2024 collection events were hosted a total of 22 times in six locations. Events were held monthly in Morton, and other locations included Pe Ell, Winlock, Toledo, Napavine, and Packwood, 345 members of the communities were served, and Hazardous waste collected equaled 12,391 pounds.

Special collection events are scheduled for monthly in Morton, Pe Ell, Winlock, Randle, Napavine, Meskill, and Packwood. Items to be collected will include HHW materials, E-Cycle, scrap metal, appliances, and sensitive documents.

#### 6.3.1.3. Drop-Off Collection

In 2015, the do-it-yourself (DIY) used oil collection program went through changes. Every year do-it-yourself used oil collection tanks, operated by county governments throughout Washington State, are contaminated with hazardous materials including PCB oil, chlorinated oil, flammable liquids, and corrosive liquids. In order to help county governments, Ecology published the BMPs in June 2015 to address these contamination issues. Lewis County integrated the BMPs into the policy and procedure manual for Hazo Hut. The DIY used oil collection tanks operated that did not meet the policy were closed.

Lewis County removed remote collection sites, and in 2021, changed its acceptance policy to only take used oil and antifreeze during hours of operation for the Hazo Hut to reduce illegal dumping and intentional environmental spills. The Utility has a two-tank system at CTS and ELCTS. Each tank is lockable when it is full. A full tank will be tested for hazardous waste contamination before it is collected for recycling. If the test results yield a negative test for contamination, the used oil will be pumped for recycling by a certified contractor. These dual tanks have been placed in cargo shipping containers to minimize the potential for environmental contamination from accidental spills.

Jiffy Lube, AutoZone and the Wal-Mart store in Chehalis are alternative locations that accept used oil from customers.

### 6.3.2. Processing, Transport, and Disposal

MRW to be shipped offsite for recycling or disposal is sorted at transfer stations according to its Washington State DOT hazard classification (flammable, toxic, acid, corrosive or reactive). The MRW is stored in secure lockers until sufficient quantities are available for transport. MRW is picked up by an outside vendor then shipped to licensed hazardous waste treatment, storage and/or disposal facilities. Table 6-4 provides the quantities of MRW received.

### 6.3.3. Education

Tables 6-3 and 6-4 provide evidence that there is a continued need for education and information programs developed by the Utility. The SQG collection awareness program is a successful educational program. The information program for Hazo Hut has made hazardous waste the collection program successful. Lewis County dedicates time and resources to education and informational programs. The goals of these programs are to educate the citizens and businesses in Lewis County on local, state, and federal ordinances and regulations when it comes to managing hazardous waste.

Educational programs are directed to specific target groups (i.e., small businesses, schools). These programs are formal, ongoing and solicit feedback from participants. Target groups include teachers, business owners, school maintenance supervisors, trade organizations, and community groups. The program involves training. Training is usually provided through presentations. The presentations can be made to large groups, small groups, or individuals. Presentations can be made in person or virtually. Utility staff strive to make presentations worthwhile to participants. Utility staff encourage group presentations to maximize the synergy generated by the material presented. The staff uses synergy to encourage action and to solicit feedback.

Education programs are fundamental to improving hazardous waste management in Lewis County. Program goals are to reach as many people as possible and to increase participation in the hazardous waste collection program. Informational programs are brief and concise, and these programs are ongoing. Lewis County's education program accomplishes the following:

- Raises community awareness of the dangers associated with hazardous household products;
- Encourages use of safer, alternative products; and
- Informs residents of proper disposal methods for HHW.

Educational efforts include outreach to homes, schools, community groups, and businesses through direct contact, traditional media, and social media.

The Utility prepares and distributes a wide range of information on HHW. Information distributed addresses the dangers associated with hazardous household products, lists safer alternative products that can be used, provides "recipes" for less toxic cleaning products, describes safe lawn care and pest control methods, note's locations for recycling used motor oil, and lists services offered at the Hazo Hut. Although some of the information comes from outside sources, many brochures are prepared by the Utility staff.

Informational materials are distributed at community events, as well as at numerous locations, including governmental offices, retail stores, and Hazo Hut.

The Solid Waste Utility also maintains a website that includes directions to the Hazo Hut, hours of operation, and acceptable materials for disposal. The website also provides a list of safer alternatives to common household chemicals, as well as a list of locations that accept used motor oil. The website is located at the following link: https://lewiscountywa.gov/departments/solid-waste/hazo-hut/

Lewis County applies for Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance LSWFA, formerly known as the Coordinated Prevention Grant, from Ecology every two years that includes money for the HHW Awareness Project. This project typically promotes green chemistry awareness (i.e., non-toxic or less toxic product alternatives) to Lewis County schools; educates on the adverse impact of hazardous materials on public health and the environment; and explains the benefits of non-toxic or less toxic products at reducing the amount of hazardous chemicals entering the environment. Additional information includes disposal options for current inventories of hazardous materials. Information is disseminated through local media, social media, presentations to schools and community organizations, and booths at community events.

### 6.3.4. Compliance and Enforcement

Compliance and enforcement are currently being conducted on an as-needed basis and there are no known issues with this approach.

## 6.4. STATUS OF PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS

Status of the recommendation made by the 2008 Plan can be found in Appendix C.

## 6.5. WASHINGTON REGULATIONS

A key focus of the State Solid and Hazardous Waste Plan: Moving Washington Beyond Waste and Toxics (Ecology, 2021) is to decrease the amount of hazardous waste disposed of by decreasing the use of hazardous substances in products and increasing the amount of hazardous waste recycled. Several regional and national producer responsibilities (also known as product stewardship) initiatives are already underway. By advancing these initiatives at a local level, Lewis County residents can help reduce the amount of hazardous waste processed at the Hazo Hut.

In March 2010, the State of Washington signed into law the mercury recycling act for private citizens. This law mandated manufacturers paid for the recycling program for mercury containing lights. The program began in January 2015. This program had been scheduled to sunset in 2025. It was, however, renewed during the 2024 Washington State Legislative session. With the amended legislation, a ban on the sale of mercury containing lights begins on January 1, 2029. Stores can sell off their inventory until July 2029 when mercury containing lights can no longer be sold.

Washington State in April of 2021 introduced a program called PaintCare. Palmer Lumber in Chehalis, Rodda Paint in Chehalis and Ace Hardware Stores in Chehalis, Centralia, and Mossyrock are contracted with this program to receive Latex paint from individuals in Lewis County. In 2022, PaintCare reported collecting 3,902 paint gallons at Rodda Paint and 343 paint gallons at Mossyrock Hardware

Lewis County Solid Waste has chosen to no longer accept any products covered by the PaintCare program. This frees up Hazo Hut resources to focus on other opportunities to serve Lewis County Residents. HHW is focused on educating the public on proper paint disposal methods and paint drop-off locations.

### 6.5.1. Objectives and Goals

The Utility will utilize available resources to accomplish two key goals: (1) interdict hazardous waste from disposal in the solid waste stream and direct this waste to safe use, recycling, or approved disposal; (2) disseminate information on alternative products that contain safer or non-toxic chemicals and encourage residents and businesses to buy these products and for retailers to sell them.

The Utility's guiding principle is to consider BMPs when determining the proper course of action when managing specific hazardous waste streams. The strategic goals of the Utility's hazardous waste programs are to do the following:

- Encourage retailers to remove hazardous products from inventory.
- Support all efforts at the state level to pass legislation to begin producer funded take back programs for hazardous materials.

The Utility will continue the existing operations of the Hazo Hut at the CTS. The satellite collection site at the ELCTS is working well and will continue with its once-per-month schedule for hazardous waste collection. The utility will supplement this with periodic collection events in the west and the east communities of Lewis County. The Utility will also continue as a collection site for the state-wide mercury light recycling program.

The Utility will continue disseminating information on the proper management of left-over paint and hazardous materials to residents. As part of these efforts, the Utility will provide information on safer alternatives to popular hazardous household products as well as utilize Lewis County's website, printed material, printed advertising, radio advertising and social media outlets.

The following subsections describe specific programs and goals related to MRW collection and handling.

#### 6.5.1.1. Small Business Technical Assistance

Expand the technical assistance program to reach more schools and businesses. Update the county-wide SQG data base.

Validate those SQGs still in business. Add additional businesses to the Lewis County SQG data base as needed.

Make periodic contact with businesses in the data base with new program information.

#### 6.5.1.2. Small Business Collection Assistance

Make periodic contact with businesses that have participated in the program when new program collection information is available.

Validate businesses that have not participated each year to determine if the businesses have a need for collection services.

#### 6.5.1.3. Enforcement

Hazardous waste is regulated by Lewis County Environmental Health. LCC 8.45 which adopts state solid waste and hazardous waste regulations by reference. Refer to Section 8 for additional information on enforcement.

Problems with hazardous waste management are identified through complaints, field investigations, or through other means. Responses may include gathering information through phone consultations or onsite visits and referring the complaint to other appropriate state or local agencies having jurisdiction. Enforcement or compliance actions may be taken or referred to appropriate agencies, if significant threats to public health, the environment, or worker safety exist.

Lewis County plans to continue to perform the following activities:

- Enforce the state ban on the disposal of lights containing mercury in the solid waste system utilizing existing enforcement infrastructure.
- Provide additional resources to ensure businesses are properly managing their hazardous waste.

#### 6.5.1.4. Used Oil Recycling Information and Collection

In 2014 Ecology, with cooperation from state hazardous waste managers, began rewriting the BMPs for the collection of DIY used oil. This program has experienced serious and costly contamination issues. The updated BMPs were approved and released June 30, 2015. Lewis County complied with the updated BMPs by testing for chlorinated and PCBs contamination waste oil. The BMPs focused on better containment of used oil collection tanks, better surveillance and security, two tanks at each location and testing for contamination of each tank before pumping for recycling.

The Utility purchased five 20-foot cargo containers that are containment buildings for the two-tank system. The first unit was put in place in Pe Ell in 2015. Onalaska received its cargo container in the summer of 2015. Packwood's cargo container was installed at the end of 2016. ELCTS has been using a two-tank system since before 2015.

CTS received a new cargo container to hold two used oil collection tanks, and one spent antifreeze collection tank. Each tank is locked when it is full. A full tank is tested for hazardous material contamination prior to being pumped for recycling.

In 2020 the Utility removed used oil collection containers at remote locations due to monitoring and illegal dumping issues. Oil/antifreeze is now accepted at CTS during HHW hours only, at ELCTS during operation hours, and at satellite collection events.

#### 6.5.1.5. Eliminate Hazardous Pesticides

Hazardous pesticides are one of the major contributors to poor health in the home, and they do damage to the environment. Educating homeowners, school officials and business owners on the use of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program will help reduce or voluntarily eliminate the use of pesticides in homes, schools, and businesses in the community. This program aims to do the following:

- Educate and encourage the public to purchase only the amount of paint products that are needed to complete their projects.
- Encourage the public to not stockpile fluorescent lights and save up used oil. Recycle these items as soon as possible.
- Encourage the immediate turn in of remaining HHW from homes, schools, and businesses to the Hazo Hut.

