

Your Local Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)



The role of the SWAC is to provide informed advice to the legislative and administrative body of the county or city regarding waste management issues.

The local solid waste advisory committee, mandated by Chapter 70.95.165 RCW, is an on-going committee. Initially established to help prepare a solid waste management plan, the law defines duties that are much broader, "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 committee is an advisory body only. It makes recommendations to the local governing body, which will then make final decisions after considering those recommendations and other available information.

Requirements of a SWAC (Chapter 70.95.165(3) RCW)

The Washington State Department of Ecology requires that a SWAC:

- Is an on-going committee of at least nine appointed members who represent a balance of interests
- Assists in the development of programs and policies involving solid waste reduction, handling, and disposition
- As advisory body, reviews proposed solid waste related rules, policies, or ordinances and develops recommendations prior to their adoption
- Actively assists and participates in the review, revision or amendment of both a comprehensive solid waste (CSWMP) and hazardous waste management plan (HWMP)
- Also follows RCW 70.95.167 to conduct specific stakeholder and review meetings during the development of the waste reduction and recycling element of the CSWMP.

RCW 70.95.165 (3)

Each county shall establish a local solid waste advisory committee 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. Such committees shall consist of a minimum of nine members and shall represent a balance of interests including, but not limited to, citizens, public interest groups, business, the waste management industry, and local elected public officials. The members shall be appointed by the county legislative authority. A county or city shall not apply for funds from the state and local improvements revolving account, Waste Disposal Facilities, 1980, under chapter 43.99F RCW, for the preparation, update, or major amendment of a comprehensive solid waste management plan unless the plan or revision has been prepared with the active assistance and participation of a local solid waste advisory committee.