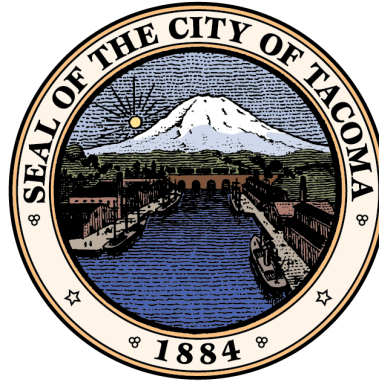




Commingled Recycling Outreach Results & Recommendations

City of Tacoma | Environmental Services Department

City Council Study Session

June 11, 2019

Item #1





OVERVIEW



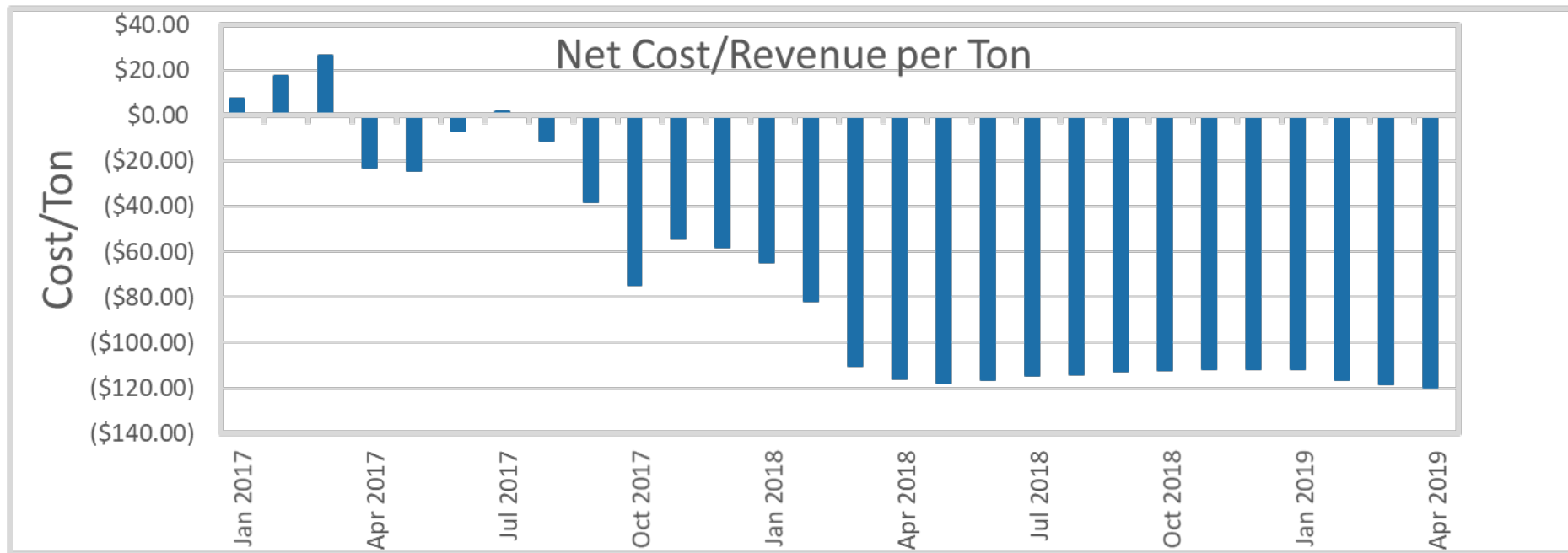
- Background
- Community engagement approach
- Community feedback summary
- Recommendations
- Next steps



BACKGROUND – Financial implications



- Increased processing costs – contamination limits
- Increased shipping cost – vs. China backhaul
- Increased recycling fees – supply & demand

