

Meeting #6 Agenda (October 10, 3-4:30pm): Bin colors; Load rejection

- I. Welcome & Agenda Overview
- II. Policy Feedback: C&D waste study**

NEW SECTION. Sec. xxx. A new section is added to chapter [70A.205](#) RCW to read as follows:

BIN LID COLORS AND LABELS.

(1) (a) Beginning January 1, 2026, lids used for solid waste collection containers must be consistent with the requirements of this section, except in any jurisdiction that purchased new collection containers and lids for use by all customers throughout the jurisdiction between January 1, 2023, and January 1, 2024.

(b) It is the preferred coloring arrangement for collection containers to be the same colors as are required of container lids under this section. Jurisdictions and solid waste collection companies are encouraged to use solid waste collection containers that are the preferred coloring arrangement. Solid waste collection containers provided to a customer in a service area that newly receives any type of solid waste collection service after January 1, 2026, must be consistent with the preferred coloring arrangement.

(2) In each jurisdiction planning under this chapter, the lids of indoor or outdoor containers provided for collection services, including multifamily, commercial, government and other public places, institutional, and curbside residential collection services must be provided in a color-coded manner consistent with the requirements of this section in order to reduce contamination:

(a)(i) In a jurisdiction where source-separated recyclable materials and source-separated organic materials are collected separately, a gray or black container lid may be used only for the collection of solid waste that is not a source-separated recyclable material or a source-separated organic material;

(ii) In a jurisdiction where source-separated recyclable materials or organic materials are not collected separately, a gray or black container lid may be used for any solid waste, including organic material or recyclable material that is not separately collected in the jurisdiction.

(b) A blue container lid may be used only for source-separated recyclable materials. The contents of the blue-lidded container must be transported to a facility that recovers the materials designated for collection in the blue container.

(c) A green or brown container lid may be used only for source-separated organic materials and the contents of green or brown-lidded containers must be transported, directly or indirectly, to an organic materials management facility.

(d) A color other than green, brown, blue, black, or gray may be used only in accordance with any rules adopted by the department.

(e) By rule, the department may determine the appropriate container lid color or colors to be used for materials that could conceivably be placed in containers with multiple lid colors specified in (a) through (d) of this subsection.

(f) The color-coding requirements for solid waste collection container lids under this section do not apply to containers with a volume of at least 10 cubic yards that:

(i) Are used on a temporary basis by multiple customers of a jurisdiction or solid waste collection company; and

(ii) Are alternately used for temporary periods for multiple types of solid waste depending on the specific needs of the customer.

(3)(a) By January 1, 2026, all containers for waste collection must bear a clear and conspicuous label on each container and lid, using background colors or a font that matches the coloring arrangement for lids specified in subsection (2), specifying what materials are allowed to be placed in each container. The requirements of this subsection may be satisfied by:

(i) A label placed on a container that includes either language or graphic images, or both, that indicate the primary materials accepted and the primary materials prohibited in that container; or

(ii) Imprinted text or graphic images that indicate the primary materials accepted and the primary materials prohibited in that container.

(b) Containers with a volume of at least one cubic yard must feature a minimum of a two foot by two foot area containing the label required in (a) of this section, and label text with a font height of at least ten inches.

(c) Containers of the type specified in (2)(f) of this section must feature a temporary label meeting the requirements of (3)(b) of this section.

(d) Containers that are located indoors and that do not have a lid or that are contained in a multiple-compartment container must feature a visible label. This label must be placed in proximity to the location in which the solid waste is intended to be deposited.

(4) The department may provide model labeling text and graphic images for optional use by local governments and solid waste collection companies that meets the requirements of this section.

(5) A jurisdiction or solid waste collection company may comply with the requirements of this section by providing a container or containers that are split or divided into segregated sections, instead of an entire container, as long as the lids of the separate sections of a split container comply with the container color requirements, labeling requirements, and material limitations specified in this section.

(6) Carpets, noncompostable paper, and hazardous wood waste may not be collected in a container with a green or brown lid. Hazardous wood waste may not be collected in a container with a green or brown lid. The department may adopt rules to prohibit additional waste stream contaminants from being placed in a container with a green or brown lid or a container with a blue lid.

(7) Notwithstanding the applicability of an exemption under (1), (2), or (3) of this section, the contents of containers used for the collection source-separated recyclable materials must be transported to a facility that recovers the materials, and the contents of containers used for the collection of organic materials must be transported, directly or indirectly, to an organic materials management facility.

(8) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a)(i) " Container with a blue lid" or "blue-lidded container" means a container where the body of the container is any color and the lid is blue in color;

(ii) Hardware, such as hinges and wheels on a blue-lidded container, may be any color.

(b)(i) "Green or brown-lidded container" or "Container with a green or brown lid" means a container where the body of the container is any color and the lid is green or brown in color;

(ii) Hardware, such as hinges and wheels on a green or brown-lidded container, may be any color.

(c)(i) "Gray or black-lidded container" or "Container with a black or gray lid" means a container where the body of the container is any color and the lid is gray or black in color;

(ii) Hardware, such as hinges and wheels, on a gray or black-lidded container may be any color.

(iii) A galvanized metal container or lid that is unpainted and gray or silver in appearance is considered to be a gray container or lid for purposes of this section.

Sec. 2 RCW 70A.207.050 and 2024 c 341 s 202 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The department, through the center, must develop and administer grant programs to support the implementation of the requirements of chapter 341, Laws of 2024 and chapter 180, Laws of 2022, with priority given to grants that support the implementation of RCW 70A.205.540 and 70A.205.545. Eligible recipients of grants under this section may include businesses that are subject to organic material management requirements, local governments, federally recognized Indian tribes and federally recognized Indian tribal government entities, nonprofit organizations, or organic material management facilities. Eligible expenses by grant recipients include education, outreach, technical assistance, indoor and outdoor infrastructure, transportation and processing infrastructure, and enforcement costs. Recipients of grant funding for collection containers or lids must color and label solid waste collection containers consistent with the preferred coloring provisions described in [section 303] of this act.

(2) The department may not require, as a condition of financial assistance under this section, that matching funds be made available by a local government recipient. The department must provide assistance to each local government that demonstrates eligibility for grant assistance under this section.

III. Policy Feedback: Load rejection

Section 3. A new section is added to RCW 70A.205 to read as follows:

(1) An organic materials management facility must reject, at no cost to the facility, loads delivered to the facility that are determined to contain unacceptable levels of contamination.

(2) The department may adopt rules to implement the requirements of this section.

IV. Wrap-up & Adjourn

- a. Next Meeting: Thursday, October 24, 3-4:30pm – Education focused on participation and keeping it clean; Permitting, siting, and air quality