#### 6.5.1.6. Promote Green Cleaning Products

Cleaners containing hazardous products are a major cause of poor indoor air quality, which can lead to breathing problems in young children and elderly adults. This program strives to complete the following:

- Educate homeowners, school officials, and business owners on the use of non-toxic, or green cleaners.
- Eliminate the use of cleaners containing hazardous products in homes, schools, and businesses.
- Encourage the immediate turn in of remaining supplies of cleaners containing hazardous products from homes, schools, and businesses to the Hazo Hut.

#### 6.5.1.7. Eliminate the Surplus Storage of Leftover Paint in Homes and Businesses

To accomplish this goal, Utility staff plan to do the following:

- Inform residents and businesses that paint has a shelf life and becomes unusable when it is left in storage for too many years.
- Encourage residents and businesses to buy only the paint needed to do a project and to use it all for that project eliminating leftover paint.
- Inform qualifying businesses that Hazo Hut can manage certain types of their leftover paint, in some cases for free.

#### 6.5.1.8. Educate Residents on PaintCare

The Utility staff will help educate residents and businesses on the PaintCare program or the process of solidification for disposal.

#### 6.5.1.9. Recycle of Lights Containing Mercury

The Utility staff will help implement the state law for the recycling of lights containing mercury by participating as a collector at both the Hazo Hut at CTS and the ELCTS. The Utility staff will also inform residents, schools, and businesses that fluorescent lights contain mercury. These lights need to be recycled and not thrown in the garbage.

### 6.5.2. Programs Goals

MRW program goals are discussed below.

#### 6.5.2.1. Used Oil Collection Program

Provide free used oil collection to residents (5 gallons per visit) at CTS when Hazo Hut is open and ELCTS.

Continue educating the public and small businesses on the BMPs pertaining to used motor oil, as follows:

- Do not mix anything into the used oil. If you do, it is not used oil anymore, and it may even be dangerous waste.
- Respond to spills by stopping, containing and cleaning up the spill. Inspect your oil container often.

Collect 10,000 gallons of used oil from residential customers annually.

#### 6.5.2.2. Spent Antifreeze Collection Program

Provide free spent antifreeze collection to residential customers at Hazo Hut during its regular operating house at CTS and ELCTS.

Collect 2,100 gallons of spent antifreeze from residential customers annually.

#### 6.5.2.3. HHW Collection Program

Serve as many residential customers as possible per year at the Hazo Hut, the ELCTS and rural collection events. Collect approximately 200,000 pounds of HHW annually.

Collect approximately 30,000 linear feet of fluorescent lamps and 1,500 compact fluorescent lamps from residential customers annually. This goal equates to 4,500 pounds of fluorescent lights.

#### 6.5.2.4. Household Hazardous Waste Awareness Program

Inform approximately 10,000 residents each year on the HHW collection program and BMPs for waste disposal.

Educate approximately 50 residents each year on green cleaners and the IPM program.

#### 6.5.2.5. Small Quantity Generator Collection Program

Serve 100 plus businesses each year.

Collect approximately 30,000 linear feet of fluorescent lamps from businesses and schools annually. This goal equates to 5,000 pounds of fluorescent lights.

#### 6.5.2.6. Small Quantity Generator Education Program

Update the business data base for Lewis County. Identify businesses that qualify as SQG.

Make a presentation on the SQG collection program to 10 businesses each year.

#### 6.5.2.7. Electronics Recycling Program

Continue collecting TVs, monitors, laptops and towers from residents and businesses at the CTS, the ELCTS, and satellite events for a fee for disposal and recycling.

Customers will be given the option of taking their qualified electronics to an E-Cycle Washington location, where they can dispose of the materials for free.

Consider working with E-Cycle Washington to take the amount collected at the transfer stations.

#### 6.5.2.8. Medicine Take Back Program

The Washington Secure Drug Take-Back Act was signed into law on March 22, 2018. The MED-Project, administered by the Washington State Department of Health, launched in November of 2021. It provides safe, free, convenient, and environmentally responsible take back of household medicine prescribed to people and pets. It is not designed for business-generated medication.

The program allows residential customers to drop off medicine for free at secure kiosks located at medical offices, some law enforcement agencies, pharmacies throughout the state, request a prepaid mailer in which to send the medicine, or drop-off the medicine at the take-back event.

MED-Project has a searchable database, located at the following website: https://med-project.org/locations/washington/find-a-location/, where residents can type in their ZIP Code and find the nearest kiosk location. The program also takes over-the-counter medication, but cannot accept the following: vitamins, minerals and supplements; homeopathic and herbal-based remedies; cosmetics, shampoo, toothpaste and sunscreen; empty injectors, empty inhalers, and medical devices that do not contain medication; livestock medication; pet pesticide products; or illicit or illegal drugs.

The mailing option gives customers three mailer types: medicine mail-back envelopes, inhaler mail-back envelopes, and injector mail-back envelopes. Customers can request mailers online at https://med-project.org/locations/washington/mail-back-services/ or call toll-free 844-633-7765 to make a request.

Take-back events are scheduled periodically across Washinton State. To find the most current list of events, residents can check the following website: https://med-project.org/locations/washington/take-back-events/. See Section 6.6.2 for take-back locations.

#### 6.5.2.9. Agricultural Pesticide Disposal Program

The Hazo Hut will not collect restricted use agricultural pesticides or commercial grade pesticides.

Users of these materials will be directed to contact the WSDA Pesticide Disposal Program. This program holds occasional free collection events for these materials. More information is available by contacting the WSDA:

By Phone: Call toll free 1-877-301-4555, select option 1, then option 5 or dial 360-902-2056

By Mail: WSDA PESTICIDE DISPOSAL PROGRAM
PO BOX 42589
OLYMPIA WA 98504

By email: WastePesticide@agr.wa.gov

## 6.6. ALTERNATIVES

Existing service gaps and other issues connected to MRW are discussed below.

### 6.6.1. Hazo Hut Operations

Continue existing operations at Hazo Hut and periodic collection events in outlying areas, as well as associated educational efforts. Monitor the need to hold special collection events more frequently or at different locations, as funding allows, and the need arises.

### 6.6.2. Hazo Hut Funding

Annually transfer money from the hazardous waste program budget to the Utility's capital reserve in Fund 415 to be used for the following capital expenses: replacement of the Hazo Hut skin or the construction of a new Hazo Hut facility; construction of storage buildings for lights and electronics; replacement of major equipment including trucks, trailers, and forklifts.

### 6.6.3. State Initiatives

The Utility should keep informed of research and initiatives at the state level and review them for potential application in Lewis County. In particular, continue to investigate alternatives and options for pushing back the management of hazardous waste to the manufacturers and retailers of products containing hazardous materials. The Utility should continue to promote the use of alternative products (green products) to those containing hazardous materials. Inform the public on the proper disposal method of products containing hazardous materials.

### 6.6.4. South Lewis County Development

As economic development is pursued in South Lewis County, monitor the types of businesses and industry coming into Lewis County and work with these companies to identify, reduce, and properly manage hazardous waste.

## 6.7. RECOMMENDATIONS

Continue existing operations and education programs at Hazo Hut.

Annually transfer money from the hazardous waste program budget to be saved for capital expenses.

Keep informed of research and initiatives at the state level.

Monitor development in South Lewis County.

# 7. ORGANICS

This chapter discusses existing programs, identifies relevant planning issues, and develops and evaluates alternative strategies for organic materials, including yard debris and food waste.

## 7.1. BACKGROUND

One of the five key initiatives of Ecology's Beyond Waste Plan is maximizing effectiveness of recycling and organic processing systems. This initiative focuses on organic materials such as landscaping and yard waste, food waste, manures, crop residues, soiled or low-grade paper, and biosolids.

The 2020–2021 Waste Characterization Study found that organics was the most prevalent item thrown away across Washington state, making up 23 percent of the waste, or 1.2 million tons of the 5.28 million tons of debris sampled. The material types within organics include food waste, yard and garden trimmings, manure, and animal carcasses. In previous iterations of Lewis County's CSHWMP, organics management was incorporated into the waste reduction and recycling chapter. During this update, however, the material class was broken into its own chapter, because of the portion of organics in the waste stream and recent regulatory developments on this topic.

### 7.1.1. State Legislation and Regulations

Beginning in 1989, ESHB 1671 declared that waste reduction and recycling must become a fundamental strategy of solid waste management. To that end, RCW 70A.205 includes a statement encouraging yard debris to be eliminated from landfills by 2012 in those areas where alternatives exist. RCW 70A.205.045 also requires that collection programs for yard debris be addressed in areas where there are adequate markets or capacity for composted yard debris within or near the service area.

The 2022 Organics Management Law, HB 1799, was passed by the Washington Legislature. The law will help the state meet its goal of reducing organic disposal in landfills by 75 percent by 2030, compared to 2015 Washington State Waste Characterization Study that found 1.3 million tons of organics in the waste stream. The law also sets forth a goal of reducing edible food waste going to landfills by 20 percent by 2025, compared to the 2015 waste study that estimated 278,572 tons of edible food being thrown away. These goals, and future programs set for in the new law, help Lewis County, and the state, mitigate potential impacts of climate change.

The updated Beyond Waste Plan details several goals that focus on reducing the amount of organic material buried in landfills. The goals focus on organic materials such as yard waste, food waste, manures, crop residues, wood, and bio-solids.

#### 7.1.1.1. Washington State Department of Agriculture Apple Maggot Quarantine

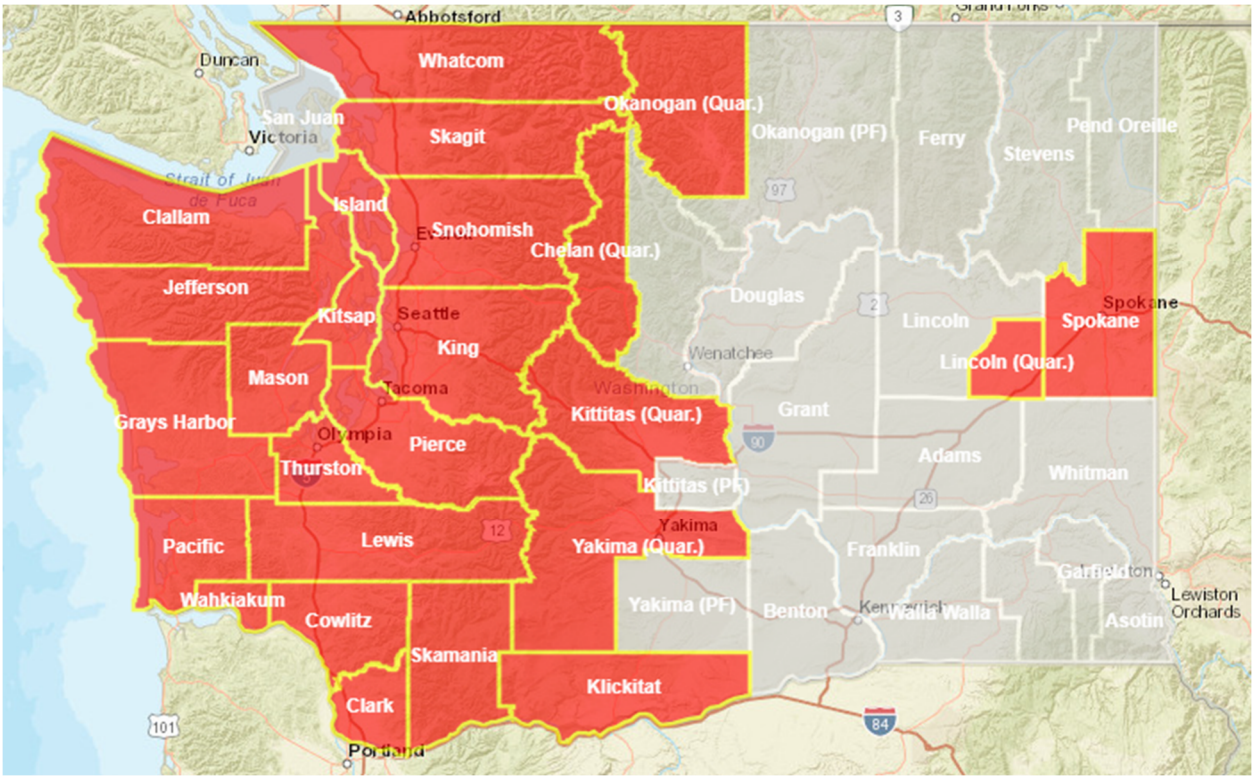
The WSDA implemented emergency rules under their Pest Program that specifies methods to prevent the introduction, escape or spread of apple maggots beyond the quarantine area. The emergency rules prohibit the transportation of collected organics from quarantined areas to non-quarantined areas.

In 2016, the WSDA amended WAC 16-470 Quarantine – Agricultural Pests as follows:

1. Adding MSW, yard debris, organic feedstocks, organic materials, and agricultural wastes to the list of commodities regulated under the apple maggot quarantine.
2. Establishing a special permit to allow transportation and disposition of MSW from the areas under quarantine for disposal at a solid waste landfill or disposal facility in the apple maggot and plum curculio pest-free area.
3. Establishing a special permit to allow transportation and disposition of yard debris, organic feedstocks, organic materials, and agricultural wastes from the area under quarantine for disposal at a solid waste landfill or treatment at a composting facility in the apple maggot and plum curculio pest-free area.
4. As of July 2020, certain soils and growing mediums are regulated as part of the apple maggot quarantine.

Lewis County is designated as a quarantined area by the WSDA and can accept solid waste from quarantined and non-quarantined areas. In the future, if Lewis County needs to transport their compost elsewhere for disposal, it must remain within the quarantined zone.

**Figure 7-1. Apple Maggot Quarantine by County, Washington State 2016**




Source: WSDA Apple Maggot Quarantine Address Locator.

The red zones on the map are within the Apple Maggot Quarantine area. Gray zones are not within an Apple Maggot Quarantine area.

#### 7.1.1.2. Use Food Well Washington

In 2019, Washington Legislature passed ESHB 1114 (now codified as RCW 70A.205.715), the Use Food Well Plan, establishing a series of waste reducing goals for landfills. A revised version of the Use Food Well Washington Plan was published in February 2022. The plan provides a roadmap to create a more resilient food system with the goal of reducing food waste by 50 percent and reusing at least half of all edible food waste by 2030.

The plan provided thirty actionable recommendations identified through subject matter experts and agencies, emphasizing data-driven decisions. These recommendations are a mix of federal and state policy changes, increased program funding, and investments in public education, food management systems, and recovery infrastructure. Any local government programs started under this plan that collect food waste, yard waste, or source separated are eligible for funding through the Waste Reduction, Recycling, and Litter Control Account used to carry out ESHB 1114.

#### 7.1.1.3. Organics Management Law

In 2022, Washington's Legislature passed HB 1799 requiring diversion of organic materials away from landfills and towards food rescue programs and organics management facilities. The legislation calls for a reduction in the amount of organic materials disposed of in landfills, an increase in demand for processed organic materials like compost, and an increase in edible food recovery efforts. By 2030, Washington aims to reduce the amount of organic materials in landfills by 75 percent in comparison to 2015, with no less than 20 percent of all edible food recovered for use by 2025.

Starting January 1, 2027, each jurisdiction that implements a SWMP will need to provide source-separated organic solid waste collection services at a minimum of every other week basis to all residents and to all nonresidential customers who produce more than 0.25 cubic yards per week. In Lewis County, LeMay currently offers curbside organics pickup in from their western border at Pe Ell to Morton. To comply with HB 1799, Lewis County will need to expand curbside organics collection countywide.

HB 1799 required cities and counties which provide curbside collection of organic materials or who have a population greater than 25,000 to adopt compost procurement ordinances by January 1, 2023. Lewis County Commissioners adopted a compost procurement ordinance to inform the public of the benefits of composting, and future plans to use compost in projects. This law was passed to support the Washington Legislature's 2021 Climate Commitment Act to reduce the state's carbon output. To comply with HB 1799 compost procurement ordinances, Lewis County started submitting reports in 2024 to Ecology on its compost use.

Comprehensive SWMPs must consider and plan for the following handling methods and services:

- Source separation of recycling and organic materials.
- Collection of source-separated materials.
- Handling and proper preparation of materials for reuse or recycling.
- Handling and proper preparation of organic materials.
- Handling and proper disposal of non-recyclable wastes.

Additionally, SWMPs must address C&D waste for recycling, organic materials, recoverable paper products, metals, glass, plastics, and waste reduction strategies (refer to Chapter 4 and Chapter 5). The plan must identify priority areas within the county for the establishment of organic materials management facilities. Lewis County is currently working with the developer of the Meridian Hill Compost Facility to accommodate proper disposal of organic materials (Section 7.2.5).

in 2024, a second Organics Management Law, HB 2301 passed. These laws support the Washington Legislature's 2021 Climate Commitment Act, which sets carbon emission limits and requires the state to reduce its carbon output 45% by 2030, 70% by 2040, and 95% by 2050.

Additional information on the Organics Management Law can be found via the following link: 2024 Organics Management Laws (wa.gov)

At CTS and ELCTS, source separated recycling is offered freely and customers must sort their recyclables into bins for cardboard, metal, glass, and paper. The transfer stations also offer separate yard waste disposal where customers can dispose of yard waste and wood debris for composting.

Ecology determined which counties and cities preparing SWMPs need to be serviced by organic materials and collection providers for food and organic waste to be disposed of at solid waste collection facilities. Lewis County is not included in this category as of mid-2025. Businesses in these counties and cities need to comply with HB 1799 organic material collection if they fall under the following categories:

- By 2024, more than 8 cubic yards of organic waste is produced per week.
- By 2025, more than 4 cubic yards of organic waste is produced per week.
- By 2026, more than 4 cubic yards of solid waste is produced per week. However, the Department of Ecology may determine that additional reductions in organic materials in landfills can be more readily achieved at different volumetric amounts.

Any organic material that is produced and managed onsite, managed off-site for the growth of fiber or food, organic waste being sold and donated off-site, and waste created by natural disasters is exempt from the volume total of cubic waste.

## 7.2. EXISTING PROGRAM ELEMENTS

The sections below describe existing collection and processing activities for organic materials.

### 7.2.1. Organics Collection

Lewis County residents and businesses have opportunities to drop off organic waste for composting or processing for composting, or have this material picked up at their home or office, depending on where they are located in the county.

Residents in the Centralia, Chehalis, Napavine, Toledo, Winlock, Pe Ell, Morton, Vader, and Mossyrock areas as well as the unincorporated areas from Pe Ell to Morton are eligible for curbside organics collection services offered by LeMay at this time. This is a subscription service that is added to monthly garbage bills. Once signed up, LeMay delivers 95-gallon, wheeled

containers in which customers can place yard waste and food waste for composting. The only prohibited organics items are noxious weeds, such as Scotch Broom, blackberry vines, tansy ragwort, and English ivy. The contents of the containers are picked up every two weeks and hauled to Silver Springs Organics for composting. Lewis County staff periodically conduct outreach to customers to educate them on the availability of curbside organics collection through informational post cards. MRC volunteers inform community members about collection opportunities through tabling at community events. LeMay has started outreach to customers to increase participation in organics curbside collection in response to HB 1799.

At the end of 2024, LeMay had 1,481 customers on its organics collection route. This program collected 1,047 tons of organics that were hauled to Silver Springs Organics in the Rainier, WA area to be composted.

Lewis County offers the public a reduced price from the regular MSW fee of $120 per ton for dropping off organic material at its transfer stations. In Centralia, customers have two options for dropping off organics. Loads that contain only grass clippings, leaves, and other non-chippable organics can be deposited in a 40-yard container in the recycling area for the reduced fee of $100.00 per ton. This option has a $15.00 minimum fee for 300 pounds or less. The other option is for tree limbs, branches, and other chippable wood debris. This material can be dropped off in a central pile for the same reduced price and minimum fee. At ELCTS, customers only have the option to drop off comingled organics in a 40-yard container. The fee at ELCTS is same as the CTS for organics. There is not room at the ELCTS property to separate yard waste and chippable debris.

Material collected in the grass clippings and leaves box in Centralia, and organics collected at ELCTS, are hauled to Silver Springs Organics in the Rainier area for composting. Similar to the curbside program, noxious weeds are prohibited from being disposed of in these containers. In 2024, transfer station programs collected 199 tons of yard waste that was hauled away for composting.

Chippable wood debris in Centralia is collected and twice a year a contractor processes the material. The material is loaded into a tub grinder for chipping, then loaded into a trailer. The contractor hauls chips to the city of Centralia's biosolids composting site at the wastewater treatment plant. The wood chips are used as the carbon medium in the composting process. Any extra chips are offered to the public for use in their own backyard home composting projects, as mulch in landscaping, or as cover for trails. In 2024, the amount of wood debris chipped was 1,295 tons.

### 7.2.2. Special Organics Collection Programs

In addition to the ongoing organics programs at the transfer stations, and organics curbside collections programs, special yard waste collection events and chipping programs are offered to the public thanks to LSWFA grants from Ecology. In 2024, Lewis County partnered with the city of Centralia and LeMay to offer a curbside leaf collection program; the city of Vader to offer a "Chips for Trails" Event in which residents could bring loads of branches and other wood debris that was chipped and spread on trails at a community park; the town of Pe Ell to plan special yard waste collection events; and the WSU Lewis County MRC volunteers organized two leaf exchange programs and a Christmas tree collection and chipping program. These programs diverted 64 tons of organic material from the landfill to be composted or used as mulch.

**Table 7-1. Special Organics Collection Programs**

| Program | Partners | 2024 Tonnage |
|---|---|---|
| Chips for Trails | SWU, Ecology, city of Vader, Vader Lions Club | 6.5 |
| Yard Waste Drop Off | SWU, Town of Pe Ell, Ecology, Silver Springs Organics | 29.27 |
| Leaf Exchange Program | SWU, WSU Lewis County Master Recycler Composter Volunteers, Ecology | 8.4 |
| Leaf Pickup | SWU, city of Centralia, LeMay, Ecology | 50.0 |
| Christmas Tree Recycling | SWU, WSU Lewis County Master Recycler Composter and Gardener Volunteers, Pacific Mobile, city of Centralia | 5.16 |

### 7.2.3. Lewis County Master Recycler Composter

This program is a partnership between the Utility, and the WSU Extension Office. The MRC volunteers work with the Utility to offer hands on composting classes to the public. As an incentive to put their recently gained knowledge to work immediately, workshop participants receive a simple compost bin along with a booklet on composting.

The MRCs offer additional classes on vermicomposting (or composting with worms), basic composting, hügelkultur building and soil testing, which all go hand in hand with composting. Hügelkultur is a type of raised bed technique where one uses wood debris and other organics in a mounded raised bed, and plants directly in the bed. As the organic material breaks down, or composts, it gives the plants nutrients. It also retains water and reduces the need for extended water in the summer months. The soil testing class assists with understanding what nutrients are deficient in the soil. Once residents identify the characteristics of their soil, they can amend it with compost and improve it to appropriate balances for growing their desired plants or crops. The volunteers have two compost and hügelkultur demonstration sites located throughout the county, so citizens can see first-hand the techniques the MRCs are teaching. The volunteers are planning future demonstration sites as their program grows.

### 7.2.4. Stan Hedwall Park Yard Waste Drop-Off

Citizens living within the city limits of Chehalis have another yard waste drop-off options available at Stan Hedwall Park on a seasonal basis. Once they prove their residency by showing city staff their driver's license or identification card, they may purchase a permit that allows them to drop off yard waste at the organics site on designated days. This material is hauled to Silver Springs Organics for composting. In 2024, this program collected 68.84 tons.

### 7.2.5. Developments in Organics

Meridian Hill Compost Facility at TransAlta is a new composting facility in the planning stages off Big Hanaford Road in Centralia. Meridian Hill Compost Inc. (Meridian Hill), a division of Waste Connections, is planning the organics composting site in two phases with each stage capable of processing up to 90,000 tons of food and yard waste into compost. It will be a covered area static pile composting facility. Once completed, it will provide between 20 and 25 jobs.

The composting facility will be constructed in two phases. The first phase of construction consists of a stage 1 and 2 composting facility to include: a 70,000 square feet (sf) stage 1 building, stage

2 paving, a 2,000-sf office building, remodel of 8,000-sf shop, and other site improvements such as parking, access, and stormwater controls. The second phase is to construct an additional 55,000-sf stage 1 composting structure. Each stage will be capable of composting up to 90,000 tons per year for a total capacity of approximately 180,000 tons per year.

The facility will accept material from curbside organic programs in Lewis and south Thurston Counties, as well as containers from community drop-off and event programs. The material will be hauled in by large trucks. There will be no public access to the site. Since the facility will not be open to the general public, facility managers will work with local municipalities to create yard waste drop box access. Tipping fees at local composting facilities vary, but land clearing debris fees start at $70 per ton, food waste fees are usually $110 per ton, and yard waste fees are between $70-$110.

Meridian Hill will be a composting facility for yard and food waste, only. No compostable packaging, textiles, or bio-solids will be accepted.

Lewis County Community Development received a request from Sitts & Hill Engineers, Inc. on behalf of Meridian Hill to allow composting facilities in RAI zones. Lewis County recognizes that composting facilities are consistent with other types of industrial activities permitted in Rural Area Industrial (RAI) and Small-Town Industrial (STI) zones. In addition, proposed state legislation may soon require local jurisdictions to allow more alternatives to reduce the amount of recyclable waste in landfills.

The proposed code changes would increase the opportunities for new composting facilities that create a product used for commercial sales. Currently, these types of facilities are only permitted in Rural Development District -5, -10 and -20 with a Special Use Permit. Composting facilities are also allowed in Agricultural Resources Lands when associate with agricultural production. The proposed changes would permit compost facilities in RAI and STI Zones as well as define what composting facilities are and establish standards to limit nuisances to the public. Composting facilities will still be required to meet other applicable local and state codes for solid waste.

The facility is acquiring final permits and construction is expected to continue through 2026. The facility was expected to begin operating during mid to late 2024, but Meridian Hill experienced a delay between ordering equipment and having it delivered.

When operational, this facility will meet the Lewis County annual organic materials management capacity needed to reduce organics disposed by 75% by 2030 relative to 2015 of 13,241 tons per year to meet the Organics Management Law requirements.

## 7.3. STATUS OF PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS

Status of recommendations made by the 2008 Plan are presented in Appendix C.

## 7.4. ALTERNATIVES AND EVALUATIONS

This section describes alternatives considered for implementation by Lewis County.

Increasing the amount of organic waste composted is a key goal in the Beyond Waste Plan. Yard waste and food waste make up about 40 percent of the material going into the state's landfills.

### 7.4.1. Yard Waste Burning Education

Bans prohibiting open burning in incorporated areas and UGAs of Lewis County (see Section 1) have reduced the use of burning to manage yard waste (the ban does not apply to unincorporated Lewis County). The cities and Lewis County must continue to work together to educate the public about alternatives to burning, such as composting, grass cycling (leaving grass clippings on your lawn when mowing) and building hügelkultur raised beds with wood debris and other yard waste material.

### 7.4.2. Food Waste Prevention Workshops

Utility staff and MRC volunteers offer workshops at least twice a year on preventing food waste before it even happens. These waste prevention workshops give consumers tools and tips on shopping smart by looking through their cupboards, freezers and refrigerators when making out their shopping lists, so they can determine what they already have on hand and what they need to purchase. The classes also teach how to consider packaging when shopping, advising consumers to buy in bulk when possible or buy the items with the least amount of packaging.

Examples include purchasing apples from the produce section instead of individually prepared plastic cups of applesauce. Two other components of the class are to prep the foods immediately when they get home, and to store their leftovers so they can be easily identified in the refrigerator and eaten before they spoil. MRC volunteers have developed handouts to educate community members on food waste prevention.

### 7.4.3. Expand Curbside Organics Collection Programs

Expanding existing private curbside collection programs to the entirety of Lewis County will help direct organic materials from the landfill, towards collection facilities. This effort would involve supporting existing efforts by private haulers and businesses to collect organics and requiring additional services. Along with expanding curbside collection, residents who are new to the program should be informed on the importance of source-separation and composting, and materials that cannot be composted, such as noxious weeds.

### 7.4.4. Incentivize Participation in Curbside Organics Collection Programs

To increase the number of households participating in organics curbside collection, incentives could be provided for residents to sign up for the program. Implementing this option would involve raising awareness about the service through traditional media, such as radio or newspaper advertisements, community education booths, especially the annual Home & Garden Show, social media, bill inserts and flyers. Depending on how participation grows, additional measures could be considered in the future, such as new policies or ordinances. Incentives could include disposal discounts compared to solid waste fees and free home compost bins.

### 7.4.5. MRC Backyard Composting Program

Backyard composting is currently promoted through the WSU Lewis County MRC Volunteers program, which trains volunteers, maintains demonstration sites, and distributes educational materials. MRC was built upon existing efforts to increase the number of households managing their yard waste through backyard composting. This effort would involve the following:

- Increasing education efforts through backyard composting workshops and related classes.
- Providing free compost bins at educational workshops.
- Promoting current programs as well as new workshops through traditional media, social media, flyers, newspapers, or utility bill inserts.

Program volunteers pledge to give back 25 hours of annual service as well as 5 hours of annual educational training. Volunteers spread awareness surrounding recycling, composting, and reducing waste in Lewis County and promote source separation of organic materials. MRC currently has a series of Lunchtime Learning videos available to the public, giving free lessons on how to start backyard composting.

### 7.4.6. Local Business Awareness

By July 1 each year Ecology is required, under RCW 70A.205.545, to determine and post on its website, areas in Washington where businesses must arrange organics management services to reduce their organic material waste. These Business Organics Management Area or BOMA determinations are valid for the following calendar year beginning January 1.

A BOMA represents those parts of the state where we have determined both qualifying conditions exist:

- Businesses have access to year-round curbside food waste and organic materials collection, and these materials are delivered to an organics management facility such as a compost facility or anaerobic digester for processing.
- Capacity exists at these facilities to accept increased volumes of organic materials from businesses.

Businesses can also request an exclusion from these requirements. Additional information on the BOMA requirements can be found at:

https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/organics-and-food-waste/2022-organics-management-law/organics-management-for-businesses

Development of local outreach programs on source separated material and the benefits of organics material collection could be beneficial in directing businesses towards the requirements of HB 1799 for 2025 – 2026. Over the course of three years, the requirements for organics collection services fall as described in Section 7.1.1.3 above from 8 cubic yards of organic material generated to 4 cubic yards generated per week. Educating through outreach to restaurants, schools, hospitals, grocery stores, and food-processing operations informs locals in Lewis County of the importance of source separation and spreads awareness on the upcoming restrictions on organic waste in landfills.

### 7.4.7. Food Donation

As described in the Use Food Well Washington Plan and HB 1799, local governments need to increase their ability to transport, store, and process nutritious edible food to meet the 50 percent reduction goal by 2030, and the 20 percent reduction goal by 2025. To help reduce food waste, Lewis County should help develop cross-sector partnerships within the food system to ensure that edible food generated from schools, hospitals, and other businesses, is delivered to hunger relief organizations instead of waste collection facilities. For example, Lewis County could help schools set up food donation tables to reduce waste of edible foods.

### 7.4.8. Anaerobic Digesters

Encourage use of anaerobic digesters at compost facilities and farms. Anaerobic digesters can be integrated into existing composting systems, using biogas to fuel both processes. Lewis County should research the use of anaerobic digesters and follow the development of state grants and loan programs to support the use of anaerobic digesters and educate community members on its ability to produce energy and recover fiber and nutrients.

The nearest anaerobic digester is currently in Cowlitz County. Lewis County should research the cost of taking organic material from their transfer stations to Cowlitz County to determine feasibility. Lewis County should continue observing the market in case a closer anaerobic digestion becomes operational.

