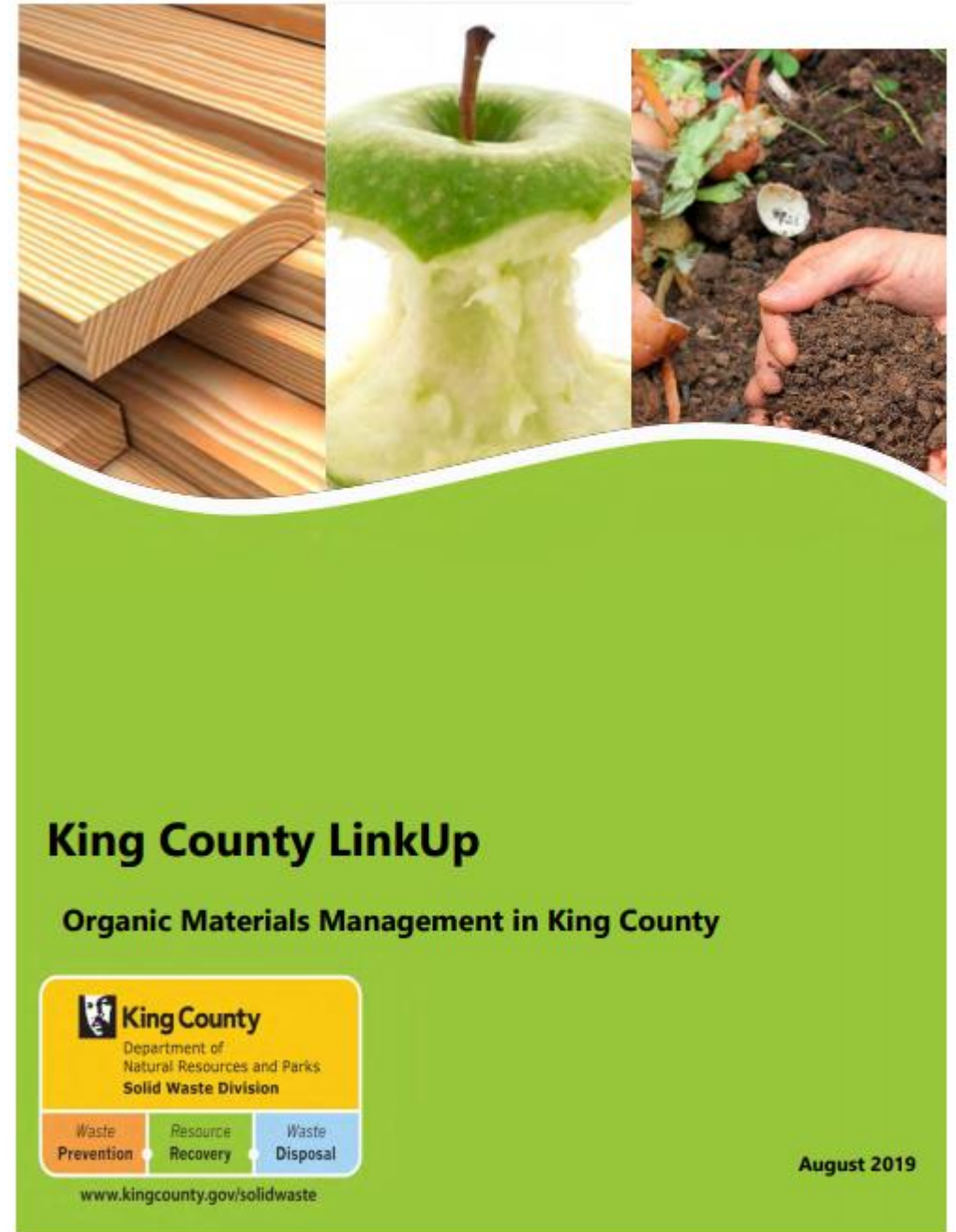


Organic Materials Management in King County Report

WA Organics Workgroup Meeting #4
August 19, 2021

Study of King County and regional organics management system with:

1. **Data analysis** of organics generation by material type and generator
2. **Qualitative assessment** of organics system conditions related to supply, processing, and end markets



Organic Materials Management in King County Report

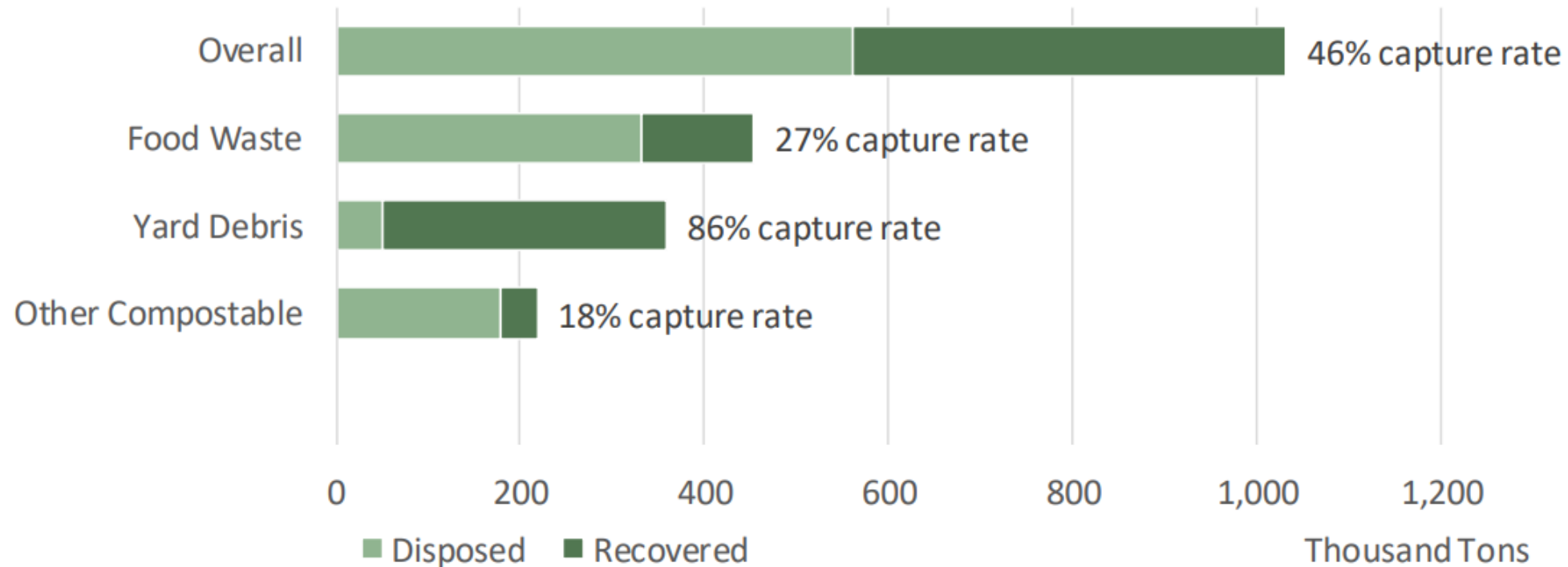
Background data



Analysis

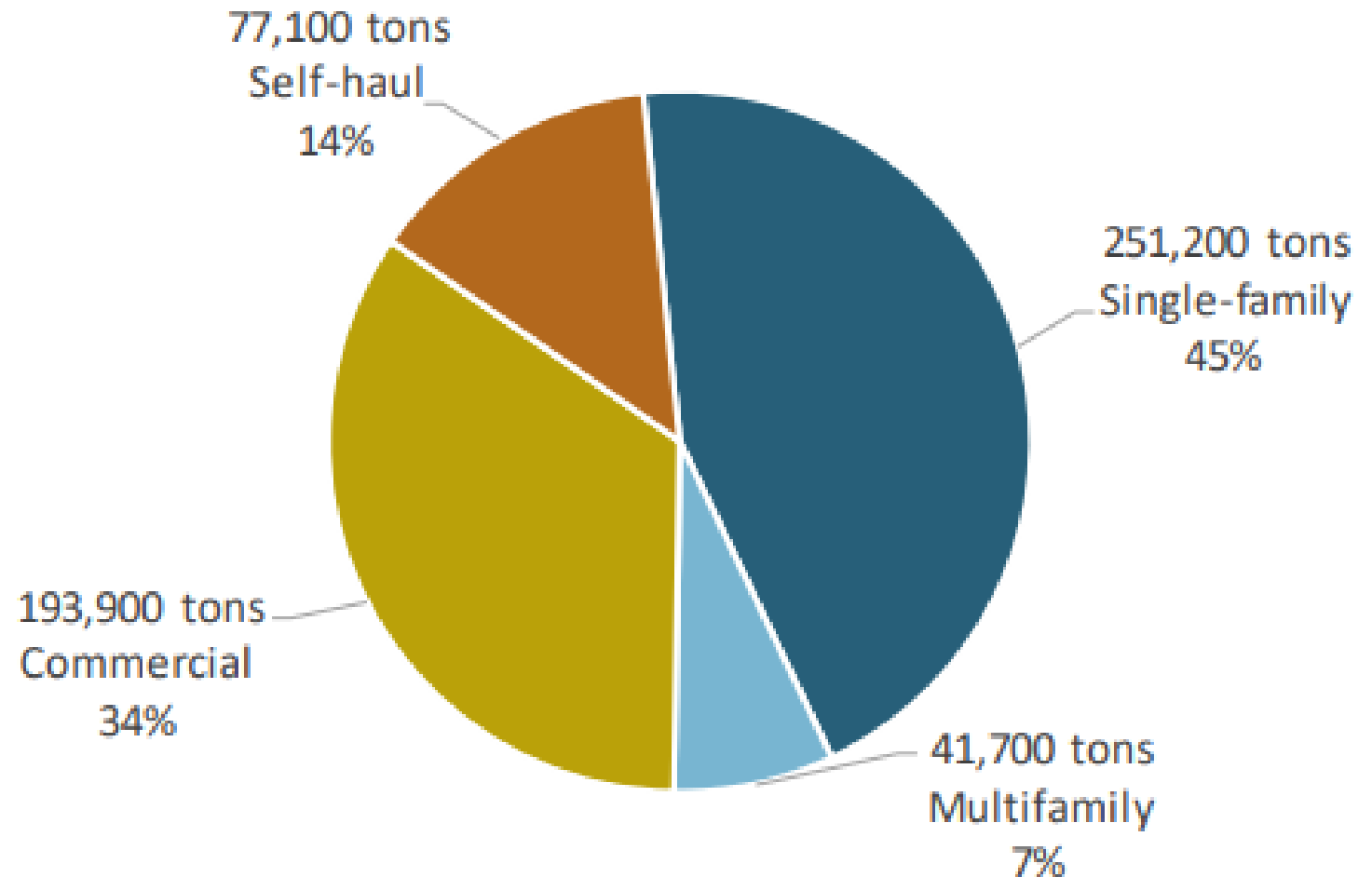
REGIONAL ORGANICS DISPOSAL & RECOVERY BY MATERIAL

The region recovers slightly less than half of all compostable material that it generates.



