

Follow-up for April 26th Council discussions regarding the Recology's Annual Report and the City's 2020 Sustainability Report.

April 29, 2021

Waste Diversion Rate Comparison

Shoreline's community wide waste diversion rate increased from 48% in 2019 to 50% in 2020. A comparison of the most recent, publicly available waste diversion rates from surrounding communities is provided below. Please note that there may be slight differences in how diversion rates are calculated in each community.

	2019 Diversion Rate
Shoreline	48%
Kirkland	46%
Seattle (SPU)	54.4%
Mercer Island *	56.6%

*March 2020-Feb 2021 average

Recology-Specific Topics of Discussion



Mayor Hall, Deputy Mayor Scully, and City of Shoreline Councilors,

Thank you for the opportunity to present our 2020 Annual Report to you last week. I followed up with our Recology King County Team to address the questions that were asked during that presentation.

Deputy Mayor Scully referenced allocating resources to mitigate the large quantities of cardboard created from online shopping in 2020. During December 2020 Recology launched a campaign in partnership with the city to address the increase in cardboard related to the holiday season and added online shopping due to the pandemic. We detailed how to properly prepare cardboard for pick up to allow our drivers to safely and effectively collect the large amounts produced by households. The campaign highlighted that cardboard must be flattened and bundled into 3x3 bundles to be able to collect it. The trucks that collect in Shoreline are side load trucks, which means the opening to the hopper is located near the top of the truck. The 3x3 sizing requirement allows the truck arm to grasp and lift the bundle into the body of the truck, as drivers are unable to reach the entrance. If residents have a substantial amount of cardboard – more than 96g or larger than the requested 3x3 size– we still

collect it, we just request that the customer contact our customer service team to schedule the pickup. We request this because a different truck is needed to collect it due to the awkward or larger sizing and added weight of the material. Traditional trucks are unable to effectively pack oversized cardboard well, hence our need to collect large quantities via a specialized truck. Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have worked hard to accommodate the additional pickups needed to recycle Shoreline’s residential cardboard increase.

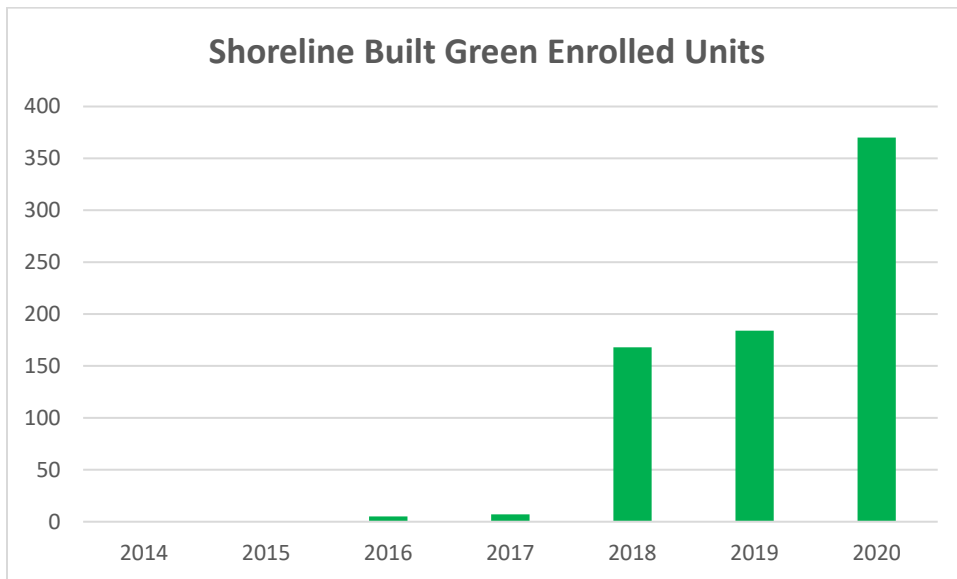
We are currently working with our financial team on putting together information to answer Deputy Mayor Scully’s question regarding rates and infrastructure improvements. We will have an answer to this in the next week.

