

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Discussion of Resolution No. 497 - Expressing Support for King County’s Re+ Pledge to Minimize Waste		
DEPARTMENT:	Recreation, Cultural, and Community Services		
PRESENTED BY:	Cameron Reed, Environmental Service Program Manager		
ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Motion
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing	

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

Up to 70% of what currently goes into King County’s only active regional landfill is reusable or recyclable. King County projects this landfill will reach capacity by approximately 2040. [Re+](#) is a multi-year effort, set to formally launch in November 2022, to fulfill King County’s goals of a zero-waste future and development of a circular economy for reusable and compostable items as outlined in the [King County 2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan](#) and [2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan](#).

The shared goal of the County and cities participating in the County’s solid waste disposal system via interlocal agreement, is to keep materials with economic value in use and out of our waste stream. King County is currently developing the Re+ Plan to outline a pathway to achieving that goal and is seeking to partner with cities on local implementation of key plan elements.

Tonight, the City Council will be joined by John Walsh, Strategy, Communications and Performance Section Manager, from King County’s Solid Waste Division to share more information about the County’s Re+ Plan and Re+ Pledge (Attachment A, Exhibit A). Additionally, staff is seeking Council consideration of the City expressing its support for King County’s Re+ Pledge. City support for the Re+ Pledge would be provided for by proposed Resolution No. 497 (Attachment A). Proposed Resolution No. 497 is current scheduled to return for potential Council action on October 17, 2022.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There are no immediate, direct costs to the City for adopting the RE+ pledge. The funding for Re+ programs and activities is in the King County Solid Waste Division’s 2023-2024 budget. However, there will be costs associated with implementing supporting actions locally. Several of these key actions are included in the Climate Action Plan update that Council will review at the October 10, 2022, meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

No action is required by the City Council this evening. This meeting provides an opportunity for the City Council to review proposed Resolution No. 497 and King

County's Re+ Pledge and ask questions of King County and City staff and provide staff direction. Staff recommends that Council approve proposed Resolution No. 497 expressing support for King County's Re+ Pledge when it is scheduled to return for potential action on October 17, 2022.

Approved By: City Manager **DT** City Attorney **MK**

INTRODUCTION

[Re+](#) is a multi-year effort, set to formally launch in November 2022, to fulfill King County's goals of a zero-waste future and development of a circular economy for reusable and compostable items as outlined in the [King County 2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan](#) and [2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan](#).

BACKGROUND

The King County Solid Waste Division provides garbage transfer, disposal, and recycling services for approximately 1.9 million people. They serve all of King County, except the cities of Seattle and Milton. Their work is guided by [King County's 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan \(Comp Plan\)](#), which enables them to manage waste locally at the lowest cost and with the least environmental impact. Up to 70% of what currently goes into King County's only active regional landfill is reusable or recyclable. The County projects this landfill will reach capacity by approximately 2040.

Re+ is the County's biggest effort yet to reach zero waste of resources and create a more circular economy. It creates a tangible path towards meeting the 70% waste diversion goals outlined in the 2019 Comp Plan and supports [King County's Strategic Climate Action Plan](#) (SCAP) and the [King County-Cities Climate Collaboration](#) (K4C) agreements.

King County is currently developing the Re+ Plan to outline a pathway to achieving that goal and is seeking to partner with cities on local implementation of key plan elements. Additionally, achieving zero waste of resources with economic value by 2030 aligns with the City's commitments and efforts to address climate change including:

- [Shoreline Comprehensive Plan goal NE V](#),
- [Shoreline City Council \(2022-2024\) - Goal 2, Action Step 6](#),
- [King County Joint Commitments to climate change action and targets through the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration](#), and
- [Shoreline Climate Action Plan update](#) that is currently underway.

The City of Shoreline contracts with Recology to provide comprehensive garbage, recyclables and compost services to both residential and commercial clients. Garbage service is mandatory for businesses, multifamily and single-family properties in Shoreline. Every other week recycling is included at no additional cost along with garbage services. Weekly compost food scraps and yard waste is also included at no-cost for single family homes. Solid waste is then transported to the King County Landfill.

