

# Summary of the Preliminary Statewide Collection Lists

## About this Summary

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has completed a preliminary evaluation of materials being considered for Washington's statewide collection lists. We are opening this preliminary evaluation for public comment before the lists are finalized on October 1, 2026. Technical expertise and thoughtful feedback are essential to developing practical, evidence-based statewide collection lists that reflect Washington's recycling and composting systems. Comments received during this period will be reviewed and, where appropriate, used to refine the initial lists.

## What are the Statewide Collection Lists?

The Washington State Legislature directed Ecology, through the [Recycling Reform Act](#), to develop four statewide collection lists that identify which materials are suitable for statewide residential recycling, residential composting, public place collection, and alternative collection. Ecology retained an independent consultant team led by Eastern Research Group (ERG), in partnership with and Resource Recycling Systems (RRS), Cascadia Consulting Group, and HDR to develop the lists. Ecology and the consulting team engaged with the RRA Advisory Council and Statewide Lists Subcommittee for initial feedback on the statewide lists.

These statewide collection lists are intended to promote greater consistency in material acceptance across Washington while supporting efficient collection systems, responsible end markets, and long-term program implementation. The lists will inform multiple aspects of the future producer responsibility system, including accepted materials, producer obligations, and program planning. Because recycling systems, markets, and technologies continue to evolve, the statewide collection lists are expected to be updated over time.

The four preliminary statewide collection lists are:

1. **Residential Recycling** – Materials appropriate for collection through residential recycling programs.
2. **Residential Composting** – Materials appropriate for collection through residential composting programs.
3. **Public Place Recycling** – Materials appropriate for collection in public place recycling systems.
4. **Alternative Collection** – Materials better managed through specialized collection systems because of safety, operational, infrastructure, or other technical considerations.

Materials that do not currently demonstrate sufficient technical support for statewide collection are not recommended for inclusion on a statewide list at this time.

## Questions for Public Comment

This review is intended to validate preliminary assignments and identify ways to strengthen the technical basis for the statewide lists. As you review the workbook, please consider:

- Are there material categories—or specific material formats—that should be assigned differently? If so, based on what criteria and supporting evidence?
- Would additional subdivision of certain material categories improve the statewide lists?
- Are there criterion evaluations and scores that should be reconsidered? If so, what evidence or technical information supports an alternative evaluation?

## What is included in this review package?

The review package includes the following files:

| File                                                 | Overview                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>This Summary Memo (PDF)</b>                       | This document includes background information on the project, a summary of the evaluation process, and preliminary lists assignments.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Statewide Lists Workbook (Excel) – version 1.</b> | <p>This new workbook includes the following tabs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Info tab</b> provides orienting information and a table of contents.</li> <li>• <b>Residential Recycling List tab</b> shows the materials preliminarily assigned residential recycling collection.</li> <li>• <b>Public Place Recycling List tab</b> shows the materials preliminarily assigned for public place collection.</li> <li>• <b>Alternative Collection List tab</b> materials preliminary assigned for alternative collection.</li> <li>• <b>Materials Evaluated tab</b> provides a list of the materials that were considered for the evaluation.</li> <li>• <b>Evaluation Criteria tab</b> provides an overview of the evaluation criteria and framework for scoring materials as challenging, concerning, moderate, and strong (positive).</li> <li>• <b>Evaluation + List Assignment tab</b> includes full evaluation ratings (Strong Positive - Moderate - Concerning - Challenging) for each of the criteria, accompanied by key notes associated with the ratings.</li> </ul> |

Reviewers can start with preliminary assignments in the Workbook and consult the [companion document](#) as needed:

| <b>If you are wondering...</b>                                       | <b>Find the answer in...</b>                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>What is the preliminary assignment for this material?</b>         | This Memo beginning on page 6<br>Workbook: The three List summary tabs and the Evaluation + List Assignment tabs |
| <b>Why was this material assigned to this list?</b>                  | Workbook – Evaluation + List Assignment tab                                                                      |
| <b>How did this material perform across the evaluation criteria?</b> | Workbook – Evaluation + List Assignment tab                                                                      |
| <b>How were the criteria developed?</b>                              | Workbook – Evaluation Criteria tab                                                                               |

## **How will feedback be used?**

The project team will use feedback from the Statewide Lists Subcommittee to refine the preliminary statewide collection lists and support evaluations. Following this review, the project team will:

- Review comments and technical information provided to Ecology.
- Revise preliminary material assignments, criterion evaluations, and supporting rationale, as appropriate.
- Continue evaluating selected materials where additional technical information is needed.
- Prepare updated statewide collection lists and supporting documentation.

## **Background on the Statewide Collection Lists Process**

### **How Materials Were Evaluated**

Ecology and the consulting team developed a list of candidate materials and evaluated each material using technical criteria derived from RCW 70A.208.090(1)(b). Candidate materials were assessed using the criteria most relevant to each material and collection pathway, including factors such as infrastructure compatibility, responsible end markets, anticipated recovery performance, contamination potential, and other technical considerations.

Preliminary list assignments reflect the project team's technical judgment based on the collective weight of the available evidence—not the outcome of a single criterion or numerical score. Rather than applying every criterion equally, the evaluation placed greater emphasis on factors most critical to successful management within Washington's recycling and composting systems, such as responsible end markets, infrastructure compatibility, and anticipated yield loss. As a result,

materials with similar criterion ratings may receive different preliminary assignments based on the overall balance of evidence.