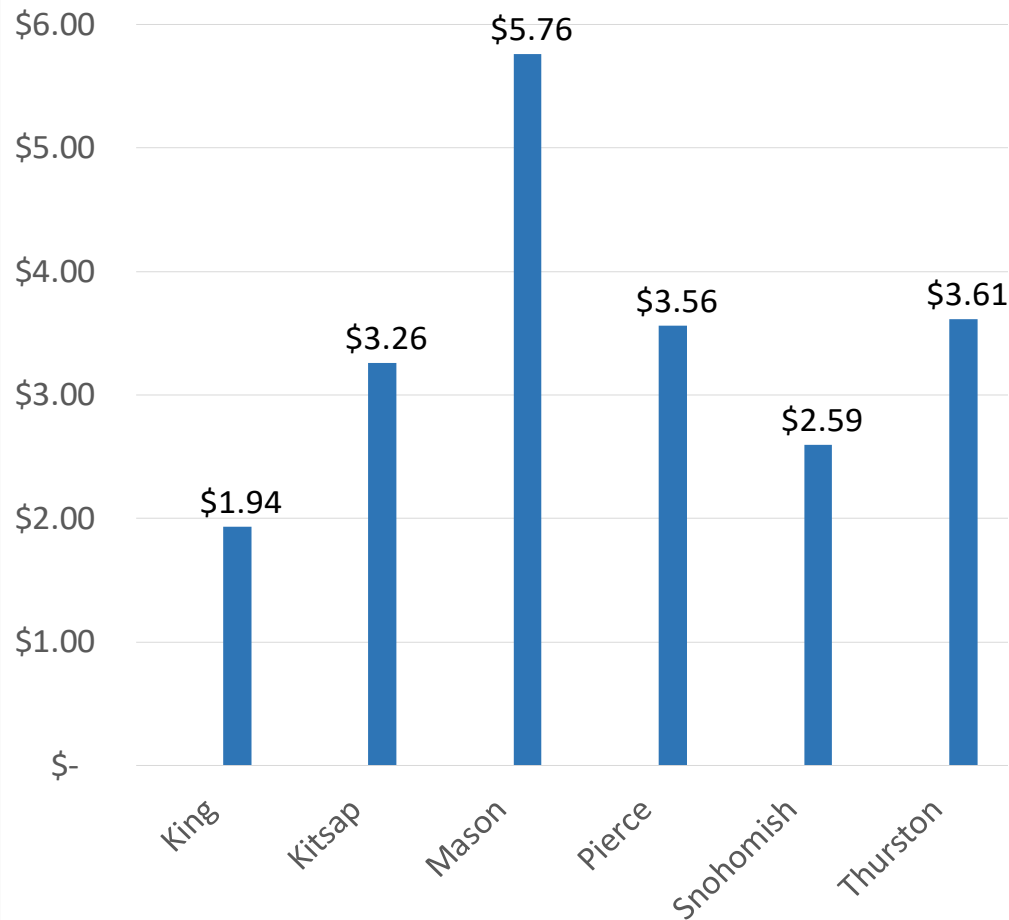




BACKGROUND – Other jurisdictions



Average Recycling Rate Increase by County



Rate increases in Pierce County

September 2018:

- Murrey's Disposal \$4.09 increase
- American Disposal \$4.09 increase
- Pierce County Refuse \$2.80 increase

Rate increases in King County

July 2018:

- SeaTac Disposal \$1.10 increase
- Eastside Disposal \$1.56 increase
- Kent Meridian Disposal \$1.19 increase

October 2018:

- Bainbridge Disposal \$4.55 increase

December 2018:

- South Sound/Seattle \$2.20 increase



Options for Public Input

1: Limited Recycling	2: Partial Recycling	3: Maintain Full Curbside Recycling	4: Maintain Full Recycling Plus
• Additional 3% (\$1.33/month average) residential rate increase for additional landfill costs • Eliminates curbside recycling • 2 satellite drop-off recycle centers	• \$2.40 recycle surcharge/month • Eliminate curbside glass recycling • Provide satellite glass boxes or recycle stations	• \$3.00 recycle surcharge/month • Remove problem items from commingle recycle list	• \$4.00 recycle surcharge/month • Remove problem items from commingle recycle list • Provide satellite glass boxes or recycle stations • Increased education on recycling