DISCUSSION

When King County's current disposal-based solid waste system was developed in the 1960s, it was not designed with equity and climate impacts in mind. Navigating which materials are recyclable is confusing. Some solid waste services remain out of reach for many residents. Critical improvements have since been made at Cedar Hills Regional Landfill to capture and process methane gas and keep pollutants out of stormwater

runoff, but with the landfill set to close by 2040, it's time to invest in a system that's better for both the environment and our communities.

We can reduce climate impacts, conserve resources and create a healthier environment for our communities by keeping valuable materials out of the landfill and in use as long as possible. By incorporating the principles of a circular economy, which emphasizes methods like recycling to keep materials out of the landfill, Re+ is a roadmap for making that change. Our approach aims to reinvent the current waste management system to be more resilient, future-focused, and equitable.

In 2019, about 860,000 tons of waste, including highly recyclable material, was buried in Cedar Hills Regional Landfill (Figure 1).

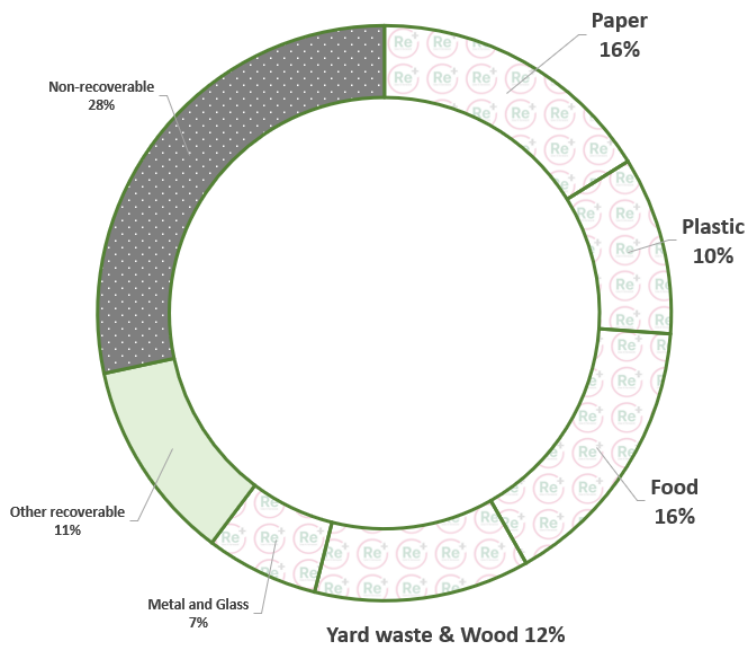


Figure 1: Recyclability of Materials sent to Cedar Hills Regional Landfill in 2019.

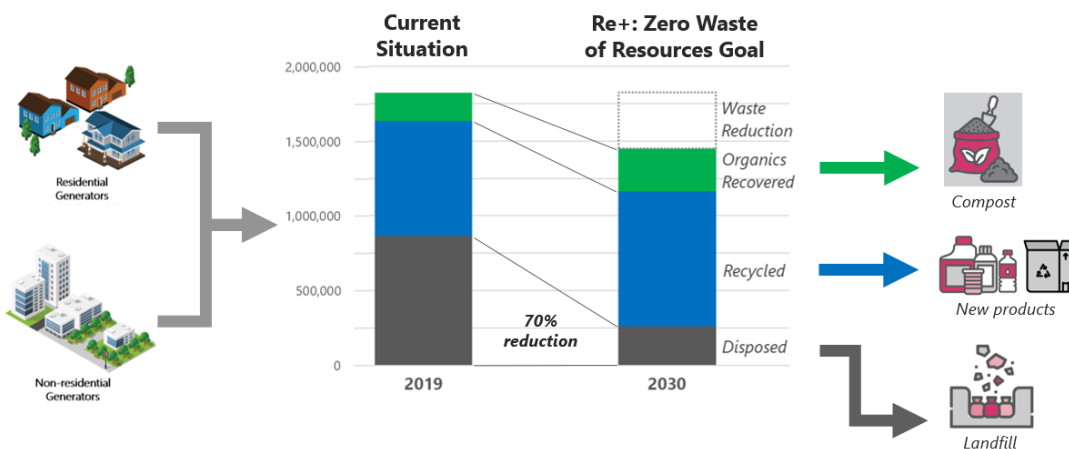


Figure 2: Current solid waste disposal situation compared to Re+ goals

The Re+ Plan is guided by the following principles based on partnership and collaboration with cities, regional and statewide initiatives:

1. **Pursuing opportunity in a more circular economy** - Through the transition to a more circular economy, directly address equity and accessibility issues in all planning decisions.
2. **Include All Voices** - Ensure that when taking a systems approach and when approaching planning decisions, the needs of all residents are placed at the center of the process, recognizing the voices of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and those who have been historically excluded are heard and reflected.
3. **Support Local Growth and Green Jobs** - The region ensures material management jobs are green jobs, and workers are encouraged to take advantage of the clean circular economy roles of the future.
4. **Support Broader Goals** - Measure and track the benefits and impacts of planned actions to climate, human health, equity, toxics and the environment, and incorporate performance in county plans and goals.
5. **Prioritize High Impact Materials** - The region prioritizes material and product categories with the biggest potential positive impacts (plastic, paper, and organics including wood) in the short term but recognizes that future updates to the Re+ plan need to expand to cover all relevant materials – such as textiles, mattresses and carpet.

RE+ Strategies

The Re+ Plan will include the following strategies:

- **Strategy 1: System-wide Approach**
 - A regional system-wide approach that is collaboration-based & recognizes where action is needed from design through end of use.
 - *Why is this needed: To achieve a circular economy, all the components of the system—from product design and creation to recycling of unwanted items—must adapt to work together towards this common goal.*
- **Strategy 2: Resources at All Levels**
 - The region and all responsible parties prioritize and implement actions that deliver the zero-waste goal and move towards a more circular economy.
 - *Why is this needed: Re+ is a very big change and in order to be successful, it will require support, knowledge, and other resources from King County partners.*
- **Strategy 3: A More Circular Economy**
 - Moving towards a more circular economy where the region seizes the opportunity for climate and environmental stewardship and ensures a just equitable transition where all people thrive.
 - *Why is this needed: The Earth does not have enough resources to support the current “make, use, and throw away” system that exploits people and the environment.*

- **Strategy 4: Infrastructure & Innovation**
 - The region delivers zero-waste/Re+ infrastructure & innovation where technology solutions can handle increased diversion and supporting unconventional solutions.
 - *Why is this needed: King County’s current solid waste system is based on a model from the 1950s and 60s—we should be adopting new technologies that were made to address the waste issues of this millennium.*
- **Strategy 5: Policy & Legislation**
 - The region embraces zero-waste/Re+ policy & legislation, recognizing governments have a leading role working in partnership with the private sector in creating and harmonizing standards and approaches.
 - *Why is this needed: New laws can be a relatively quick and effective way to create large-scale change in an otherwise complicated system.*

Fast Start Actions

While the full plan will be released in November, the County has identified several “fast-start” actions that will be critical for implementation:

1. **Non-Residential Food Waste Recycling:** King County, in collaboration with Washington State and partnering with cities, will be working with local businesses and restaurants to help separate their food waste. King County Solid Waste Division (SWD) is conducting research on the ways this waste can be turned into a resource, like compost to help grow food, or biogas energy that can help power businesses and homes.
2. **Circular Economy Business Development and Grants:** King County will deliver business development, mentoring, networking and access to funding pathways. for circular economy initiatives through NextCycle Washington, an accelerator program for organizations and businesses diverting materials and using recycled materials in manufacturing.
3. **Single family Organics Collection:** SWD is looking into effective ways to divert organics and food waste into compost and away from landfills from single-family residents throughout King County. We’ll be using information gathered from surveys, consultant studies, and the Re+ Community Panel to determine the method that best serves the need of King County communities with a specific eye on equity.
4. **Community Panel** (completed/in-process): King County assembled a Community Panel to provide insight and direction around the intersection of equity and solid waste policies in King County. The panel is comprised of residents, workers, and volunteers of King County who have lived experienced as a frontline community member, are disproportionately impacted by climate change, and more exposed to materials management decisions.
5. **Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging & Paper Products:** King County will support adoption of a statewide Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program that requires companies that make consumer products to fund the recycling system and ensure that their packaging and paper products (PPP) actually get recycled. EPR would save local governments and residents money,

increase reuse and recycling rates, and incentivize companies to reduce their use of PPP and design reusable, recyclable, or compostable materials.

Impact

Collectively, the County expects that these and other Re+ actions will significantly reduce both solid waste and emissions while recovering recyclable material, creating jobs, reducing food insecurity, conserving natural resources, and supporting more equitable outcomes (Figure 3).



Specifically, the plan has the potential to provide the following benefits:

- Redirecting 135,000 tons of food each year in King County to go towards composting, bioenergy, and feeding those experiencing food insecurity
- Recovering infinitely recyclable materials like glass and metals for continued use
- Recycling 130,000 tons of cardboard and paper and preventing an estimated 1 million to 2 million trees from being processed into new paper fibers.
- Providing clearer messaging about what materials are recyclable
- Reducing approximately 600,000 metric tons of CO2e from the mining and processing of raw materials or as landfill gas in the landfill each year.

Tonight’s Council Meeting

Tonight, the City Council will discuss King County’s Re+ Plan and Re+ Pledge (Attachment A, Exhibit A). Additionally, staff is seeking Council consideration of the City expressing its support for King County’s Re+ Pledge. City support for the Re+ Pledge would be provided for by proposed Resolution No. 497 (Attachment A). Proposed Resolution No. 497 is current scheduled to return for potential Council action on October 17, 2022.

STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

To better understand community needs within our solid waste system, the County created the Re+ Community Panel, a group of 10 frontline community members who

live, work, or volunteer in King County. Their contributions in our ongoing meetings have already helped highlight areas where Re+ can adopt more equitable implementation.

These areas include:

- Re+ influence on food systems and food sovereignty
- Re+ influence on dismantling the root causes of oppression and undoing the harms caused by colonial systems
- Re+ grants supporting living wages, meaningful work, and small businesses
- Transferring decision making power to our local tribes
- Making the principles of the circular economy more accessible, culturally-informed, and culturally relevant

Work in these areas and more will be ongoing, including broader community engagement following the formal Re+ Plan launch in November 2022.

COUNCIL GOAL(S) ADDRESSED

Proposed Resolution No. 497 supports Council goal 2, Action Step 6: Continue to implement the 2022-2024 Priority Environmental Strategies including implementation of Salmon-Safe certification activities, resource conservation and zero waste activities, and updating the City's Climate Action Plan.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no immediate, direct costs to the City for adopting the RE+ Pledge. The funding for Re+ programs and activities is in the King County Solid Waste Division's 2023-2024 budget. However, there will be costs associated with implementing supporting actions locally. Several of these key actions are included in the Climate Action Plan update that Council will review at the October 10 meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

No action is required by the City Council this evening. This meeting provides an opportunity for the City Council to review proposed Resolution No. 497 and King County's Re+ Pledge and ask questions of King County and City staff and provide staff direction. Staff recommends that Council approve proposed Resolution No. 497 expressing support for King County's Re+ Pledge when it is scheduled to return for potential action on October 17, 2022.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Proposed Resolution No. 497
Attachment A, Exhibit A - King County Re+ Pledge

RESOLUTION NO. 497

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR KING COUNTY’S RE+ PLEDGE TO MINIMIZE SOLID WASTE.

WHEREAS, the Re+ program is a King County Solid Waste Division program dedicated to reducing the impact of climate change by preventing and reducing solid waste; and

WHEREAS, the Re+ program outlines a pathway to achieve the goal of minimizing solid waste and King County is seeking to partner with cities on local implementation of key plan elements; and

WHEREAS, key actions for the Re+ program include identifying new ways of processing organics and recycling, developing recycling markets for organics, paper and plastic, and a community panel to engage historically underrepresented and adversely impacted community members to help guide future outcomes along with developing new markets that will create local jobs in the private sector, help build the green economy, and ensure a just and equitable impact on the members of our community; and

WHEREAS, supporting the Re+ program effort will help focus local governments on a joint effort and responsibility to make progress toward reducing local GHG emissions by increasing waste prevention and recycling, laying the foundation for developing a circular economy; and