### 7.4.9. Organic Data

Increase data efforts to track the flow of organic materials. Conduct waste characterization studies when possible. Follow state tracking efforts and contribute to statewide data efforts. Collecting data will result in data-driven decisions on methods best suited to reduce organic materials in landfills. According to HB 1799, Lewis County will need to collect data on compost procurement and will need to submit a report on compost procurement efforts to Ecology annually starting in 2025 regarding 2024 compost purchases and use in county projects.

## 7.5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are being made for managing organics:

7-1 Educate the public about alternatives to burning yard waste.

7-2 Continue the food waste prevention workshops.

7-3 Expand curbside organics collection programs countywide.

7-4 Incentivize household participation in curbside organics collection programs.

7-5 Continue to expand backyard composting programs.

7-6 Increase organics collection and awareness from local businesses.

7-7 Improve food donation transportation.

7-8 Improve organics data and tracking efforts.

# 8. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

This chapter addresses the administrative and enforcement activities related to refuse, recycling, composting, and MRW.

## 8.1. BACKGROUND

Lewis County, the cities, towns and multiple other organizations and agencies are responsible for providing enforcement of federal, state, and local laws and regulations that guide the planning, operation, and maintenance of the region's solid waste management system. These local enforcement authorities ensure that the Lewis County system meets applicable standards for the protection of human health and environmental quality in the region.

## 8.2. EXISTING CONDITIONS

Administrative responsibility for solid waste handling systems in Lewis County is currently divided among multiple agencies and jurisdictions in local, county, and state government. Organizations involved in the Lewis County solid waste management system are described below.

### 8.2.1. Lewis County Solid Waste Utility

RCW 36.58 authorizes Lewis County to develop, own, and operate solid waste handling facilities in unincorporated areas, or to accomplish these activities by contracting with private firms. Lewis County exercises its solid waste responsibilities and authorities as part of the Department of Public Works. The specific administrative functions performed by the Utility include the following:

- Maintaining Lewis County Solid Waste Ordinance (No. 1046) relating to public health, safety, and sanitation and providing regulations to govern the storage, collection, transfer, transportation, processing, use and final disposal of solid waste by persons in Lewis County;
- Administering the waste export system;
- Administering, staffing, and operating CTS, and ELCTS;
- Administering contracts;
- Developing and implementing the CSHWMP, including the MRW chapter;
- Formulating ILAs, ordinances, and regulations related to the CSHWMP, including the MRW chapter; and
- Providing staff support for the SWAC.

Lewis County regulates tipping fees, hours of operation, facility access, and waste acceptance policies at its facilities. Lewis County also has the authority and responsibility to prepare CSHWMPs for unincorporated areas and for jurisdictions that agree to participate with Lewis County in the planning process. Although Lewis County may contract for collection of recyclable solid waste generated in unincorporated areas, its authority to provide for contract for garbage collection is limited.

The Director of Public Works, Solid Waste Manager, and the BOCC oversee solid waste staff functions. The Utility staff oversees daily operations and programs relating to solid waste activities.

### 8.2.2. Lewis County Solid Waste Advisory Committee

As required by RCW 70A.205.110, the Lewis County BOCC has appointed SWAC to help develop solid waste handling programs and policies. According to the bylaws, the Lewis County SWAC is to perform the following functions:

- Advise Lewis County on aspects of solid waste management planning, including development of the CSHWMP;
- Assist Lewis County in developing programs and policies on solid waste management;
- Review and comment on proposed solid waste management rules, policies, or ordinances before their adoption; and
- Advise Lewis County on other solid waste matters as assigned by the BOCC.

Each SWAC member has one vote, representing, when possible, a balance of interests among citizens, public interest groups, business, the waste management industry, and local government.

### 8.2.3. Incorporated Cities

The cities of Centralia, Chehalis, Morton, Napavine, and Vader contract with a private company for their solid waste collection services within their jurisdictions, as authorized by RCW 35.21.152. Other cities, Mossyrock, Winlock, Toledo, and Pe Ell provide refuse collection through WUTC.

By signing the Intergovernmental Agreement for Integrated Solid Waste Management, the nine cities in Lewis County have agreed to participate in the Lewis County CSHWMP (renewed Resolution Number 07-097, March 26, 2007, provided in Appendix A). Some cities also participate in the SWAC, the CLCG, and the LCSWDD.

### 8.2.4. Lewis County Environmental Health Department, Solid Waste/Hazardous Program

Environmental Health enforces state and county solid waste management laws and ordinances within Lewis County, including solid waste facility inspection and permitting, solid waste-related complaints, and illegal dumping enforcement. Environmental Health also devotes a portion of a staff member's time to hulk vehicle enforcement; issue permits for solid waste disposal sites and facilities; and use the CSHWMP to ensure projects are consistent with Lewis County policies.

Environmental Health works with the public, cities, Lewis County agencies, and Washington State agencies to develop and implement plans for the safe storage, collection, transportation, and final disposal of solid waste. Environmental Health works to assure compliance with RCW 70A.205 and WAC 173-304 – MFS for Solid Waste Facilities. Environmental Health is responsible for the following:

- Permitting solid waste facilities operating in Lewis County.

- Confirm permits are consistent with the Plan, local ordinances and appropriate Washington State and Federal regulations.
- Oversight of existing permitted facilities.
- Responding to complaints or code violations regarding improper storage and disposal of solid waste.
- Investigating illegal dumping and non-permitted dump sites on private property.

Solid waste facility permits are required in accordance with WAC 173-303, 173-350, and 173-351. Facilities are required to obtain solid waste handling permits from Environmental Health.

For this planning document, a SEPA checklist has been completed and is included as Appendix B.

Applicants applying for new solid waste permits within Lewis County will notify Environmental Health. The applicant will submit a permit application and a SEPA checklist to Environmental Health which forwards such applications to the Utility.

The Utility will request a SWAC meeting for the purpose of reviewing the permit application for conformance to this Plan. SWAC will review the documents and will return its findings to Environmental Health who will consider and include those findings in its final decision.

Environmental Health will forward such findings and comments along with the SEPA checklist and permit application, on to the Lewis County Public Health & Social Services Department. Final approval or disapproval of the permit application shall rest with Lewis County Public Health & Social Services Department, which shall issue its approval/disapproval of the application within 90 days after its receipt pursuant to RCW 70A.205.125.

### 8.2.5. Centralia Landfill Closure Group

The CLCG was created, by an ILA among Lewis County and the cities of Centralia, Chehalis, Morton, Mossyrock, Pe Ell, and Vader to oversee remediation and closure of the Centralia Landfill. The CLCG continues to work with Ecology to monitor landfill gas, surface water, and groundwater and to maintain the landfill's cover system. The CLCG has worked together since 1990, meeting periodically to address technical and legal issues related to landfill remediation and closure. The landfill was closed in April 1994 and separate consent decrees for cleanup were issued in 1994 and 2001 under the terms of MTCA (Chapter 70. 105D RCW). The CLCG has completed the remedial investigation and feasibility study and has negotiated the final Closure Action Plan.

### 8.2.6. Lewis County Disposal District

As provided by RCW 36.58.100–150, the LCSWDD was founded in 1993 to provide for solid waste disposal, including solid waste transfer, operations, and landfill closure. The LCSWDD, however, may not engage in garbage collection, although it may impose an excise tax to fund solid waste disposal activities, may issue revenue bonds to fund any of its activities, and may issue general obligation bonds to fund capital projects.

The LCSWDD performs the following functions:

- Contract for solid waste long-haul transportation and disposal services;
- Raise funds for post-closure care of Centralia Landfill upon request of the CLCG; and
- Make decisions on other countywide solid waste disposal issues.

To carry out these responsibilities, the LCSWDD has assumed, or shared, authorities previously held by Lewis County alone. This includes the authority to do the following activities:

- Administer the waste export contract;
- Decide on future disposal options; and
- Develop rate structures capable of meeting the solid waste disposal system's financial requirements.

The BOCC is the LCSWDD's governing body. The BOCC is advised by an Executive Advisory Committee of the LCSWDD; the committee is composed of one elected official from Lewis County and one from each city. On matters related to Centralia Landfill, the LCSWDD is obligated to raise funds, up to specified limits, and make them available upon official request by the governing board of the CLCG.

### 8.2.7. Washington State Department of Ecology

Ecology administers and regulates the planning process for local SWMPs under the authority of the Washington Solid Waste Management Reduction and Recycling Act. Although state law empowers Environmental Health to issue the operating permits for all solid waste handling facilities within Lewis County, Ecology sets minimum design and operational standards for solid waste handling facilities (WAC 173-350) and new or expanded MSW landfills, (WAC 173-351); it also has review authority over Environmental Health permitting decisions. Under MTCA and a Memorandum of Understanding with the EPA, Ecology is also the lead agency for overseeing Centralia Landfill post-closure care and remediation.

### 8.2.8. Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

The WUTC regulates solid waste collection companies by granting "certificates of convenience and necessity" that permit collection companies to operate in specified service areas. It also regulates solid waste collection, under authority of RCW 81.77.030, by the following activities:

- Fixing and altering collection rates, charges, classifications, rules, and regulations;
- Regulating accounts, service, and safety of operations;
- Requiring filing of annual reports and other reports and data;
- Supervising collection companies in all matters affecting their relationship to their customers; and
- Requiring collection companies to use rate structures consistent with state waste management priorities.

WUTC requires certificate holders to provide the minimum levels of solid waste collection and recycling services established by the applicable SWMP. Solid waste companies operating in the unincorporated areas of Lewis County must comply with the SWMP (RCW 81.77.040).

At its option, Lewis County may notify the WUTC of its intention to have the G-certificate holder provide for the collection of recyclable materials from residences in unincorporated areas or go out to bid for these services. Commercial recycling is also regulated by the WUTC, under laws that apply in general to motor freight carriers (RCW 81.80).

This CSHWMP contains a cost assessment prepared according to the Cost Assessment Guidelines for Local Solid Waste Management Planning, Third edition, Revised October 2019. RCW 70A.205.065 grants the WUTC 45 days to review the plan's assessment of solid waste collection cost impacts on rates charged by solid waste collection companies regulated under RCW 81.77 and to advise Lewis County and Ecology of the probable effects of the plan's recommendations on those rates. This assessment involves a review of the entire solid waste plan because cost impacts are derived from factors presented throughout the plan. The completed WUTC Cost Assessment Questionnaire is provided in Appendix L.

### 8.2.9. United State Environmental Protection Agency

At the Federal level, the RCRA of 1976, as amended by the Solid Waste Disposal Act Amendments of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 6901–6987), is the primary body of legislation addressing solid waste. Subtitle D of RCRA deals with nonhazardous solid waste disposal and requires the development of a state comprehensive solid waste management program that outlines the authorities of local, state and regional agencies. Subtitle D requires the state program prohibit "open dumps" and provide that solid waste is handled in an environmentally-sound manner.