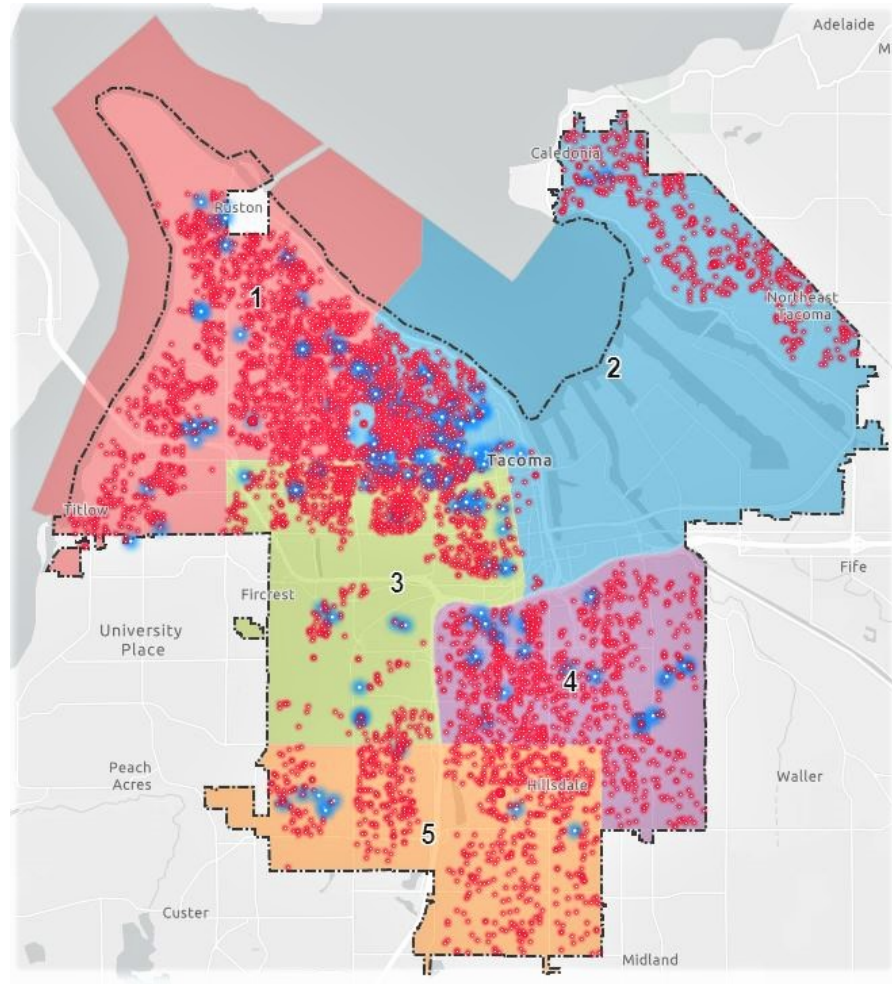


Community Engagement





Feedback Demographics



Survey responses:

Total = 7,438

Tacoma single family/duplex = 6,176

District	# Responses	% of Total
1	1813	29%
2	1406	23%
3	1194	19%
4	1016	16%
5	747	12%

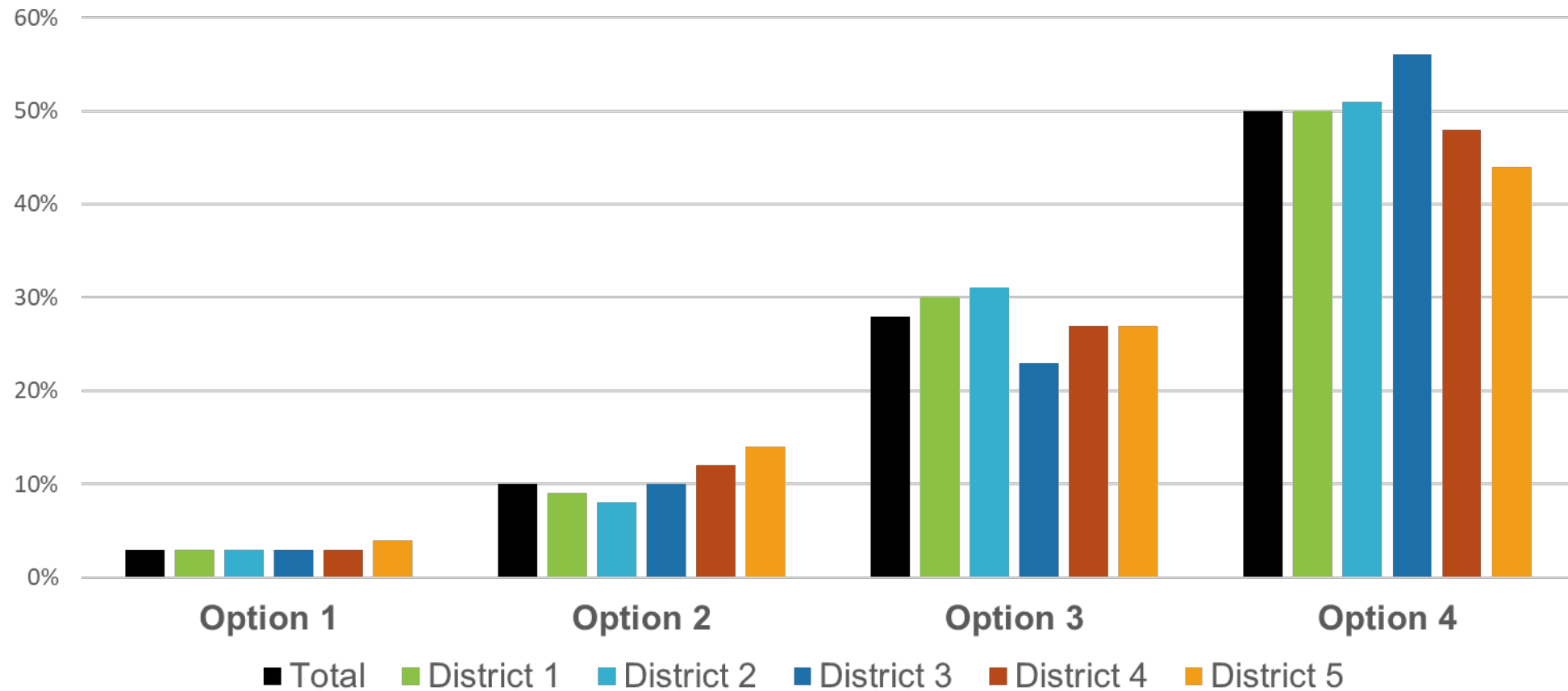
Legend

- Single Family
- Duplex

Feedback Results



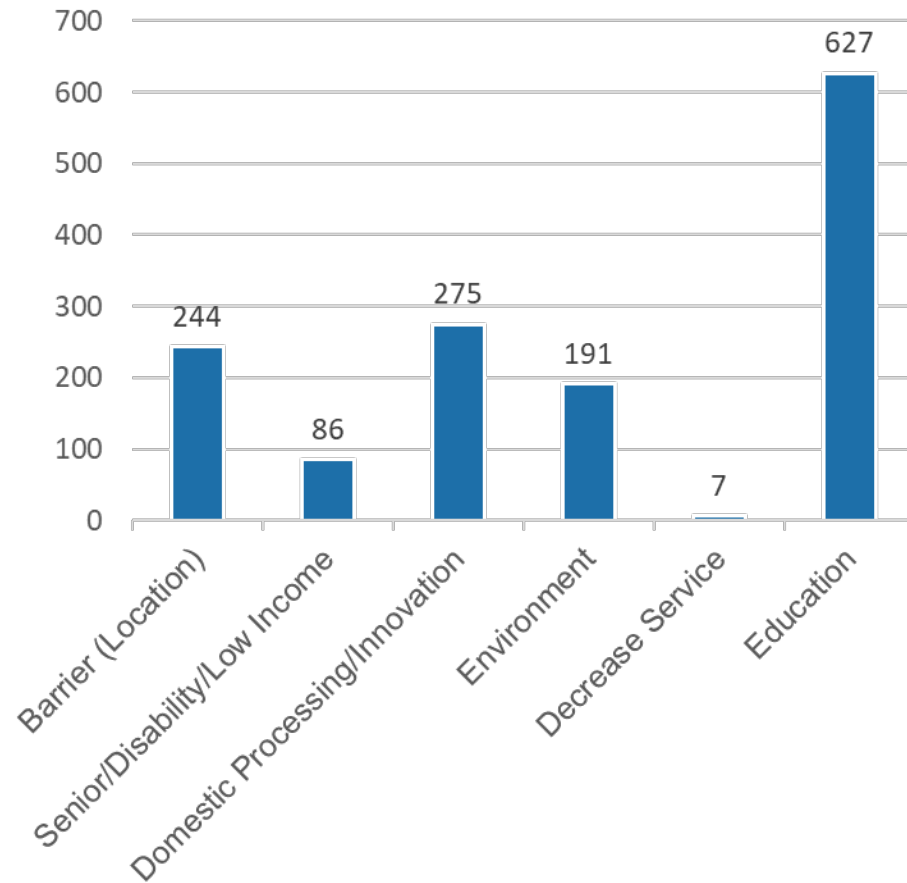
Option Preference Percentage by Council District



