

Spokane Zero Waste

Thank you. My name is Elyse Hochstadt. H-O-C-H-S-T-A-D-T. I'm in Spokane and I represent Spokane Zero Waste. We support Washington taking a lead on reducing climate impacts and strengthening this draft rule. Here in Spokane, much of our green waste, which has got a lot of moisture in it, goes to our incinerator. This is a highly problematic issue in terms of energy usage and the resultant greenhouse gas emissions. We'd like to see all of our green materials go to compost. Additionally, I'm very concerned about methane gas produced by landfills. Landfills are a threat to climate and all living communities. According to emissions estimates reported to the EPA, the majority of the largest methane emitters in Washington are landfills. On a 20-year global warming potential, the emissions from municipal solid waste landfills in Washington is equivalent to one million passenger cars driven for a year. Our current landfill emissions regulations are not working to protect human and other living communities, nor are they having a positive effect on climate. This draft should be strengthened in several ways, including improving transparency by requiring that all measured surface emissions of methane are reported in a timely manner and are made available to the public in an accessible way. People deserve full visibility in how methane emissions are affecting the air quality, water, and community health. The Washington Department of Ecology has an immediate opportunity to strengthen landfill emissions rules and cement Washington's position as a national leader on addressing climate change, and I fully support that. Thank you for your time.