WHEREAS, the Re+ Pledge aligns with the City’s commitments and efforts to address climate change including:

- Shoreline Comprehensive Plan goal NE V;
- Shoreline City Council (2022-2024) Goal 2, Action Step 6,;
- King County Joint Commitments to climate change action and targets through the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration
- Shoreline Climate Action Plan; and
- Resolution No. 494 declaring a climate emergency and directing the City to take actions to address the climate crisis; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to express its support for the shared vision that the Re+ program represents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHORELINE AS FOLLOWS:

The Shoreline City Council expresses its support for King County’s Re+ Pledge to Minimize Solid Waste and authorizes the City Manager to execute the Re+ Pledge as set forth in Exhibit A to this Resolution.

The Shoreline City Council further expresses the City’s desire to work collaboratively with King County to identify ways to enhance the City’s efforts to achieve the vision of the Re+ program in a fair, equitable and inclusive manner with implementation support from the County including competitive grants, model language for countywide program and policy implementation, and technical support.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 17, 2022.

Mayor Keith Scully

ATTEST:

Jessica Simulcik Smith
City Clerk



Re+ Pledge

Re+ is a multi-year effort, set to formally launch in November 2022, to fulfill King County's goals of a zero-waste future and development of a zero-waste circular economy as outlined in the King County 2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan and 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan.

Up to 70% of what currently goes into our regional landfill is reusable or recyclable. Our goal is to keep materials with economic value in use and out of our waste stream. The Re+ program is our pathway to success.

Implementing Re+ will ensure that we are keeping true to our commitments to reduce climate impacts, conserve resources, and create a healthier environment for our communities by keeping valuable materials out of the landfill and in use as long as possible.

Re+ is a roadmap for making that change.

Our approach aims to reinvent the current waste management system to be more resilient, equitable, and cost-effective through strategies necessary to meet our 2030 goal of zero food waste and zero waste of reusable resources.

Key actions include identifying new ways of processing organics and recycling, developing recycling markets for organics, paper and plastic, and a community panel to engage historically underrepresented and adversely impacted community members to help guide future outcomes. These new markets will create local jobs in the private sector, help build the green economy and ensure a just and equitable impact on the members of our community.

Re+ builds on the important work that many of our partners, including cities, the Port of Seattle, businesses, non-profits, community members, and the County are already doing to reduce contributions to climate change.

WHEREAS, climate change is an urgent challenge, with far-reaching current and future impacts to our environment, public health, and economy; and

WHEREAS, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions generated globally from the production, transport, use, and disposal of goods, foods, and services consumed in King County are a major part of our communities' climate footprint and are more than locally generated GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS, King County and K4C partners are measuring, reporting, and developing new strategies to reduce consumption-related GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS, supporting the Re+ effort will help focus our joint effort and responsibility to make progress toward reducing local GHG emissions by increasing waste prevention and recycling, laying the foundation for developing a circular economy; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that the success of Re+ will require collaboration between King County, local jurisdictions, tribes, businesses, community-based organizations, and others; and

WHEREAS, the Re+ Program is consistent with, consolidates, and accelerates progress towards achieving the approved goals and strategies of the 2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan, the 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan, and the Joint Climate Action Commitment of the King County Cities Climate Collaborative (K4C) in relation to the County’s zero-waste goals; and

WHEREAS, we will work with the County to identify ways to enhance our efforts to achieve the vision of Re+ with implementation support from the County including competitive grants, model language for countywide program and policy implementation, and technical support; and

WHEREAS, as a core component of this important work we must engage in ways that are fair, equitable and inclusive for those who are historically under-represented and have been disproportionately impacted by the status quo in our communities.

Mission

- Reducing** single use items
- Reusing** everything that can be
- Recycling** what’s left
- Renewing** communities
- Rethinking** what’s possible

Vision

Healthy, safe, and thriving communities in a waste-free King County

Now, therefore, we pledge our support for the shared vision that Re+ represents and look forward to collaborating to see this vision become reality.

Signed this ___ day of _____, _____, by



Name, Title

on behalf of

Jurisdiction



Alternate Formats Available
206-477-4466 • TTY Relay 711