



Spokane Regional Solid Waste System 2010 – A Year in Review

A Message from the Director

During 2010, the Spokane Regional Solid Waste System (System) made substantial progress in meeting our Mission Statement. We expanded recycling opportunities for our residents, and paved the way for additional recycling opportunities, without increasing costs to our ratepayers. Operational improvements enhanced our customer service, and several financial challenges were managed. While some challenges remain, including resolution of governance issues and dealing with decreased electrical revenues after our current power sales agreement expires next year, we look forward to continuing to provide unmatched services to our ratepayers, at a competitive price.

Key Accomplishments:

- Our continuing efforts to encourage private industry to develop a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) are coming to fruition with the announcement by Waste Management Recycle America that they will build a MRF adjacent to the Waste to Energy Facility. This MRF is anticipated to begin operating in 2012 and will process materials from curbside recycling programs from the entire region.
- The materials accepted into our “clean green” yard waste composting program were expanded to include food scraps and food soiled paper, increasing recycling of organics.
- We partnered with Bloomsday and Hoopfest to expand a lending library of collection containers for event recycling.
- Operating hours of System facilities and disposal rates were standardized, significantly reducing confusion among our customers and reducing traffic impacts.
- A turbine overhaul was completed, increasing electrical generation and revenues to the System
- Improved operations at the Waste to Energy Facility increased throughput and substantially decreased the amount of waste landfilled.
- A short term contract for operations of the Waste to Energy Facility through 2014 was negotiated, when various interlocal agreements expire.
- Debt service reserve funds now include sufficient money to pay all remaining Bonds.
- Through strategic spending deferrals, a projected need to borrow money during 2010 was avoided, and we ended the year with adequate reserves.
- It has now been 15 years since we have had any increase in municipal solid waste disposal fees, except for a 1% increase ten years ago
- Our costs remain competitive with surrounding areas which rely solely on landfilling for waste disposal, and are significantly less than other large metropolitan areas in the state which offer a similar range of services.

Over the past two years, we have reduced our reliance on landfilling of raw waste by nearly 50 percent, to less than 15 percent of the waste delivered to our facilities. We at the System remain proud of our integrated approach to solid waste management. We will continue to utilize the latest proven technology to recycle and dispose of our garbage with the greatest environmental benefits and least environmental impacts.

Russ Menke, P.E.

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide all citizens residing in Spokane County with recycling and disposal services that continue to put this area in a leadership position with respect to programs, planning, and results. These integrated services should be cost effective, efficient, and environmentally justifiable. It continues to be the goal of the Spokane Regional Solid Waste System to manage more than 50% of the waste stream through waste reduction and recycling.

Background

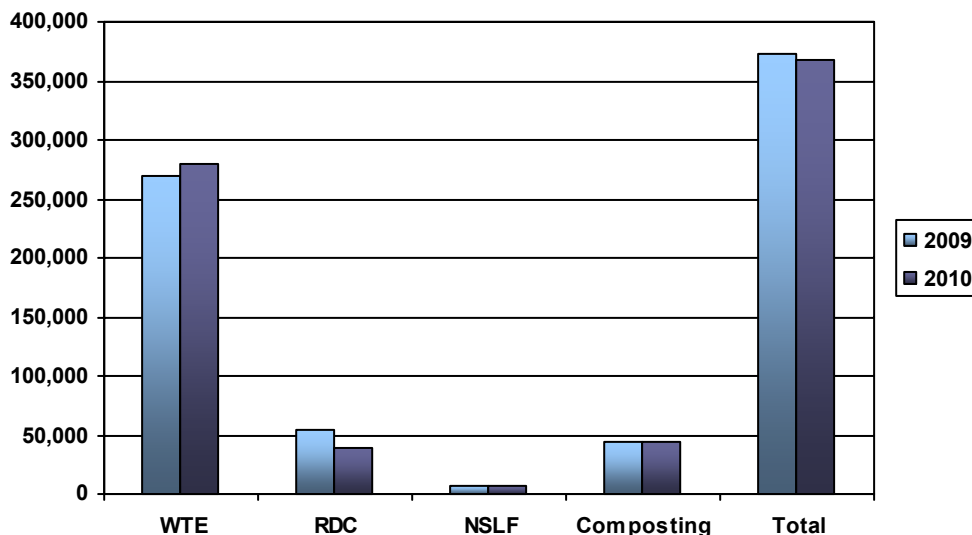
In the mid-1980s, the four publicly-owned landfills in Spokane County were almost full, and three had been designated by the EPA as Superfund sites. They were polluting groundwater and could potentially lead to contamination of Spokane's sole-source aquifer. In addition, new landfill standards were adopted by the State that would make landfilling more costly and siting more difficult.

After years of study, a decision was made by elected officials from the City of Spokane and Spokane County to form the Spokane Regional Solid Waste System (System). The other Regional Cities/Towns in Spokane County and Fairchild AFB accepted an invitation to join the System and entered into Interlocal Agreements with Spokane County and the City of Spokane. The System operates as a department of the City of Spokane, and manages solid waste facilities, contracts, and programs for the benefit of all citizens residing in Spokane County. Under the Interlocal Agreement, the City of Spokane is responsible for making all operational decisions other than certain major decisions that require the concurrence of the County.

Facilities and Management

System facilities include the Waste to Energy (WTE) Facility, Valley and North County Transfer Stations, and the Northside Landfill. Oversight for all System facilities is provided by the System. Other System management responsibilities include planning, recycling/waste reduction, composting, solid waste disposal, household hazardous waste and litter programs. Protection of the environment was a primary consideration when the Regional System was developed. This commitment continues today after 19 years of operation.

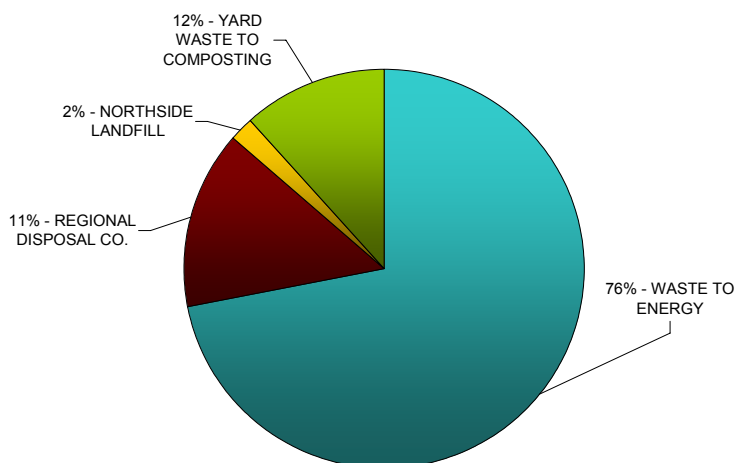
Waste Disposition Tons 2009 versus 2010



Disposal

- Total waste received by the System – 368,357 tons (excludes materials received at System Recycling Centers)
- Waste to Energy Facility (WTE) – 279,602 tons processed
- Solid waste to Regional Disposal Co. (RDC) – 38,934 tons
- Ash to Regional Disposal Co. (RDC) – 81,898
- Northside Landfill (NSLF) – 6,393 tons
- Clean Green materials to Waste Management, Inc., for composting – 43,428 tons
- Recycled metals diverted from disposal – 9,878 tons (9,085 tons of recovered ferrous metal from ash; 793 tons of white goods retrieved from tipping floor)

Disposition of Waste 2010



*May equal more than 100% due to rounding.