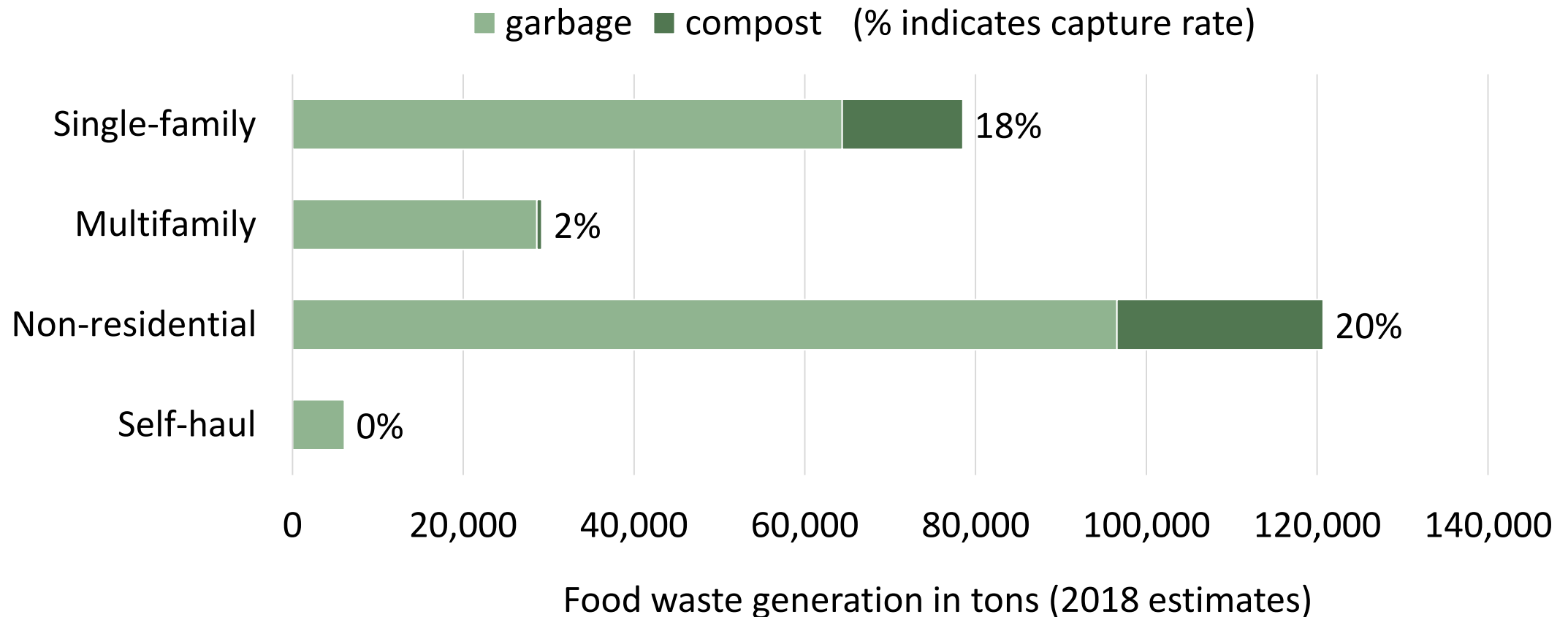
KING COUNTY ORGANICS BY GENERATOR

The single-family and commercial (non-residential) sectors generate the most organics.