### 8.2.10. Local Regulations

Lewis County regulations pertaining to solid waste and MRW management are primarily found in Title 8 of the LCC, and include the following:

- Section 8.05 Abandoned Vehicles
- Section 8.10 Recycling Service Areas
- Section 8.15 Solid Waste Disposal
- Section 8.20 Infectious Waste
- Section 8.30 Litter Control
- Section 8.45 Solid Waste Rules and Regulations

### 8.2.11. Authority to Establish a Solid Waste Management System

As part of its statutory authority to establish a solid waste management system (RCW 36.58.040), Lewis County is also empowered to designate an exclusive list of sites, including transfer stations and drop boxes, for the disposal of solid waste.

Designated disposal sites are or may be the following:

- CTS and ELCTS;
- Sites acquired by Lewis County or the LCSWDD consistent with the CSHWMP;
- Sites owned by parties other than Lewis County and made available by contract with Lewis County or the LCSWDD, consistent with the CSHWMP; and
- Sites owned by parties, other than Lewis County, which have been duly approved by the BOCC, following review by the Public Works Director, the SWAC, and the LCSWDD executive committee.

Through ILAs with cities in Lewis County, the LCSWDD can exercise control over the flow of solid waste generated within the incorporated cities. As required by the ILAs, each city with contracted or municipal collection service directs the waste to a Lewis County-designated disposal site.

## 8.3. ENFORCEMENT

Environmental Health is the principal enforcement authority for solid waste ordinances and permits. To meet the requirements of the MFS for solid waste handling (WAC 173-304), Lewis County adopted a local solid waste ordinance (No. 1046) on August 28, 1975; it was amended by ordinance No. 1046A on May 1, 1980. A separate ordinance (No. 1096) provided enforcement activity in the areas of illegal dumping and litter control. The Lewis County Board of Health Solid Waste Rules and Regulations (LCC Chapter 8.45) encapsulates the previous ordinances and adds tire pile storage requirements. In addition, Environmental Health regulates the construction and operation of applicable solid waste facilities in Lewis County through a permit approval system.

Illegal dumping of solid waste occurs in Lewis County, though the nature and extent of this problem is difficult to quantify or document. Rural areas and large, private properties are the most frequently reported illegal dumping sites. Illegal dumping usually comes to the attention of Lewis County officials through citizen complaints. An Environmental Health enforcement officer investigates reports of illegal dumping, gathers evidence to identify the individual responsible or company, and may serve the violator with a Notice of Violation. If served, the violator may appeal the Notice of Violation to the Hearing Examiner or pay a fine for each day the violation exists past the date set for correction (LCC 2.25.130) in addition to the cost of cleaning up the dump site. The Sheriff may assist Environmental Health in prosecuting illegal dumping cases.

Environmental Health inspection activities include periodic onsite inspections of solid waste facilities, review of operating permits for facilities, and evaluation of environmental monitoring data for existing and closed facilities. Environmental Health currently permits and inspects CTS, ELCTS, and Hazo Hut, the MRW facility at the CTS. Environmental Health also permits one limited purpose industrial waste disposal site.

## 8.4. STATUS OF PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS

The status of the recommendations made by the 2008 Plan can be found in Appendix C.

## 8.5. NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

At this time, the SWAC consists of seven representatives, including citizens, elected officials, and solid waste industry representatives. Representation could be improved by adding another business representative or a representative from the southwest portion of Lewis County, where the growth rate is anticipated to be the highest.

Additionally, Lewis County should prepare to accommodate an increase in refuse, recycling, and organics service needs once large developments are completed. An example of one property is the proposed Raindrop Properties' development that spans Chehalis and Centralia is complete, as it is anticipated to develop around 2,500 new homes.

Any development built in incorporated cities within Lewis County would be required to have its residents subscribe to curbside garbage service. Any residents subscribing to curbside garbage collection also receive curbside recycling services. Developments in the unincorporated areas of Lewis County will have the option for their residents to subscribe to curbside garbage collection. Residents in unincorporated areas who sign up for garbage service will also receive curbside recycling services.

## 8.6. ALTERNATIVES AND EVALUATIONS

Existing service gaps and other issues connected to Administration and Enforcement components of solid waste management are discussed below.

### 8.6.1. Long-Term Funding Needs

Financial resources are necessary to provide for the continuation of recycling and hazardous waste education programs and for complying with new and more stringent rules and regulations governing solid waste management. These resources may be provided by taxes, solid waste tipping fees, grants, or any combination of these sources.

Solid waste funding for recycling, MRW, and educational programs in Lewis County are currently reliant upon LSWFA funds and grant funding. Potential additional funding options (grouped by category) and the associated implementation entity are presented on Table 8-1.

**Table 8-1. Potential Funding Methods for Solid Waste Management**

| Possible Funding Methods | Potential Implementation Entity | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | City | County | State | Private Sector |
| **User Fees, Rates, Surcharges** | | | | |
| 1. Cost-of-Service-Based Rates | X | X | | X |
| 2. Other Volume-Based Rates | X | | | |
| 3. Fixed Per-Customer Service Rates | X | | | X |
| 4. Collection Rate Surcharges | X | | | |
| 5. Planning Fees | | X | | |
| 6. Weight or Volume-Based Disposal Fees | X | X | | X |

| Possible Funding Methods | Potential Implementation Entity | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | City | County | State | Private Sector |
| 7. Fixed Per-Customer Disposal Fees | X | X | | X |
| 8. Disposal Surcharges | X | X | | |
| **Taxes** | | | | |
| 1. MTCA Funds, Hazardous Substance Tax | | (x) | X | |
| 2. State Litter Tax | | (x) | X | |
| 3. Disposal Department Excise Tax | | X | | |
| 4. Mandatory Collection | | X | | |
| 5. Franchise Fees | X | | X | |
| **Other** | | | | |
| 1. Enforcement Fines/Penalties | | X | | |
| 2. Sales of Recyclable Materials | X | X | | X |
| 3. Recycling Fees/Charges | X | X | | X |
| 4. Utility Tax | X | | | |
| 5. General Fund Revenues | X | X | | |
| 6. Bond Financing | | X | | (x) |
| 7. Public Works Assistance Account[1] | X | X | | |

Note: X = Implementing authority, (x) = potentially benefits from funding method but cannot implement it.

[1] Public Works Assistance Account, commonly known as the Publics Works Trust Fund, was established by RCW 43.155 to be used by the Public Works Board to finance local government infrastructure loans.

### 8.6.2. Staffing

Adequate funding should be provided to increase staff at county and city levels as needed for departments having primary responsibility for solid waste management to monitor, permit and enforce solid waste facilities and programs.

### 8.6.3. Permit Review

The SWAC should be included in the review of new solid waste related permit requests within Lewis County, although final approval shall continue to reside with Environmental Health. Such permit requests, after review by the SWAC, will be forwarded to Environmental Health with comments. This review will check for adherence to this CSHWMP and RCW 70A.205 (110) and (125).

## 8.7. ANNUAL BUDGETS

The hazardous waste collection and educational program cost is divided into labor, operational expenses and educational expenses. Labor expenses include Utility employees and contracted laborers. Other staff members spend daily time processing bills, ordering supplies, printing brochures and answering questions from the public.

The HHW operational budget includes contracted labor, hazardous waste disposal fees, expenses for supplies and training, and costs for the educational program. Some past capital projects have been included in the operational budgets. This practice is anticipated to continue in the future. The operational budget is volatile from year to year because the cost is related to the amount of hazardous waste collected, processed, and disposed. An effective educational program will increase participation and thereby increase operational costs. If stewardship programs, such as PaintCare, come to fruition in the future, the program's costs may go down. Future cost increases may occur if the cost of disposing of hazardous waste increases.

Funds should be placed in the Utility's capital reserve fund to pay for future expenses, including equipment replacement and Hazo Hut maintenance. Hazo Hut is constructed with geotextile skin. Yearly inspection of the skin is required to determine if replacement or repairs are needed. The reserve fund could also be used to replace items such as the hazardous waste pickup truck, forklift, oil tank storage containers, or to build additional storage buildings at CTS or ELCTS.

The operational budget will continue to increase in future years. A minimum 5 percent increase is recommended to be given to the budget each year from 2023 levels as the minimum for maintaining the program at current service levels.

**Table 8-2. Moderate Risk Waste Utility Budget**

| Year | Budget | Actual Expenditure |
|---|---|---|
| **Past** | | |
| 2007 | $113,004 | $121,657 |
| 2008 | $120,531 | $124,253 |
| 2009 | $109,000 | $120,827 |
| 2010 | $ 90,650 | $ 74,036 |
| 2011 | $ 95,200 | $ 72,202 |
| 2012 | $100,000 | $ 59,664 |
| 2013 | $105,000 | $ 87,615 |
| 2014 | $ 92,000 | $102,341 |
| 2015 | $163,420 | $220,274 |
| 2016 | $177,874 | $179,874 |
| 2017 | $118,690 | $123,002 |
| 2018 | $204,076 | $204,548 |
| 2019 | $180,441 | $162,629 |
| 2020 | $235,132 | $196,438 |
| 2021 | $169,555 | $189,081 |
| 2022 | $168,745 | $188,730 |
| **Present** | | |
| 2023 | $238,368 | Not Applicable |

| Year | Budget | Actual Expenditure |
|---|---|---|
| **Projected at 5 Percent Increase** | | |
| 2024 | $250,286 | Not Applicable |
| 2025 | $262,801 | Not Applicable |
| 2026 | $275,941 | Not Applicable |
| 2027 | $289,738 | Not Applicable |
| 2028 | $304,225 | Not Applicable |

## 8.8. ALTERNATIVES

Existing service gaps and other issues connected to Administration and Enforcement components of solid waste management are discussed below.

### 8.8.1. Commingled Curbside Recycling

Lewis County should continue to work with the local recycling hauling companies (LeMay and Community Waste & Recycling), SWAC, and staff to expand curbside recycling as a countywide service.

### 8.8.2. Monitor Glass Recycling

Lewis County should continue researching the market for glass recycling in the area in case prices improve. If glass recycling prices improve, Lewis County should consider offering curbside glass recycling collection.

### 8.8.3. Additional Glass Recycling Collection

Lewis County should research the market for glass recycling in the area as well as track usage of the existing two glass collection containers. Based on data, consider adding glass recycling collection containers to additional areas in Lewis County.

### 8.8.4. Solid Waste Ordinances

Lewis County should review its solid waste ordinances and amend or establish new ordinances as appropriate.

### 8.8.5. Administrative and Enforcement Funding

Lewis County should continue to fund existing administrative and enforcement activities to ensure proper management of waste disposal and to reduce disposal contamination.

### 8.8.6. SWAC Representation

Lewis County should consider expanding the SWAC to pursue additional representation, particularly by forestry related businesses or industries and ass someone from the southwestern portion of Lewis County.

### 8.8.7. Monitoring and Tracking

Lewis County should implement consistent monitoring and tracking methodologies including, but not limited to:

- Periodically inspect solid waste facilities.
- Track solid waste data.
- Conduct more frequent waste audits.

