

Session Wrap-Up: Solid Waste Management

Issue Team Chair: Ann Murphy

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Thank you all for your support during the 2023 Legislative Session.

Solid Waste Management has five supported bills that passed out of session. One has already been signed by the Governor, and others are awaiting his signature by May 13. Be sure to thank your legislators who have supported these bills.

Additional news: The approved budget includes a proviso to provide for the first steps of the WRAP Act –

- technical study of feasible recycling, reuse and plastic reduction rates in WA.
- Surveys and listening sessions with diverse communities across the state will seek out resident's values and opinions about waste reduction and recycling (glass, metal, paper, plastic) today, their experiences, and what they would like to see.

So, keep up the actions in your community in the future.

Bills That League Supported That Have Passed

- **[ESHB 1033](#) Evaluating compostable product usage.** Establishes an advisory committee to standardize composting across Washington.
STATUS: Delivered to Governor 4/18 – awaiting signature.
- **[SHB 1047](#) Concerning the use of toxic chemicals in cosmetic products.** Eliminates the sale of cosmetics that contain one of nine toxins as identified in the bill. Allows for a phase-out to keep toxins out of homes and environment.
STATUS: Delivered to Governor 4/19 – awaiting signature.
- **[SHB 1085](#) Reducing plastic pollution.** A three-pronged approach to reduce the use of plastics by 1) Requiring **refill stations** in drinking fountains in all new construction; 2) Phasing out **mini toiletries plastic packaging** (including shampoos, conditioners, lotions, and soaps) at hotels and other lodging establishments; 3) Banning **foam-filled dock floats** in our lakes and marine waters.
STATUS: Signed by Governor 4/20 (Chapter 135, 2023 Laws. Effective date 7/23/2023)

- [2SSB 5144](#) **Providing for responsible environmental management of batteries.** product stewardship bill for recycling all batteries. The batteries in our cell phones, electric toothbrushes and other rechargeable devices are lithium-ion batteries. Ensuring the proper handling, recycling, and end-of-life management of used batteries prevents the release of toxic materials into the environment and removes materials from the waste stream that, if mishandled, may present safety concerns to workers, such as by igniting fires at solid waste handling facilities. See [factsheet](#).
STATUS: Delivered to Governor 4/19 – awaiting signature.

- [SB 5287](#) **Concerning a study on the recycling of wind turbine blades.** Requires the Washington State University extension energy program to conduct a study on the feasibility of recycling wind turbine blades used in Washington.
STATUS: Delivered to Governor 4/20 – awaiting signature.

Bills League Supported; Did not Move Forward

- [2SHB 1131](#) **Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes. WRAP Act.** Here is a [factsheet](#); you can also learn more with [this video](#) from the Seattle Channel.
Priority Bill
STATUS: Bill did not advance this year. **See info on Budget Proviso above.**
- [HB 1164](#) **Responsible management of appliances containing harmful gases and other materials.** Creates a producer responsibility program for appliances. **STATUS:** Hearing in Environment and Energy Committee on 2/16/23 to primarily start the conversation on work on this bill for the 2024 session. **No action taken this session**
- [SHB 1185](#) **Reducing environmental impacts associated with lighting products.** Phases out the sale of most mercury-containing lights and extends/expands the product stewardship program for the same lights. Has an extended producer responsibility element in that the producers of lights in the stewardship program will be required to finance the operations of the program (eliminating the handling fee currently applied to retail sales)
STATUS: Died in Rules.
- [2SHB 1392](#) **Right to Repair** - Promoting the fair servicing and repair of digital electronic equipment): This bill requires digital electronic product manufacturers, such as Apple and Microsoft, to make repair information, parts and tools available to independent repair businesses and owners so that People will keep using devices instead of tossing them or processing in take-back programs! The Senate Companion Bill did not make it out of committee. Please see [factsheet](#).
STATUS: 2SHB 1392 – received no action in Senate Environment, Energy & Technology Committee executive session on March 29. **The Bill has died for this session.**

- **[HB 1422](#)** Clarifying that certain reusable packing materials are exempt from sales and use tax.
STATUS: Died in Rules.
- **[HB 1551](#)** Reducing lead in cookware – **STATUS:** Passed out of House Environment and Energy Committee On 2/13/23. Died in Appropriations
- **[SSB 5376](#)** Allowing the sale of cannabis waste: this bill would allow sale of cannabis if the waste would not be designated as dangerous or hazardous waste. Currently, this organic waste is often landfilled.
STATUS: Died in Rules.
- **[SB 5154](#)** Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes. WRAP Act. Here is a [factsheet](#). **STATUS:** The Senate bill did not move out of committee. House bill 1131 became the vehicle, and it too failed to pass.
- **[SB 5464](#)** Right to Repair - Promoting the fair servicing and repair of digital electronic equipment): This bill requires digital electronic product manufacturers, such as Apple and Microsoft, to make repair information, parts and tools available to independent repair businesses and owners. **STATUS:** Bill did not make it out of policy committee. HB 1392 is the vehicle
- **[SB 5245](#)** Concerning biosolids. Ecology must establish pollutant limits for PFAS chemicals in biosolids, based on the results of the USEPA's risk assessment for PFAS chemicals in biosolids. Ecology must ensure that biosolids are tested for PFAS chemicals for which this pollutant limit has been established. And land application of biosolids that do not comply with the PFAS chemical pollutant limit would be prohibited. This bill is newly elevated to LWVWA Support.
STATUS: On Floor calendar. Died, did not get a Floor vote.

Bills We Are Watched

- **[SSB 5579](#)** Allows the Department of Ecology to elect to refrain from or cease administering or enforcing a requirement related to the use of hydrofluorocarbons and other ozone-depleting substance substitutes if it determines that supply chain problems or other similar disruptions threaten to impair businesses or consumers in Washington, and that suspending enforcement of a requirement would mitigate the problem. **STATUS:** Bill died in Ways and Means

How You Can Be Involved

- Contact Ann Murphy, Solid Waste Management Issue Chair, amurphy@lwvwa.org or call (509) 385-8910.

- Check the [Solid Waste Management page](#) for updates.
- Read the *Legislative Newsletter* and respond to Action Alerts.