Feedback results



Comment Themes



"If the curbside recycling program ends, our family simply will stop recycling. We don't have time or space to hold everything to haul it to a satellite location" - **Barrier (Location)**

"I am extremely concerned about the future of recycling in our City and across the US and what it means for landfills, social responsibility and the environment. *We cannot go backwards.*" - **Environment**

"I know you guys are doing everything you can, but people DO NOT understand what is recyclable and what is not!" - **Education**

"I'd be supportive of banning glass and most plastics from recycling, if those are creating costs instead of savings for the recycling program." - **Decrease Service**

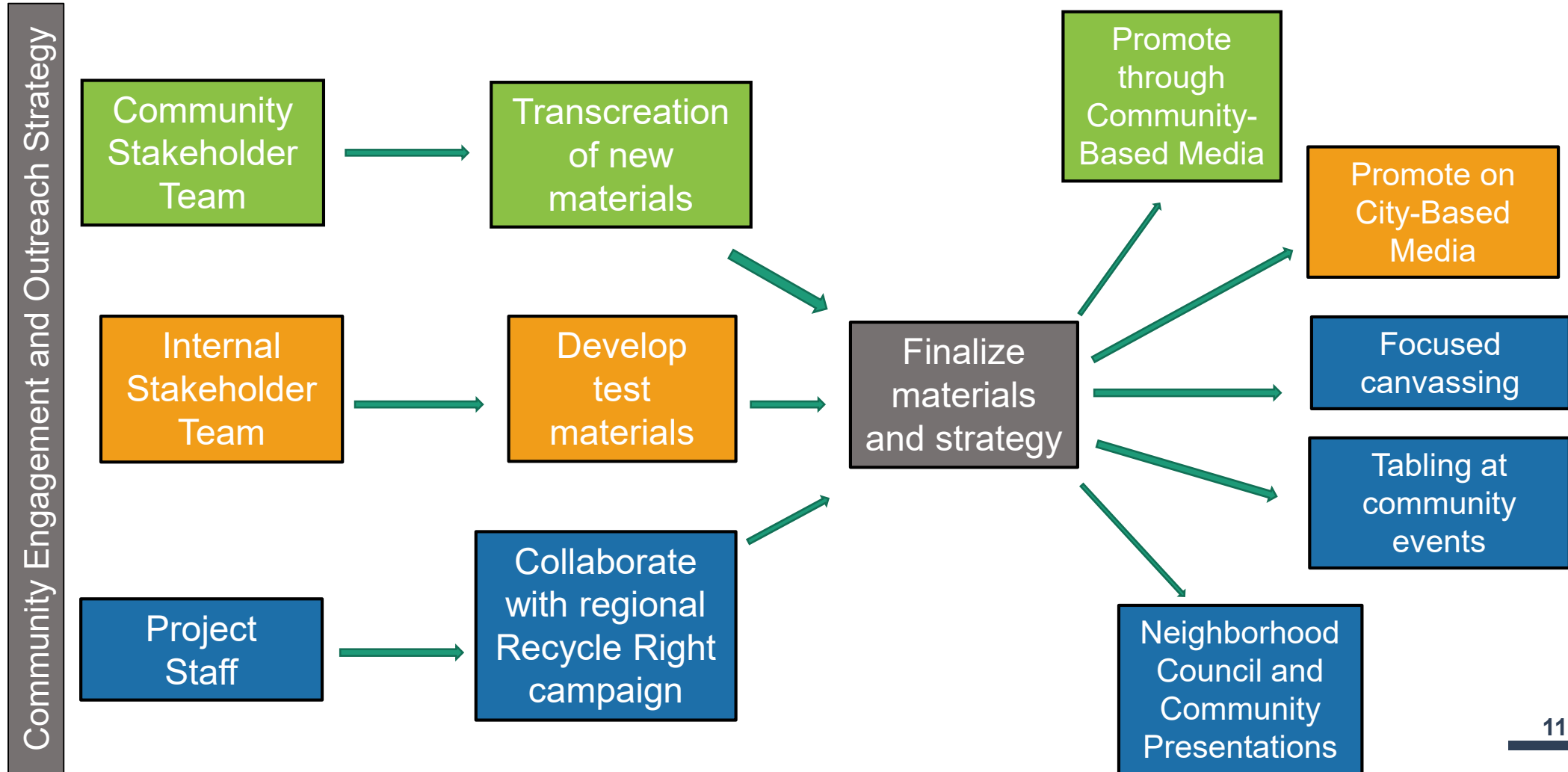
"I am disabled and elderly and need curbside service. I am retired so I would prefer to spend \$3-\$5 extra a month." - **Senior/Disability/Low Income**

