

The CAS system has five program elements: The first is a solid waste system monitoring program designed to scrutinize key performance indicators on a regular basis. The second is an evaluation program of the County-owned facilities to assess the condition, performance, and capacity of each facility. The third element is a financial evaluation program to monetarily quantify solid waste system progress. The fourth element is designed to provide enough information to estimate future solid waste handling needs. The last element is a program to annually evaluate the CAS project's program effectiveness and recommend appropriate changes and improvements.

*Tacoma's transfer needs:*

Tacoma is conducting an ongoing review of its operations. Solid waste handling in the City has evolved rapidly and its facilities have not always evolved as quickly as the programs, so many of Tacoma's facilities are outdated, inefficient, and undersized. Some of the things which have occurred that have impacted the system are: permanent closing of the Tacoma Steam Plant; commingled recycling; changes at the Transfer Station to resolve safety issues; and an increase in the amount of yardwaste and related organic materials.

As a result of the changes, Tacoma has identified many potential improvements for its facilities and system and is working on a strategic plan to address the improvements. The City has begun working on upgrading its transfer facility and developing the funding system needed to implement all improvements.

**Policy 6.1 Monitor disposal needs and establish programs and contracts that assure long-term capacity for disposing the municipal solid waste generated within Pierce County.**

- ✓ 6.1.1 Identify materials that could be remediated, reused, or disposed elsewhere.
- ✓ 6.1.2 Evaluate the use of alternative long-haul facilities and services and consider a blending of long-haul and local disposal costs.
- ✓ 6.1.3 Explore opportunities to increase partnerships between Pierce County, LRI, the City of Tacoma, and Fort Lewis/McChord Air Force Base.
- ✓ 6.1.4 The annual average tonnage "cap" (created by Condition AT in the Conditional Use Permit) will be removed after all of the following occur:
  - a) LRI documents and projects disposal tonnage based on which solid waste system (Pierce County, Tacoma, and Military) generated, or will generate, such tonnage to demonstrate and provide assurances that accepting more than an average of 100,000 tons per year will not negatively impact LRI's ability to accept County waste for the minimum 20-year life span of the landfill. The first such projection shall occur within 30 days of the final approval of the 2008 Supplement to the Tacoma-Pierce County Solid Waste Management Plan.
  - b) Through a revised Interlocal Agreement between Pierce County and the City of Tacoma, both parties agree to work collaboratively to increase recycling and diversion programs and decrease the per person waste disposed in the landfill, thus protecting the

landfill resource. Both jurisdictions shall agree to meet or surpass the pounds/capita/day waste disposal goals outlined in Appendix F., which will reduce the pounds/capita/day from 4.50 in 2008 to 1.09 in 2032.

c) The Pierce County Department of Public Works and Utilities prepares a report on the satisfactory completion of points “a” and “b” to the Pierce County Solid Waste Advisory Committee and the Pierce County Council.

**Policy 6.2      Ensure the operation of the waste transfer system maintains sufficient capacity for the demands placed on the system.**

- ✓6.2.1 Update the CAS Program as needed and use it to identify facilities that need replacement, expansion, or closure.
- ✓6.2.2 Work with private companies to extend the asset management system for County-owned facilities to the privately-owned facilities in order to ensure cost-effective and resource efficient service.
- ✓6.2.3 Develop and implement best management practices for all transfer facilities which consider environmental, energy, and greenhouse gas impacts when making decisions to transport waste.
- ✓6.2.4 Identify whether new transfer station locations are needed or whether non-capital alternatives to transfer station expansion or siting are viable, cost-effective, and support waste reduction and recycling goals.
- ✓6.2.5 Develop and implement best management practices for all transfer facilities which will allow for maximum diversion of waste from disposal and which will allow for seizing of new recycling and diversion opportunities.
- ✓6.2.6 Participate in efforts initiated by the Pierce County Department of Planning and Land Services to clarify the rules and procedures for identifying whether existing, or future, solid waste transfer stations should be labeled as essential public facilities.

**Policy 6.3      Work with LRI to research, develop, and implement best management practices to maximize landfill capacity, extend the life of the landfill, reduce emissions, and address climate change initiatives.**

- ✓ 6.3.1 Incorporate benchmarks into the County’s waste handling agreement with LRI to evaluate performance to meet customer service and operational or financial objectives.
- ✓6.3.2 Work with LRI to implement environmental management standards (EMS) to reduce environmental impacts of activities, products, and services and to achieve and maintain certification for the landfill as meeting the best environmental standards.

**Policy 6.4      Participate in regional efforts to identify back-up and emergency disposal capacity.**

- ✓6.4.1 Coordinate with other jurisdictions to explore efforts to enhance the waste transportation system.