

Did you know...

WA's overall recovery rate is **49%**, significantly higher than the national average of 32%. We recycle at least 40% of our packaging.

WA's solid waste and recycling industry was **4.1x carbon net zero in 2018** after accounting for landfill and collection emissions and the reduction of greenhouse gases from more materials successfully recycled or composted.

WA is already working to divert 75% of organics waste from landfills by 2030 (HB 1799), resulting in **552,000 fewer tons of greenhouse gas emissions**.

87% of WA residents have access to curbside service and those who don't may access 108 dropbox locations in their communities.

The average household's monthly bill for curbside recycling service is \$8-10, supporting an average of 8 monthly bin pickups of bins for trash (4), recycling (2) and organics (2), with service unique to local needs.

The solid waste and recycling industry **employs about 14,700 workers** to drive trucks, sort materials at Material Recovery Facilities, oversee landfills and much more.

Partnership to Recycle 2026 Legislative Agenda

Since 1961 when our state first adopted a comprehensive regulatory framework for managing waste, Washington's solid waste and recycling industry has partnered with the public in the shared goal of environmental stewardship. The Washington Refuse & Recycling Association (WRRA) represents private sector 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 in partnership with the public.

Following the adoption of the Recycling Reform Act (RRA) (SB 5284) by the 2025 Legislature and in supporting its implementation, the regulated solid waste and recycling industry continues to pursue legislative efforts that will empower consumers to divert more waste from the landfill and oppose efforts that will increase costs and barriers for consumers to recycle.

2026 Policy Priorities:

- ⇒ Uphold regulatory structure of solid waste and recycling services (G-Cert)
- ⇒ Oppose establishment of outdated bottle deposit systems that hurt curbside recycling and add costs for consumers (HB 1607 / SB 5502)
- ⇒ Support Product Stewardship Programs for materials that cannot be effectively collected curbside, such as: Mattresses, Sharps, Medications and EV Batteries
- ⇒ Expand WA's successful Post-Consumer Recycled Content Requirements & enhance Producer accountability (HB 2271)
- ⇒ Promote implementation and enforcement for Washington's new Organics Management Laws (OML) and the Recycling Reform Act (RRA) (SB 5284)

These policy priorities seek to uphold Washington's decades-long commitment to universal solid waste and recycling services while continuing to look for **opportunities to address difficult-to-recycle products** such as textiles, mattresses and batteries for electric vehicles. This agenda would also **expand the proven programs such as our state's drug take-back program** and strengthen existing laws that **mandate certain packaging must contain a minimum amount of recycled content** to include more covered products.

This agenda seeks to **protect consumers from negative public health impacts from attempts to deregulate solid waste and recycling standards**. It also seeks to **protect consumers from duplicative costs, inconvenience, and reduced convenience that is inherent in bottle deposit programs**, as well as the **new taxes on common grocery items** and **deposit center public safety concerns** that such programs create in other states – these concerns are a major factor why this archaic approach to recycling hasn't been advanced outside of Hawaii (2002) since 1986.

Want to Learn More? Please contact Brad Lovaas, WRRA executive director, at brad@wrra.org or (360) 280-7723. Additional materials are also available over viewing the consumer protections guarded by WA's G-Cert system, SB 5284 implementation and documented policy concerns of bottle deposit programs in other states.