## Understanding the Evaluation Criteria Ratings

Evaluation criteria ratings summarize how strongly the available evidence supports a material's performance for an individual evaluation criterion.

| Rating             | Description                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Strong</b>      | Available evidence meets most or all rating factors with high confidence and strong supporting data                                                          |
| <b>Moderate</b>    | Available evidence meets some or most factors with moderate confidence and some supporting data, but includes some limitations, uncertainty, or variability. |
| <b>Concerning</b>  | Available evidence meets some or few factors with low confidence or supporting data.                                                                         |
| <b>Challenging</b> | Available evidence meets few or no factors with high confidence and supporting data.                                                                         |

Criterion ratings summarize performance for **individual criteria only**. Preliminary list assignments reflect the collective weight of evidence across all applicable criteria and should not be interpreted as the result of any single criterion rating.

For additional information on the evaluation methodology, criteria definitions, rating factors, and supporting data sources, refer to the **Evaluation Criteria** tab in the **Statewide Lists Workbook**.

Material-specific criterion evaluations, summary evaluations, and preliminary list assignments are presented in the **Statewide Lists Workbook**. The table can be filtered by using the down arrow at the top of each column. Reviewers can filter by Material Class, Material Name, Covered Material Designation and by the Preliminary Lists Assignments.

## Preliminary Assignments to the Statewide Collection Lists

The below sections summarize results for each of the four collection lists, including identifying materials not recommended and materials needing further evaluation.

The lists are organized by the **material class** (for example: paper packaging). The **material names** (for example: gable top containers, kraft packaging) are listed below their respective material class.

Covered and non-covered materials are indicated with the following key:

- \* Indicates that materials are understood to be covered under the RRA

^ Materials are understood NOT to be covered under the RRA but were included in the analysis at the direction of Ecology

\*^ indicates that the Material Name includes products that are covered and non-covered under the RRA

The complete preliminary material assignments are provided on the **Evaluation + List Assignment** tab in the **Statewide Lists Workbook**.

## Preliminary Residential Recycling Collection List

The preliminary residential collection list includes materials appropriate for collection through residential recycling.

### Key

\*Covered materials

^ Non-covered materials

\*^ Includes products that are covered and non-covered

### Glass & Ceramic Packaging

Glass Bottles\*

### Metal Packaging

Aluminum & Bi-metal Food Packaging\*

Aluminum Cans\*

Steel & Tin Cans\*^

### Paper Packaging

Gable Top Container\*

Kraft Paper\*

Other Aseptic Containers\*^

Other Coated Fiber\*^

Other Molded Pulp Packaging\*

Other Uncoated Paper\*

Polycoated Fiber Food Packaging\*^

Uncoated Food Service Corrugated Cardboard\*

Uncoated Food Service Paper and Molded Pulp Packaging\*

Uncoated Other Corrugated Cardboard\*

Uncoated Paperboard\*^

### Paper Products

High-grade Paper Products\*^

Low-grade Paper Products\*^

Magazines & Catalogs\*^

Newsprint\*^

### Rigid Plastic Packaging

#1 PET Lids >2"\*

#1 PET Clear/Natural Large Containers\*

#1 PET Clear/Natural Other Bottles, Jugs, & Jars\*^

#1 PET Clear/Natural Other Containers\*^

#1 PET Tinted/Pigmented Other Bottles, Jugs, & Jars\*^

#2 HDPE Natural & Pigmented Large Containers\*^

#2 HDPE Natural & Pigmented Other Containers\*^

#2 HDPE Natural/Clear Other Bottles, Jugs, & Jars\*^

#2 HDPE Tinted/Pigmented Other Bottles, Jugs, & Jars\*^

#2 HDPE Lids and Handles >2"\*

#5 PP Lids >2"\*

#5 PP Large Containers\*

#5 PP Other Bottles & Containers\*

#5 PP Other Packaging & Food Serviceware\*

## Preliminary Public Place Collection List

The preliminary public place collection list mirrors the residential recycling list to ensure consistency across the state.

### Key

\*Covered materials

^ Non-covered materials

\*^ Includes products that are covered and non-covered

### Glass & Ceramic Packaging

Glass Bottles\*

### Metal Packaging

Aluminum & Bi-metal Food Packaging\*

Aluminum Cans\*

Steel & Tin Cans\*^

### Paper Packaging

Gable Top Container\*

Kraft Paper\*

Other Aseptic Containers\*^

Other Coated Fiber\*^

Other Molded Pulp Packaging\*

Other Uncoated Paper\*

Polycoated Fiber Food Packaging\*^

Uncoated Food Service Corrugated Cardboard\*

Uncoated Food Service Paper and Molded Pulp Packaging\*

Uncoated Other Corrugated Cardboard\*

Uncoated Paperboard\*^

### Paper Products

High-grade Paper Products\*^

Low-grade Paper Products\*^

Magazines & Catalogs\*^

Newsprint\*^

### Rigid Plastic Packaging

#1 Lids >2"\*

#1 PET Clear/Natural Large Containers\*

#1 PET Clear/Natural Other Bottles, Jugs, & Jars\*^

#1 PET Clear/Natural Other Containers\*^

#1 PET Tinted/Pigmented Other Bottles, Jugs, & Jars\*^

#2 HDPE Natural & Pigmented Large Containers\*^

#2 HDPE Natural & Pigmented Other Containers\*^

#2 HDPE Natural/Clear Other Bottles, Jugs, & Jars\*^

#2 HDPE Tinted/Pigmented Other Bottles, