



## **King County**

### **King County Board of Health**

#### **Staff Report**

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Agenda item No: 8  
Resolution No: 21-09

Date: November 18th, 2021  
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#### **Subject**

Resolution that would approve and adopt the 2021 Management Plan Update for the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County

#### **Summary**

This report provides an overview of the 2021 update to the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program's (Program) management plan. The Program serves all of King County including Seattle, unincorporated areas, 37 other cities, and two tribes.

Many household and work products – including cleaning supplies, pesticides, motor oil, oil-based paints, and varnishes – are hazardous. Hazardous products have harmful or dangerous ingredients that threaten the environment and human health. The Program works to reduce hazardous exposures to people and the environment in King County.

The Program's 2010 management plan was updated in 2021 to reflect the changing needs of King County's residents and businesses. The updated plan provides a blueprint for how the Program will operate through 2030.

#### **Background**

The Program operates as a regional partnership whose mission is to protect and enhance public health and environmental quality throughout King County by reducing the threat posed by the production, use, storage and disposal of hazardous materials.

The Program is authorized at the state level by the Department of Ecology and fulfills local government responsibilities defined in state law (RCW 70.105.220) to manage hazardous waste from residents and "small quantity" generating businesses. The Program is authorized at the local level by the King County Board of Health (BOH 11.04) and in King County code (KCC 4A.200.400). The Program serves all of King County - 38 cities including the City of Seattle, the Snoqualmie and Muckleshoot Tribes, and unincorporated areas.

The Program operates under a management plan as required by RCW 70.105.220. The King County Board of Health last adopted an update to the management plan in April 2010 (Resolution 10-04).

The hazardous materials management needs of King County have evolved over the past 10 years and it is necessary to provide services that remain relevant to the needs of residential and business ratepayers. To update the management plan, the Program reviewed current demographic trends for residents and businesses, reviewed current data on the toxicity of materials and products the Program addresses, engaged stakeholders to understand their needs and concerns related to human and environmental exposure to hazardous materials, and developed a strategy that centers racial equity in how services are designed, implemented, and evaluated.

## **Analysis**

Pursuant to BOH 11.04.050.A.1, the Management Coordination Committee established under BOH 11.04.040 accepted and approved the 2021 plan update at its October 19, 2021 meeting. The 2021 plan update continues the Program's policy, prevention, and collection services and provides direction on how those services can continue to evolve to meet the needs of ratepayers. Over the course of implementing the strategies and actions outlined in the plan, the Program will be evaluating the reach, impact, accessibility, and equity of its work. Results from this analysis will be used to adjust current services as appropriate and inform future services.

The Program manages its funding and spending in compliance with KCC 4A.200.400 and BOH 11.04.050 to support and advance racial equity, public health, and environmental protection. Pursuant to BOH 11.04.050.A.2, the Management Coordination Committee accepts, reviews, and approves the Program's annual work plan and budget. Annual work planning ensures services and projects have the appropriate resources to implement the strategies in the 2021 Plan while staying within the current rate plan and budget. The Program will schedule and implement its strategies and actions to stay within its rate plan and available budget.

The Program's revenue comes from surcharges applied to solid waste and wastewater services. The King County Board of Health sets the Program's rates. The current rate period extends through 2024.

## **Commitment to Racial Equity**

King County has declared racism a public health crisis. Disparities across racial groups are also present in exposure to hazardous materials. King County has documented deep racial disparities for black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) across virtually every underlying factor that affects exposure to hazardous products and waste. These factors include health, housing, income, education, employment, and criminal justice ([Public Health – Seattle & King County, 2020](#)). Some communities experience a greater risk of exposure because of racism embedded in public policies, institutional practices, and other social and economic structures. To make a long-lasting

impact on public health and the environment, the Program must address the underlying causes of exposure to hazardous materials. This commitment is apparent in the Program's 2018 Racial Equity Strategic and Implementation plans as well as the Program's commitments outlined the management plan update.

The Program strives to improve health and environmental outcomes affected by exposure to hazardous materials by designing, implementing, and evaluating our work using anti-racist frameworks that recognize that:

- Every person should experience similar positive health outcomes, regardless of their race, community, or geographic location.
- Because each community faces different barriers to achieving these outcomes, we may need to use different approaches for each community.
- These approaches will succeed only if we design, implement, and evaluate them with, by, and for each community.
- Everyone—and the environment—will benefit when we eliminate negative health outcomes and disparities between communities.

### **Program Services Outlined in the Management Plan**

The Program applies policy and systems change, prevention activities, and hazardous waste collection services to reduce the threats posed by hazardous materials exposure to people and the environment. The primary focus of the Program's work is to support systems changes and safer alternatives to hazardous products and remove exposure to hazardous products in the first place. The Program:

- 1) Advocates for policy changes to prevent exposure to hazardous materials, promote the use of safer alternatives, and require producers of hazardous materials to shoulder the burden of collection. These policy and systems changes can occur within the Program; private sector; and local, state, or federal government venues. The Program:
  - Understands community and environmental needs to inform policy and systems changes.
  - Develops policy changes through coalitions and partnerships.
  - Supports and informs policy changes through Program services.
- 2) Provides preventive services that help residents and small quantity generating businesses (SQG) adopt safer alternatives and practices and that build support for policy and systems changes. Program services:
  - Protect the public and the environment from contamination and exposure to hazardous products and wastes while building momentum for systems changes.
  - Deepen our understanding of residential and SQG priorities.

- Raise awareness about hazardous products and wastes to build public demand to change the systems that put hazardous materials in our stores, homes, and workplaces.
  - Help residents, SQGs, cities, and tribes prepare for and navigate changes that result from new policies and regulations.
- 3) Provide hazardous waste collection services for households and small quantity generators at four sites: North Seattle, South Seattle, Factoria, and Auburn, through mobile collection by the travelling Wastemobile, at city and tribal collection events, and through in-home collection for seniors and residents with disabilities.

The Program's policy, prevention, and collection services are guided by partnerships and coalitions with communities, businesses, cities, tribes, and other government agencies to ensure that Program services reflect community needs and that services and outcomes are equitable and address racial disparities.

### **Public Engagement in the Plan Update**

There were many opportunities for the public to provide guidance and feedback throughout the development of the 2021 plan update.

In late summer 2020 the Program worked with three community-based organizations, through online focus groups and interviews with over 100 people across nine language groups, to understand their desires for how the Program should work and the types of hazardous materials issues they were concerned about.

In November 2020, the Program invited feedback from managers and directors of our partner agencies, elected officials and employees of Sound Cities Association member cities, and members of our City and Tribal Work Group to review the findings of demographic and toxicological research, themes about needs from community members, and draft goal areas.

In May 2021, the Program shared the draft 2021 plan with the three community organizations who hosted the online focus groups during the summer to ensure their feedback was adequately integrated into the plan's recommendations. The Program also shared the draft 2021 plan with three other community-based organizations ensure the direction and strategies outlined in the Plan reflected their experiences and what they know about the communities they serve.

In July 2021, the Program published the draft 2021 plan to an online platform for public review and comment. The public review period was advertised through social media, print, and online advertising, newsletters, and email invitations to governmental and non-governmental groups. The Program also hosted a virtual forum in English and Spanish for community members and interviewed small business owners in key industries. A summary of the plan was translated into King County's tier one and two languages. The draft 2021 plan was available to the public for four weeks.

## **Attachments**

1. Hazardous Waste Management Plan: 2021 Plan