EQUITY

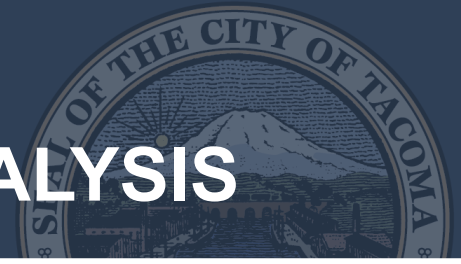
- Survey provided in 6 languages online and through libraries and community centers
- Outreach targeted events and community groups representing diverse populations
- Support from community for waiving surcharge for low income customers in focus groups and at neighborhood councils



Proposed Education & Outreach



● ● ● HEALTH, EQUITY & SUSTAINABILITY ANALYSIS



SUSTAINABILITY – Curbside Glass Collection



25% setout rate



Manual collection



Reloaded into 30 yard box



64 mile haul to Seattle

- **Collection impacts offset environmental benefits:** Net benefit estimated of 38 tons CO₂/year avoided = \$20,000/ton CO₂ avoided
- **Inefficient system:** Annual net cost of \$765,000 to recycle 1663 tons = \$460/ton
- **Employee injury risk:** 11 driver injuries from 2015-2018 related to glass collection



Recommendations



1. Maintain curbside commingled recycling with simplified list

- Strong customer support to maintain current curbside service
- Remove problematic items from list (shredded paper, cartons, polycoated materials, plastic bags, foil, scrap metal, clamshell packages, etc.)
- Harmonized regional system reduces customer confusion

2. Include funding in surcharge for recycling education

- Explain changes to the system
- “Recycling Right” focus on quality
- Increase understanding of the process and cost of recycling
- Materials for EnviroChallenger/schools



Recommendations



3. Change residential curbside glass recycling system

Satellite recycle centers in SE and NE Tacoma

- Provides education opportunity and equitable access

Glass drop off boxes

- Consistent with Pierce County system
- Less environmental impact from collections trucks

No glass in commingle

- Degrades value of glass and other materials
- Not recommended by Southwest Region Commingled Workgroup

RECYCLING

PREPARATION
empty • clean (quick rinse) • no lids

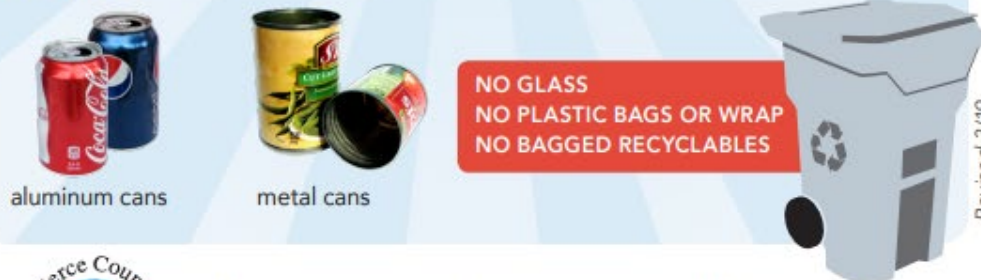
PLASTIC



PAPER



METAL



piercecountywa.gov/recycle

Tacoma

Please Recycle These
Clean materials only!