### 8.8.8. Monitor Proposed Housing Developments

Expand monitoring efforts of proposed housing developments to ensure adequate solid waste services are available, and if not, expand, as necessary.

## 8.9. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made for administration and enforcement:

8-1 Implement commingled curbside recycling countywide.

8-2 Monitor glass recycling market.

8-3 Review, amend, and establish new solid waste code and ordinances.

8-4 Continue and fund existing administrative and enforcement activities.

8-5 Consider additional representation on the SWAC.

8-6 Implement consistent monitoring and tracking methodologies.

8-7 Monitor and review impacts of proposed housing developments.

# 9. FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

This chapter presents a preliminary schedule, responsibilities, and funding options for the implementation of recommendations presented in Chapters 3 through 8 of this CSHWMP. It also provides the 6-year projections for operations and capital expenditures and the 20-year projection of program needs.

## 9.1. FUNDING OPTIONS

This section provides an overview of the funding options available to Lewis County to implement the recommendations in this CSHWMP. Lewis County can fund solid waste services in three basic categories: user charges, taxes, and grants. The WUTC Cost Assessment Questionnaire in Appendix L provides additional information.

A change between the 2008 Plan and 2023 is the status of the Utility's reserves. In early 2008, the reserves continued to grow as revenues exceeded expenditures on an annual basis. However, by the end of 2008, Lewis County's economy started performing poorly. Tonnage dropped considerably and continued its downward trend, slightly leveling off in 2013 and 2014. The Utility started drawing down reserves to meet expenses, and in 2014, the LCSWDD approved the first tipping fee increase since 1995, from $82 per ton to $90 per ton. Rates increased to $100 per ton then to $120 per ton in 2024. These increases have helped maintain the Utility's reserve fund.

### 9.1.1. User Charges

The two basic user charge alternatives include tipping fees and solid waste collection charges. Tipping fees are collected at transfer facilities and/or at the disposal site by a facility operator. Solid waste collection fees are assessed to solid waste generators for collection of refuse and/or recyclables. Each of these alternatives is discussed below.

### 9.1.2. Tipping Fees

Tipping fees are a common method used to collect revenues for solid waste services. These fees, which can be either volume or weight based, are assessed at the point of disposal.

Fees collected by the operator are typically set to recover costs for current operation and to meet future facility closure expenses. Additional surcharges can be applied to the tipping fee to generate revenue for refuse transfer, local government planning, and administrative expenses. If the receiving facility is privately owned, the tipping fee is usually set through a contract with the appropriate jurisdictional authority. Services provided by the jurisdiction are paid for either by a service charge added to the tipping fee or through general fund revenues.

#### 9.1.2.1. Solid Waste Collection Fees

Solid waste collection fees are the rates paid by generators for collection service. These fees, which are billed to the generator either directly by the refuse hauler or by the local government, represent the total costs to generators for solid waste management. They may include special waste handling services such as recycling programs or landfill closure costs.

RCW 36.58.045 provides the legislative authority under which counties may impose a service fee upon solid waste collection companies operating within the unincorporated areas of Lewis

County. These service fees are limited to funding the administration and planning expenses that Lewis County incurs in complying with the requirements of RCW 70A.205.045.

### 9.1.3. Taxes

LCSWDD is authorized to establish an excise tax to pay for solid waste-related expenses in Lewis County. Under RCW 36.58.140, a solid waste district may levy and collect an excise tax on the privilege of living in or operating a business in a solid waste disposal district sufficiently to fund its solid waste disposal activities.

Solid waste excise taxes have the potential to generate substantial revenue. However, consideration must be given to the ease of implementing and administering the tax, the possibility of leakage or tax noncompliance, and the extent of public support for the tax. Consideration must also be given to various legal constraints that affect state and local operations in levying solid waste taxes. The most important federal restrictions on taxes include a prohibition of taxes that might impede interstate commerce and the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment, which prohibits taxes that discriminate against one product or material. Certain taxes that Lewis County could implement would require the BOCC to establish a code ordinance.

### 9.1.4. Grants

Under MTCA (Chapter 70A.305 RCW), grants are available to local governments for SWMPs and programs, hazardous waste management plans and programs, and remedial actions to clean up existing hazardous waste sites. Solid and hazardous waste planning and programs are funded through the LSWFA program administered by Ecology's Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program. WAC 173-312 governs this program. Cleanup of existing hazardous waste sites is funded through Remedial Action Grants, described in the Remedial Action Grant Guidelines, Publication No. 97-504.

The Utility consistently applies for a LSWFA grant to support its HHW programs, waste reduction and recycling programs, the MRC program, and organics program. The grant typically pays for 75 percent of these programs and Lewis County pays a 25 percent local match.

## 9.2. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Table 9-1 presents the recommendations, which are arranged by solid waste management strategy and in the order discussed in this plan.

**Table 9-1. Implementation Plan**

| | Recommendation | Responsibility | Target Schedule |
|---|---|---|---|
| **MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE COLLECTION, TRANSFER, AND EXPORT** | | | |
| 3-1 | Encourage municipalities to work with other haulers as needed. | Utility staff | 2025 |
| 3-2 | Expand awareness of garbage disposal options, and recycling and composting programs. | Utility staff; consultant; LeMay | Ongoing |
| 3-3 | Evaluate efficiencies at the transfer stations. | Utility staff | 2025 |

| | Recommendation | Responsibility | Target Schedule |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3-4 | Track the amount of solid waste and recyclables processed through the CTS. | Utility staff; consultant | Ongoing |
| 3-5 | Budget for and initiate preliminary design of a new transfer station. | Utility staff; consultant | As Feasible |
| 3-6 | Review data sources for tracking disposal and recycling quantities. | Utility staff | Ongoing |
| 3-7 | Annually review ILA with Cowlitz County for waste export and disposal. | Utility staff; LeMay | Ongoing |
| 3-8 | Monitor developments and progress in disposal technologies. | Utility staff | Ongoing |
| 3-9 | Develop a section in operations plan to address management of out-of-county customers in the event nearby transfer stations temporarily close. | Utility staff | 2026 |
| **WASTE REDUCTION, RECYCLING, AND EDUCATION** | | | |
| 4-1 | Continue waste reduction programs. | Utility staff; MRC | Ongoing |
| 4-2 | Implement the business technical assistance program. | Utility staff | Ongoing |
| 4-3 | Set specific performance targets. | Utility staff; LeMay | 2025 |
| 4-4 | Maintain the list of designated materials. | Utility staff; LeMay | Ongoing |
| 4-5 | Expand business participation in recycling. | Utility staff | 2025 |
| 4-6 | Provide support for recycling at public events. | Utility staff; MRC, LeMay | Ongoing |
| 4-7 | Minimize recycling contamination and continue cart tagging efforts biannually. | Utility staff; consultant | Ongoing |
| 4-8 | Work cooperatively with County, city and hauler staff to create and implement recycling contamination reduction campaigns for curbside and drop-box recycling programs. | Utility staff; City staff; LeMay | Ongoing |
| 4-9 | Continue to provide public tours of the CTS. | Utility staff | Ongoing |
| 4-10 | Utilize the lid-lift audit results to create targeted educational outreach materials. | Utility staff; consultant | Ongoing |
| 4-11 | Expand and improve the education and promotion program at the transfer stations. | Utility staff | 2025 |
| **MISCELLANEOUS WASTES REQUIRING SPECIAL HANDLING** | | | |
| | **Animal Carcasses** | | |
| 5-1 | Collect animal carcasses at the CTS and ELCTS. | Utility staff | Ongoing |
| 5-2 | Create an emergency plan for the disposal of a mass quantity of animal carcasses. | Utility staff | 2025 |

| | Recommendation | Responsibility | Target Schedule |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Biomedical and Infectious Waste** | | |
| 5-3 | Provide residents and businesses with educational materials on sharps disposal. | Utility staff | Ongoing |
| | **Construction and Demolition Debris** | | |
| 5-4 | Create a green building promotional campaign. | Utility staff | 2025 |
| 5-5 | Monitor commingled C&D debris for recycling locations. | Utility staff | Ongoing |
| | **Electronic Waste** | | |
| 5-6 | Continue to collect electronic wastes. | Utility staff | Ongoing |
| 5-7 | Promote the E-Cycle Washington partners. | Utility staff | Ongoing |
| | **Mobile Homes and Bulky Items** | | |
| 5-8 | Create a space for disposal of bulky items. | Utility staff | 2026 |
| | **Pharmaceuticals** | | |
| 5-9 | Create a brochure for disposal of sharps and pharmaceutical waste. | Utility staff | 2025 |
| 5-10 | Promote the Take Back Your Meds Program. | Utility staff; Law enforcement | Ongoing |
| 5-11 | Monitor guidance regarding pharmaceutical waste. | Utility staff | Ongoing |
| | **Tires** | | |
| 5-12 | Produce educational materials on tire recycling. | Utility staff | Ongoing |
| 5-13 | Monitor companies accepting tires for recycling. | Utility staff | Ongoing |
| | **General** | | |
| 5-14 | Prepare for future disposal needs. | Utility staff; LeMay; Ecology | 2026 |
| 5-15 | Expand C&D recycling options. | Utility staff | 2026 |
| 5-16 | Continue to dispose miscellaneous waste requiring special handling through a cooperative effort. | Utility staff | Ongoing |
| **MODERATE RISK WASTE** | | | |
| 6-1 | Continue existing operations and education at Hazo Hut. | Utility staff | Ongoing |
| 6-2 | Annually transfer money from the hazardous waste program budget to be saved for capital expenses. | Utility staff | Ongoing |
| 6-3 | Keep informed of research and initiatives at the state level. | Utility staff | Ongoing |
| 6-4 | Monitor development in South Lewis County. | Utility staff | Ongoing |
| **ORGANICS** | | | |
| 7-1 | Educate the public about alternatives to burning yard waste. | Utility staff | Ongoing |

| | Recommendation | Responsibility | Target Schedule |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7-2 | Continue the food waste prevention workshops. | Utility staff | Ongoing |
| 7-3 | Expand curbside organics collection programs countywide. | Utility staff; MRC | 2025 |
| 7-4 | Incentivize household participation in curbside organics collection programs. | Utility staff | 2025 |
| 7-5 | Continue to expand backyard composting programs. | Utility staff | Ongoing |
| 7-6 | Increase organics collection and awareness from local businesses. | Utility staff; MRC | 2025 |
| 7-7 | Improve food donation transportation. | Utility staff; MRC | 2025 |
| 7-8 | Improve organics data and tracking efforts. | Utility staff | 2025 |
| **ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT** | | | |
| 8-1 | Implement commingled curbside recycling countywide. | Utility staff; LeMay; SWAC | Completed during Plan Development |
| 8-2 | Monitor glass recycling market. | Utility staff | 2025–2026 |
| 8-3 | Review, amend, and establish solid waste ordinances. | Environmental Health Code Enforcement; BOCC; Utility staff with SWAC support | Ongoing |
| 8-4 | Continue and fund existing administrative and enforcement activities. | Utility staff | Ongoing |
| 8-5 | Consider additional representation on the SWAC. | Utility staff with SWAC support | 2025 |
| 8-6 | Implement consistent monitoring and tracking methodologies. | Utility staff | 2025 |
| 8-7 | Monitor and review impacts of proposed housing developments. | Utility staff | 2025 |

## 9.3. SIX- AND TWENTY-YEAR PROJECTED NEEDS FOR SOLID WASTE HANDLING

Table 9-2 projects operations and capital expenditures as well as revenues over the next 6 years. The projections in Table 9-2 cover existing ongoing programs, as well as implementation of recommendations contained in this plan for which a cost can be reasonably estimated. For example, the recommendation for the transfer station feasibility study is addressed in the projections, even though the potential outcome and capital expenditures resulting from such studies cannot yet be known. Many of the recommendations in this plan do not require capital expenditures but instead require Lewis County Solid Waste Utility staff time. For the purpose of the table, the number of full-time equivalent employees needed to administer the program is assumed to be constant.

