



## Zero Waste of Resources Innovation Tour – Travel Justification

King County’s [\*2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan\*](#) was formally adopted last fall. Beyond extending our ability to keep managing waste locally with the fewest environmental and economic costs, it provides planning runway to achieve the broader regional goal of Zero Waste of Resources.

How we achieve that goal is up to us. And right now, we have a unique opportunity to imagine the future of waste and resource management that will take the region through the mid-21st century.

Consider that the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill currently accepts about 900,000 tons of waste each year, yet 70% of what is sent there isn’t waste at all – it’s valuable resources that could be reused or recycled. There is tremendous opportunity to realize the economic and environmental potential of recovering those resources.

It’s a grand and challenging idea, but we believe that stepping up to that challenge now will have a greater payoff in the long run than if we just continued to conduct “business as usual.”

That’s why we’re inviting you to join us as we embark on a Zero Waste of Resources Tour that will “focus on the 70”. The objective is to challenge our thinking about what is possible for our region, and to gain insight on best practices from some of the most innovative waste management organizations locally, nationally, and possibly internationally.

### **Imagining the Future**

## Innovation hot spots – options for grouping the tours



# Solid Waste Division

King County will organize group tours targeting “innovation hot spots”, which include operations here in the Pacific Northwest as well as BC, Northern California, the Northeast, and the Southeast.

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During these one to four day tours, we’ll see first-hand how other organizations are “focusing on the 70”, and how we can incorporate and improve on those practices in our region. We’ll discover new possibilities for organics and food waste processing, breakthroughs in plastics and paper recycling, progress around Extended Producer Responsibility and post-consumer markets, advances in waste-to- energy and so much more.

By gauging partner interest, we can begin setting up the tour logistics and timing, and that will also give us a more definitive idea of individual costs.

There’s the possibility of scheduling tours out over several months, or grouping the tours together.

We welcome you to join us in laying this groundwork to an exciting new future for solid waste management in King County.

Questions about the tour can be directed to Pat McLaughlin at [Pat.McLaughlin@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Pat.McLaughlin@kingcounty.gov) or 206-477-4501.

Tour	Estimated dates	Estimated cost range (hotels, flights, meals, etc.)
California	April 1 to 3, 2020	\$1000 to \$1800
Northeast	April 26 to 29, 2020	\$3300 to \$5000
Southeast	May 10 to 13, 2020	\$2000 to \$3000
Pacific Northwest	May 5 & 6, 2020	\$150 to \$500
British Columbia	June or July 2020	\$350 to \$600