Electrical Generation

- 171,142 MWh produced by Waste to Energy Facility
- 29,644 MWh used to meet the in-house demands of operating the facility
- 141,498 MWh sold to Puget Sound Energy for \$12,556,637

Solid Waste and Recycling - Educational Activities

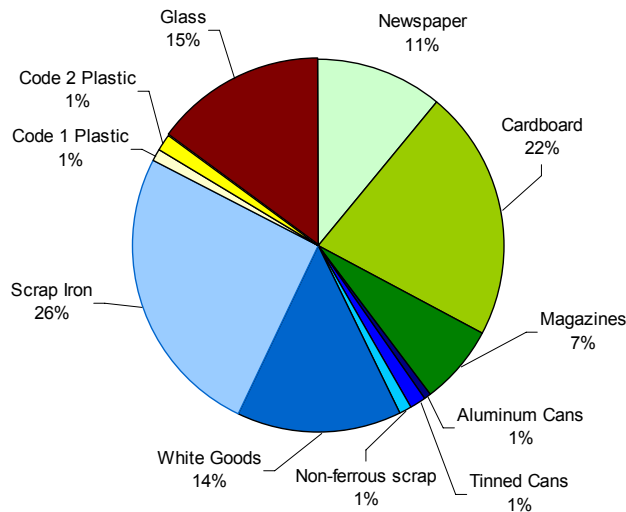
- Total of 44 staff presentations (2,395 students/individuals)
- Exhibits at 7 community events with approximately 1,500 contacts
- 77 scheduled Waste to Energy Facility tours for 2,036 individuals (Does not include public walk-in tours.)
- Youth Environmental Conference – Over 125 students participated.
- America Recycles Day activities: Poster Contest/Calendar – more than 240 entries from 30 schools, with 18 posters selected for 2011 Calendar. The finalists were displayed in River Park Square.
- EnviroKids Newsletter – reaching 450 members
- Washington Green Schools (SRSWS recognized as a partner agency through work of Ann Murphy) received “Organizational Excellence” award from the Environmental Education Association of Washington for 2010.
- One Man’s Trash newsletter insertion in Spokesman-Review (60,500) and Pacific Northwest Inlander (19,500) in January, April, July and October. Electronic version of One Man’s Trash also included in Spokesman-Review online e-paper.
- Recycling RAP published once during the school year (3,000 copies)
- kids enviro page published in kids newspaper 3 times during the school year, reaching 30,000 elementary school children
- Website (www.solidwaste.org)

2010 Master Composter/Recycler Program

The program was renamed the Master Composter/Recycler program to emphasize the dual commitment to educating the public that recycling, as well as composting, is important to reducing Spokane County's waste.

- Staffed booths at 20 events
- 26 new Master Composters/Recyclers trained
- 2 Compost Fairs, April and October - 978 attendees and 694 bins distributed
- 4 Chipping and Composting Events (North County, West County, and Valleyford) over 2 days. Total of 65 attendees, with 44 bins distributed
- 1041 volunteer hours logged by Master Composters/Recyclers
- 3 issues of the volunteer newsletter, The Leaf Letter, were distributed to over 100 volunteers.

Transfer Station and Waste to Energy Recycling Centers Total materials 3,846 tons



Recycling Rates for 2009

- 42% Recycling Rate (231,537 tons of material)
- 45% Diverted Rate (188,042 tons of material)
- 43.5% Combined Rate

Spokane's 2010 Recycling Rate will be announced when it is available. It will also be posted on the System website at:

<http://www.solidwaste.org/>

Moderate Risk Waste

A total of 619.92 tons of Household Hazardous Waste was collected at the three System facilities in 2010, compared to 540.38 tons in 2009. Of that 619.92 tons, 582.83 tons, 92 percent, were recycled, reused or went to energy recovery, with only 37.09 tons being disposed in a solid waste or hazardous waste landfill.

Litter Control

Litter crews worked throughout Spokane County cleaning up over 200 tons of trash, which included roadside litter and 2,002 illegal dumpsites. The Geiger Litter Crew also removed 49.37 tons from 371 locations on public rights of way. In addition, 96 cases of illegal dumping on private property were investigated by an officer.