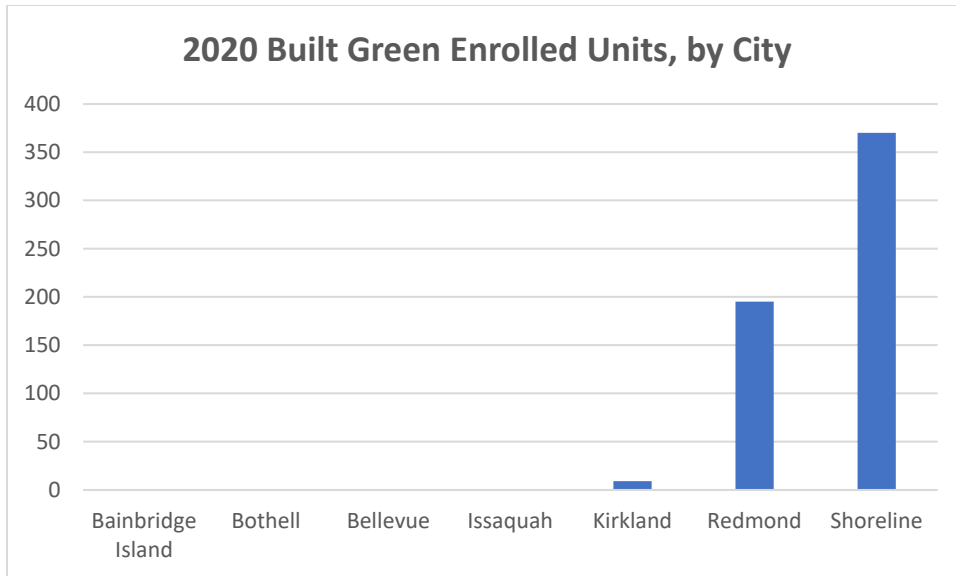
Finally, Deputy Mayor Scully asked about the contamination program progress. The program is ongoing, and we will be happy to share those results with you in an upcoming Council meeting.

To conclude, Recology enjoys being an innovative partner with our municipalities. As we emerge from the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic we look forward to exploring more options with our cities to increase their diversion rates.

Thank you,
Erin Gagnon
Government Affairs & Community Relations Manager for Recology King County

Built Green Enrollment Data by City





Zero units were reported by Built Green for Bainbridge Island, Bothell, Bellevue and Issaquah in 2020; 9 for Kirkland; 195 for Redmond; and 370 for Shoreline.

Water Use Data Limitations

We have a Sustainable Shoreline metric to “Keep per capita water use at the 2010 level of 19,000 gallons per resident per year.” However, both Seattle Public Utilities and North City Water District responded in 2019 that they could not provide consumption data for Shoreline-specific customers for the reasons outlined below.

Data requested: annual water usage for customers in the City of Shoreline (separated by residential vs. commercial customers if possible); total number of customers in Shoreline

- SPU: “We cannot currently provide that data due to a change in billing software. We are still looking at a couple of alternative avenues to try to get the information you have requested, but it is going to take a while and may end with our not being able to provide this information.”
- North City Water District: “We do not separate out water use by city as of several years ago. It all goes into one large customer class.... We do not separate out our system based on city, instead we separate our system by which water pressure zone they are located in. Those boundaries are geographical, not political.”

Water Quality Data

Per the comment that it would be useful to understand the variables that go into stream health and what impacted changes in WQI scores in 2020, and to hear about near-term actions to protect water quality, I received the following feedback from staff in our Surface Water Utility Division:

“Our consultant is currently preparing the 2016-2020 Water Quality Monitoring Report, which will contain specific trends for all parameters sampled. The Water Quality Index is designed to aggregate individual parameter data into a single number for comparison with the other streams, so we can't rely on it for trends per se. The draft report will be available for public review and comment on the Utility's water quality webpage, and staff would be happy present the results and recommendations of the

report to Council, if that is of interest. Additionally, we are developing a new Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) that will incorporate our vision for the water quality monitoring program going forward (e.g., how to best comply with Salmon-Safe requirements).”