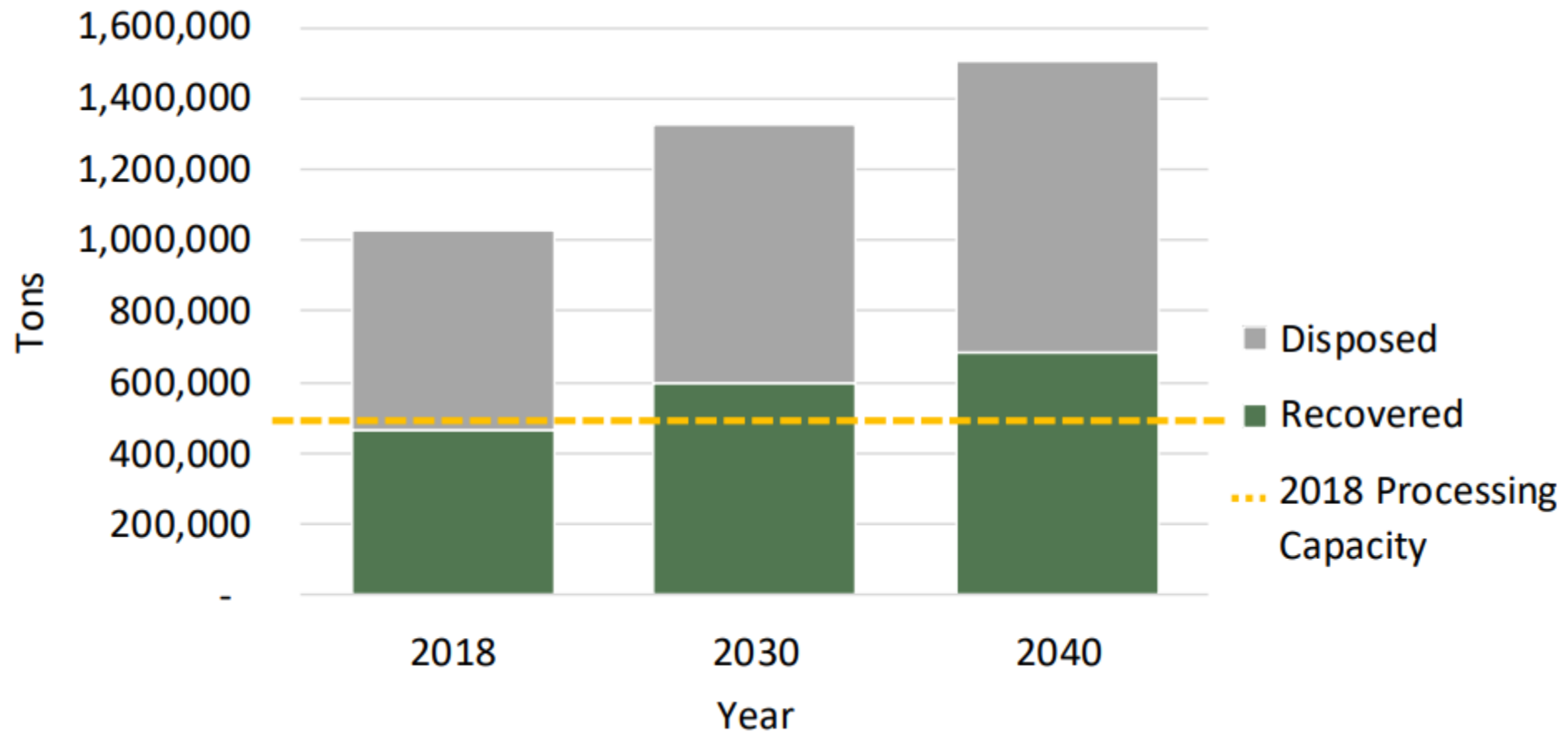
KING COUNTY FOOD CAPTURE RATES

Food waste capture rates show room for improvement.



REGIONAL PROCESSING CAPACITY

Additional processing capacity will be needed as the region pursues its diversion and recovery goals.



Organic Materials Management in King County Report

Recommendations



Actions Taken

SUPPLY & PROCESSING

Report Recommendation

- Work **collaboratively on organics industry challenges** across the supply chain and support opportunities to **bring regional stakeholders together**
- **Educate customers** to reduce contamination of the stream
- **Increase regional organics processing capacity**, consistent with zero waste of resources goal



Action Taken

- Annual organics stakeholder meetings and coordinating with other regional jurisdictions on organics work.



Recycle Right Communications Consortium – compost right messaging.

- Integrated into Re+ planning.

MARKETS

Report Recommendation

- Communicate composts broader environmental impacts
- Support amendment of post-construction soils with compost
- Research and demonstrate compost benefits
- Tie compost use to support of climate action goals
- Increased compost use in appropriate public projects



Action Taken



Developed CompostWise program and technical assistance support.

More on markets at a future meeting.

TAKEAWAYS

- Look at policies and programs holistically and across jurisdictions
- Identify opportunities to work upstream
- Take a system view – consider processing and end market needs while also working on diversion
- Food waste remains an opportunity and a challenge
 - Build policies and programs with those challenges in mind



King County

Department of
Natural Resources and Parks

Solid Waste Division

Waste
Prevention

Resource
Recovery

Waste
Disposal

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