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WA Recycling, Waste Reduction Industry Applauds 2024 Company of the Year

Sanitary Service Company (Bellingham) Recipient of 2024 Company of the Year Award

WA recycling rate is 49%, 50% above the national average

BELLINGHAM – Today the Washington Refuse & Recycling Association announced Sanitary Service Company of Bellingham as its 2024 Company of the Year. Last year, Sanitary Service piloted its single-stream recycling program and is now implementing the service throughout the city of Bellingham.

“On behalf of all those who work and invest in our state’s waste reduction, organics disposal and recycling industry, I applaud Sanitary Service Company for their exemplary contributions to our state’s commitment to sound environmental stewardship,” **said Brad Lovaas, executive director of the Washington Refuse & Recycling Association.**

Sanitary Service Company was started by the Razore Family in 1929, it is still operated by Paul Razore and his team. Serving Bellingham and surrounding communities in Whatcom County, Sanitary Service Company is a great representative example of all WRRRA companies that serve all 281 cities and towns throughout our 39 counties and across Washington State. Sanitary Service has been an environmental leader for years providing solid waste, recycling, and organics collection services.

Quick Facts About Waste Reduction & Recycling in WA

- About 14,700 workers employed in solid waste and recycling industry to drive trucks, sort materials, oversee landfills and much more.
- Average household’s monthly bill for curbside recycling service is \$8-10 (or 35 cents per day), supporting an average of 8 monthly pickups for bins for trash (4), recycling (2) and organics (2), offering reliable service unique to local needs.
- 87% of WA residents have access to curbside service and those who don’t may access 108 dropbox locations in their communities

Statewide Opportunities to Increase Recycling

- Expand requirements for recycled content, building on a 2021 groundbreaking Washington law that requires certain packaging contain a minimum amount of recycled content.

- Show truth in labeling by standardizing labeling to avoid confusion and misinformation, making it easier for consumers to sort items into the right bins, reducing recycling contamination.
- Greater producer accountability so that packaging manufacturers will demonstrate a greater commitment to reducing waste and increasing the recyclability of the materials being introduced into our state.

The WRRRA strongly supports the use of data for determining the best statewide and local investments for reducing waste and increasing recycling, advocating for a statewide needs assessment to directly inform Washington's next investments to further increase the recycling rate.

About the Washington Refuse & Recycling Association

The [Washington Refuse & Recycling Association](#) (WRRRA) represents solid waste companies and professionals in Washington State. Our mission is to promote environmentally and economically sustainable solid waste and recycling services within our state's regulatory system. The WRRRA is a partnership with the public in pursuit of environmental stewardship through recycling and reducing waste.

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