Paper Products: cardboard, newspaper, office
paper, mail, magazines, paperboard boxes
Clean, dry & flattened



Plastic bottles & tubs
Empty & rinsed of food residue



Tin & Aluminium cans
Empty & rinsed of food residue



www.tacomarecycles.org
For more information call: (253) 502- 2100



Recommendations



4. Add surcharge for residential customers

\$3.40/month per residential account

- Surcharge covers increased residential system costs and education

Surcharge effective at least through 2020

- Evaluate surcharge with next budget cycle

Waive surcharge for low-income customers

- For customers on existing billing assistance

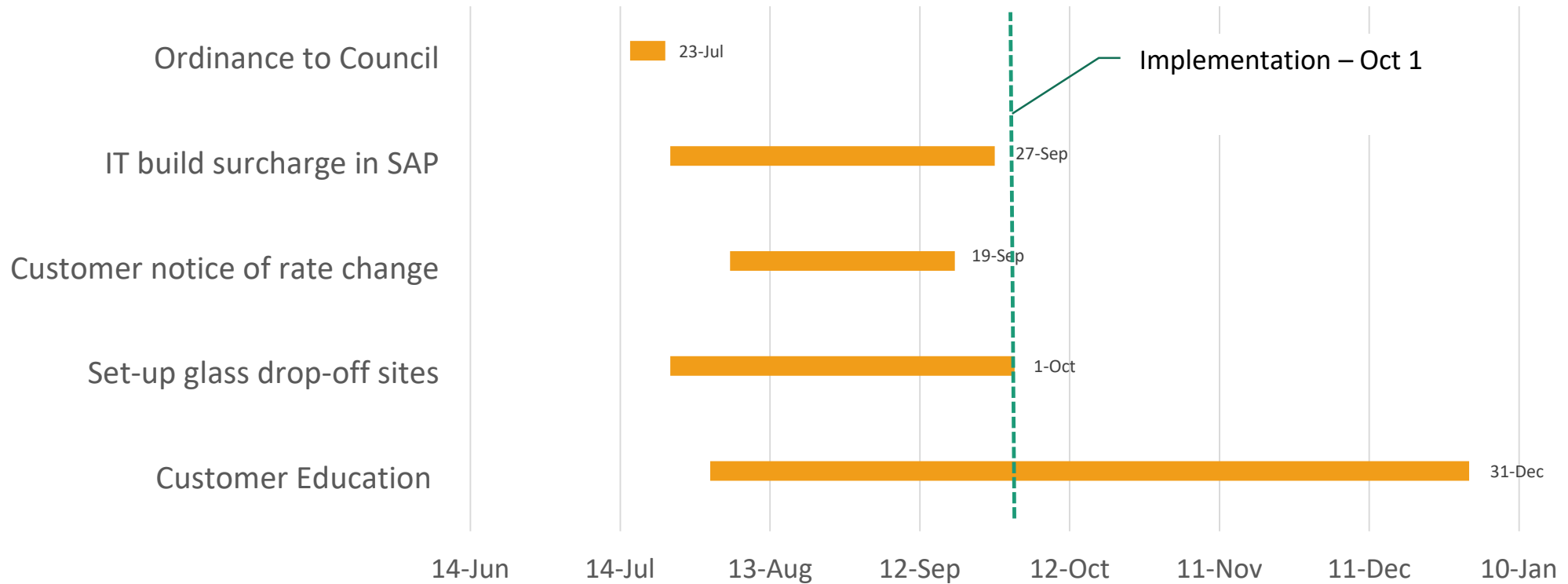
No change to commercial recycle rates

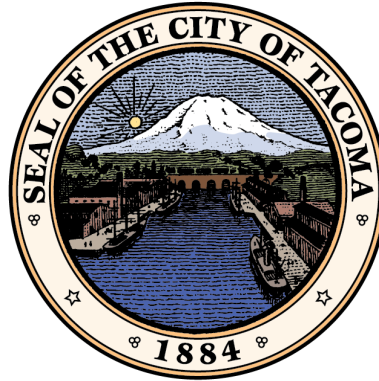
- Commercial recycling revenues currently covering costs

NEXT STEPS



Recycle Changes Implementation Schedule





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