



# Commingled Recycling

City of Tacoma | Environmental Services Department

Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability

December 12, 2018

Informational Briefing

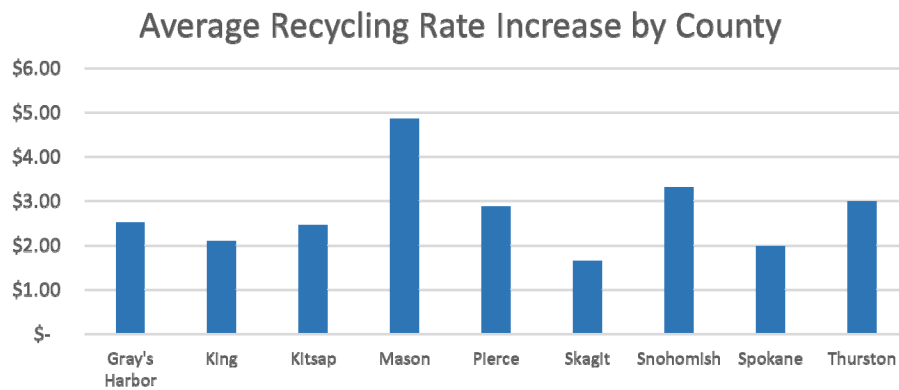


## OVERVIEW



- Other regional jurisdictions' responses
- Analysis of options for Tacoma's recycling
- Next steps

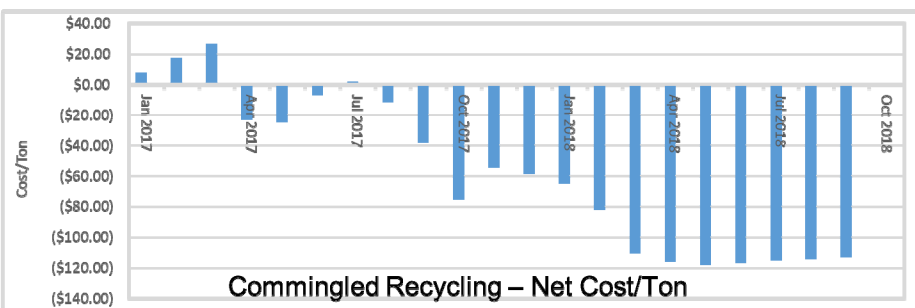
## BACKGROUND – Other jurisdictions



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## ISSUES – Financial implications

- Increased processing costs to meet lower contamination limits
- Increased shipping cost compared to backhaul to China
- Increased recycling fees due to supply exceeding demand



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## PROPOSED ACTIONS



### Long Term Alternatives:

#### 1: Lowest Cost, Limited Recycling

- Additional 3% residential rate increase for increased landfill costs
- Eliminates curbside recycling
- 2 satellite drop-off recycle centers

#### 2: Partial Recycling

- \$2.40 recycle surcharge
- Eliminate curbside glass recycling
- Provide satellite glass boxes or recycle stations

#### 3: Maintain Full Curbside Recycling

- \$3.00 recycle surcharge
- Remove marginal items from commingle recycle list

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## Glass drop stations



- 6 Drop off locations
- Glass only



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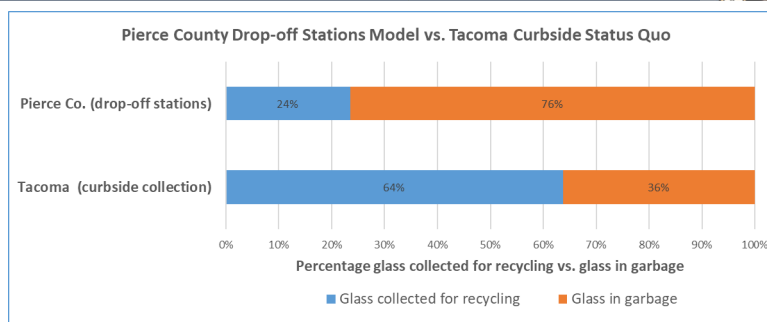
## Mobile Staffed Recycle Satellite Sites

- 2 Sites: NE Tacoma and SE Tacoma
- Open 1 weekend per month at each site
- Collect:
  - Cardboard
  - 1 and 2 plastic
  - Glass
  - Metal
- Collocate HHW satellite 1x per year



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## Glass collection comparison



### Pros:

\$385,000 annual cost saving  
 Reduced employee injury risk  
 Consistent system with Pierce Co.

### Cons:

Additional 1000 tons/year glass to landfill  
 3% decrease in residential diversion rate  
 Reduction in current service level

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## Recycle Right Message:

- Clean, dry and empty
- Rinse food residue
- No dirty packaging
- Keep glass separate
- When in doubt, throw it out



## HEALTH, EQUITY & SUSTAINABILITY ANALYSIS



### EQUITY

- A surcharge for commingled recycling service will impact low income residents
  - Recommend waiving recycling surcharge for customers who are receiving utility bill affordability assistance
- Revisions to commingle recycle list may require increased garbage service, which will increase costs for residents

## OUTREACH



- Three focus groups in 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2019
  - Evaluate customer willingness to pay surcharge
  - Gather feedback on options
  - Gather input on how to convey changes to customers
- Informational sessions and opportunities for feedback at Neighborhood council meetings

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## NEXT STEPS



- Complete outreach through focus groups and Neighborhood Councils by February 2019
- Provide recommendations to council in March 2019
- Develop marketing/PR plan for messaging to customers
- Target implementation of residential recycling changes in June 2019

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