

## Introduction to the 2004 Edition

This Plan was originally published in 2001. In 2002 it was reissued, the only changes being editorial in nature. This 2003 version includes editorial changes, and adds a short section on closed landfills. It also brings the Plan up to date. It does not include any changes in direction- it is not a “major revision “ as defined in section – of the Plan.

Several significant changes have occurred since 2001. At that time there was uncertainty regarding solid waste facilities. Both the Everett and Southwest Recycling and Transfer Stations were old and technologically obsolescent, and needed to be replaced. In addition, there was uncertainty regarding the long-term relationship between the City of Everett and the County solid waste system. There had been conflicts between the City and the system, and it was unclear whether the City would remain part of the system after 2013. The 2001 Plan discussed these uncertainties, and associated options, in detail.

Since 2001 both of these issues have been resolved. The Everett Recycling and Transfer Station has been replaced by the Airport Road Recycling and Transfer Station. The old transfer station will be demolished by the end of 2004, and the land returned to the City of Everett for development as it sees fit. The Southwest Recycling and Transfer Station is currently being completely rebuilt as state-of-the art facility. With the completion of these two stations the system has enough waste handling capacity for the next 20 years, although rapid population growth in east county requires an analysis of how to best service that area.

Equally important, conflicts between the City of Everett and the system have been addressed. The County and all of the cities and towns, including Everett, are currently adopting new Interlocal Agreements defining the relationship between the parties regarding solid waste management. These Agreements will maintain the unity and coherency of the County solid waste management system through 2023. The effectiveness and efficiency of system operation can be maintained by having a single system rather than two competing systems.

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