

SOAP Webinar 1 – Question & Answer

Question 1: *Have you calculated a monetary value with the savings from reduced water and energy use?*

Answer: Yes, OES conducts cost savings analyses on the efficiency and retrofit projects that we lead. High level details are available in various reports that our Office publishes. Some of this information is in the 2019 SOAP Progress Update report on the OES website. Other examples include the Energy Benchmark and Water Benchmark reports also published on the OES website.

<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/2596/Plans-Policies-Reports>

Q2: *Is there a standard recycling station that is recommended for office spaces at the County?*

A: Yes, the county has standards for recycling bins and signage for both employee-facing and public-facing spaces. Further, a “favorites” list is available on the Keeney’s website (the county’s office supply vendor) which provides the exact items needed for desk-side or conference room recycling bin setup. For questions or additional information on proper bin set up, please reach out to Kevin Ruuhela at kevin.ruuhela@snoco.org or x3117.

Q3: *What is the county’s greenest building?*

A: There are many different metrics and factors by which buildings are measured for being “green” and therefore no single building stands out as excelling over others in all metrics. One metric that the county monitors and reports on however is: energy use per square foot (also referred to as Energy Use Intensity or “EUI”). These metrics can be found in the 2014 Energy Benchmark report published on the OES website. More recent statistics are available but have not been included in published reports.

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Q4: *Was the County Courthouse addition built to the new Green & High Performance Building Standards mentioned in the webinar?*

A: Unfortunately no, the courthouse planning was already past the 30% design stage and into construction when the new Green & High Performance Building ordinance was passed and so the construction of the new addition was not impacted by the new standards.

Q5: *Why has there been a big increase in solid waste at the county over the year 2000 baseline?*

A: The growth in the quantity of municipal solid waste produced at county facilities is due to a number of factors. Partly this can be attributed to growth in county employees, new county facilities, and expansion of operations and services provided since 2000. Further, the most recent greenhouse gas report was more comprehensive than previous reports, incorporating more sites. Finally, we saw an increase in the quantity of waste collected at county Parks which is due to an increase in visitors to

county Parks which is a by-product of increased marketing of Snohomish County tourism and an increase in the county population.

Q6: *What coordination is on-going with Community Transit to increase ridership?*

A: Snohomish County Transportation & Environmental Services is currently working with Community Transit on:

- the planning and infrastructure improvements necessary to implement their new Orange Line Swift BRT service from McCollum Park to the Lynnwood City Center light rail station
- Planning for further speed and reliability infrastructure improvements to 164th and 128th to aid in the Swift BRT Orange and Green Lines service to future light rail stations at 128th and 164th
- Identifying and constructing pedestrian and bicycle connections to Swift and other transit lines
- Their long-range transit plan that is currently under development
- Our Urban Core Sub-area and comprehensive plans that are currently under development

Q7: *Has there been any consideration for adding compost collection at county parks?*

A: Unfortunately, no, compost collection has not been considered at county parks. While there have been discussions on adding waste diversion options at parks, there is still significant confusion around proper identification and separation of compostable materials by visitors. Due to the high amount of contamination that is still found at other county sites with significant signage and training provided, we don't believe that the contamination will be low enough to be accepted for recycling or composting from unmonitored parks.