The costs in Table 9-2 are projected with as much precision and accuracy as is now available (planning-level estimates). Lewis County intends to review, revise, and extend its cost projections periodically, as needed, to meet the requirements of RCW 70A.205.075. The table begins with 2023. Assumptions regarding future costs are provided in the table notes, where appropriate.

Solid waste budget needs over the next 20 years are expected to be similar to those for the next 6 years, shown in Table 9-2. An exception could be the development of a new transfer station. However, the planned feasibility analysis would include a cost-benefit analysis and a funding component. Likewise, if Lewis County at any point in the future, contemplated developing a disposal facility (e.g., an incinerator or landfill), funding would be a key consideration.

## Table 9-2. Lewis County 6-Year Budget Projections

| ACTIVITY | 2023 ACTUAL | 2024 BUDGET | 2025 BUDGET | 2026 PROJECTED | 2027 PROJECTED | 2028 PROJECTD | 2029 PROJECTED | 2030 PROJECTED | NOTES |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Expenses: | | | | | | | | | Inflation Assumption[1] |
| Operations | $2,598,872.00 | $3,011,500.00 | $3,230,490.00 | $3,404,936.46 | $3,588,803.03 | $3,782,598.39 | $3,986,858.71 | $4,202,149.08 | FOMC 5.4% |
| Moderate Risk Waste | $211,385.00 | $241,371.00 | $281,096.00 | $296,275.18 | $312,274.04 | $329,136.84 | $346,910.23 | $365,643.38 | FOMC 5.4% |
| Resource Recycling | $324,715.00 | $249,428.00 | $268,804.00 | $283,319.42 | $298,618.66 | $314,744.07 | $331,740.25 | $349,654.23 | FOMC 5.4% |
| Litter Program | $210,685.00 | $279,382.00 | $270,226.00 | $284,818.20 | $300,198.39 | $316,409.10 | $333,495.19 | $351,503.93 | FOMC 5.4% |
| Homeless Camp Cleanup | $6,209.00 | $27,000.00 | $4,700.00 | $4,953.80 | $5,221.31 | $5,503.26 | $5,800.43 | $6,113.65 | FOMC 5.4% |
| Code Compliance & Abatement | $100,000.00 | $100,000.00 | $100,000.00 | $100,000.00 | $100,000.00 | $100,000.00 | $100,000.00 | $100,000.00 | Per MOU with Health Dept. |
| Rent CTS | $634,308.00 | $634,308.00 | $634,308.00 | $634,308.00 | $634,308.00 | $634,308.00 | $63,438.00 | $634,308.00 | Resolution #002-18/003-18 |
| Host Fee to City of Centralia | $201,000.00 | $201,000.00 | $201,000.00 | $201,000.00 | $201,000.00 | $201,000.00 | $201,000.00 | $201,000.00 | Per Agreement with City |
| Landfill | $52,443.00 | $73,828.00 | $91,974.00 | $96,940.60 | $102,175.39 | $107,692.86 | $113,508.27 | $119,637.72 | FOMC 5.4% |
| Waste Export & Disposal | $4,793,463.00 | $5,027,248.00 | $5,122,512.00 | $5,399,127.65 | $5,690,680.54 | $5,997,977.29 | $6,321,868.06 | $6,663,248.94 | FOMC 5.4% |
| B&O Tax | $167,223.00 | $177,464.86 | $188,423.00 | $204,049.94 | $215,328.02 | $227,243.30 | $239,831.80 | $253,131.55 | Revenue * 1.75% |
| **Subtotal Expenses** | **$9,300,303.00** | **$10,022,529.86** | **$10,393,533.00** | **$10,909,729.25** | **$11,448,607.37** | **$12,016,613.11** | **$12,044,450.95** | **$13,246,390.48** | |
| Capital Expenses: | | | | | | | | | |
| New Excavator | $324,676.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $348,585.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $387,000.00 | Paid out of our Reserve Fund |
| New Yard Goats (4) | $0.00 | $0.00 | $100,000.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | Paid out of Equipment Reserve |
| New Forklift | $0.00 | $0.00 | $28,000.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | Paid out of Equipment Reserve |
| New Loader | $97,020.00 | $278,648.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | Paid out of Reserve Fund |
| Copier Admin Office | $0.00 | $0.00 | $9,000.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | |
| Intangibles - Scale Software | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | |
| Long Haul Trailers | $11,577.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | |
| New Litter Vacuum | $27,813.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | Grant Funded |
| 40 yard boxes-(4) Purchased in 2023 | $65,623.00 | $0.00 | $30,000.00 | $30,500.00 | $31,000.00 | $31,500.00 | $32,000.00 | $32,500.00 | 2 New Boxes Each Year |
| **Subtotal Capital Expenses** | **$526,709.00** | **$278,648.00** | **$167,000.00** | **$30,500.00** | **$379,585.00** | **$31,500.00** | **$32,000.00** | **$419,500.00** | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| **TOTAL EXPENSES** | $9,827,012.00 | $10,301,177.86 | $10,560,533.00 | $10,940,229.25 | $11,828,192.37 | $12,048,113.11 | $12,076,450.95 | $13,665,890.48 | |

| ACTIVITY | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | NOTES |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Revenue: | | | | | | | | | |
| Transfer Station Disposal Revenue | $9,574,537.00 | $10,140,849.00 | $10,767,000.00 | $11,659,996.60 | $12,304,458.01 | $12,985,331.49 | $13,704,674.31 | $14,464,660.01 | Revenue $120 per ton |
| Grants | $354,417.00 | $293,000.00 | $158,000.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | Unknown |
| Capital Improvement Reserve | $147,600.00 | $147,600.00 | $147,600.00 | $147,600.00 | $147,600.00 | $147,600.00 | $147,600.00 | $147,600.00 | Resolution # 19-292 |
| Litter Program Reimbursement from PW | $136,050.00 | $136,382.00 | $139,226.00 | $142,288.97 | | | | $145,419.33 | Per MOU Public Works |
| **TOTAL REVENUE** | **$10,212,604.00** | **$10,717,831.00** | **$11,211,826.00** | **$11,949,885.57** | **$12,452,058.01** | **$13,132,931.49** | **$13,852,274.31** | **$14,757,679.34** | |
| Disposal Tonnage Forecast: | | | | | | | | | Tonnage Trends |
| Central Transfer Station | 80178 | 76473 | 80973 | 85548 | 90381 | 95488 | 100883 | 106583 | 5.65% increase per trend |
| East Lewis County Transfer Station | 9391 | 8497 | 8997 | 9505 | 10042 | 10610 | 11209 | 11843 | 5.65% increase per trend |
| Free Tonnage to City of Centralia | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | Per Host Fee Agreement |
| **TOTAL TONNAGE** | 89,599 | 85,000 | 90,000 | 95,083 | 100,454 | 106,128 | 112,122 | 118,456 | |

[1] Federal Reserve Target Inflation Rates Based on December 13, 2023 FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) projections of 5.4%

## 9.4. DRAFT REVIEW

Lewis County provided the draft CSHWMP for review to stakeholders. Comments were received from Ecology, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, and WUTC. Comments received and response to comments by Lewis County and these are included as Appendix M.

## 9.5. PROCEDURES FOR AMENDING THE PLAN

The Solid Waste Management-Reduction and Recycling Act (RCW 70A.205) requires local governments to maintain their SWMPs in current condition. SWMPs must be reviewed and revised, if necessary, at least every 5 years. This CSHWMP should be reviewed in 2030. Before that time, the CSHWMP can be kept in current condition through amendments. An "amendment" is defined as a process that is simpler than a revision. If there is a significant change in the solid waste system, however, a revision may be necessary before the 5-year period is done.

Changes in the CSHWMP may be initiated by Lewis County, working with the SWAC to develop and review proposed changes, or by outside parties. For the latter, individuals or organizations wishing to propose CSHWMP amendments before the scheduled review must petition Lewis County's Public Works Director in writing. The petition should describe the proposed amendment and its specific objectives and should explain why immediate action is needed prior to the next scheduled review. The Public Works Director will investigate the basis for the petition and prepare a recommendation.

If the Public Works Director determines that the petition warrants further consideration, the petition will be referred to the SWAC for review and recommendation. The Public Works Director will draft the proposed amendment together with the SWAC. Whether the proposed amendment has been initiated by Lewis County or an outside party, the proposed amendment must be submitted to the legislative bodies of all participating jurisdictions and Ecology for review and comment. Adoption of the proposed amendment will require the concurrence of all affected jurisdictions.

The Public Works Director may develop reasonable rules for submitting and processing proposed plan amendments and may establish reasonable fees to investigate and process petitions. Administrative rulings of the Public Works Director may be appealed to the BOCC.

Minor changes may occur in the solid waste management system, whether due to internal decisions or external factors. These can be adopted without going through a formal amendment process. If there is uncertainty about whether or not a change is "minor," it should be discussed by the SWAC, and a decision should be made based on the consensus of that committee.

Implicit in the development and adoption of this CSHWMP is the understanding that in the future, Lewis County may need to take emergency action for various reasons and that these actions can be undertaken without the need to amend this CSHWMP beforehand. In that case, the Public Works Director will endeavor to inform the SWAC and other key stakeholders as soon as feasibly possible but not necessarily before new actions are implemented. If the emergency results in permanent and significant changes to the solid waste system, an amendment will be prepared in a timely fashion. If, however, emergency actions are undertaken only on a temporary

or short-term basis, an amendment may not be necessary. Questions about what actions may be considered “temporary” or “significant” should be brought to the SWAC for its advice.

Similar to the allowance for emergency action discussed above, Lewis County will need to make operational decisions and expenditures to comply with future regulatory changes and update permit requirements as applicable. CSHWMP update and coordination with the SWAC will not be required or initiated for these future actions, as they are considered operational activities.