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## **WA Recycling, Waste Reduction Industry Honors Rodd Pemble With Lifetime Achievement Award**

*Rodd Pemble serves as the Recycling & Safety Manager at Sanitary Service Company in Bellingham*

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

BELLINGHAM – Today the Washington Refuse & Recycling Association announced Rodd Pemble as its 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to the waste reduction and recycling industry in Washington State. Pemble serves as the Recycling & Safety Manager at Sanitary Service Company in Bellingham.

“I am thankful for Rodd’s leadership not just to elevating the effectiveness of our industry, but also his leadership in expanding services available to the residents that we serve,” **said Brad Lovaas, executive director of the Washington Refuse & Recycling Association**. “His advice and contributions over the years have been instrumental in the operations of his company, the accessibility of recycling services by local residents and also the broader public policy advocacy of the industry across our great state.”

Rodd has been with Sanitary Service Company for 28 years having joined the company in 1996. He has been instrumental in implementing safety and recycling programs throughout Bellingham and Whatcom during his tenure with the company. Rodd had previously worked for the local non-profit ReSources for Sustainable Communities (previously known as Environmental Resource Services and earlier as Bellingham Community Recycling). Bellingham Community Recycling was the group that originally started Bellingham's volunteer curbside recycling program. participated actively in WRRRA as a member of the Board of Trustees since 2009, and as the Legislative and then Government Affairs Committee Chair since 2016. Rodd is representative of the people throughout Washington’s Solid Waste industry who have dedicated their environmental passions and careers to serving their communities.

### **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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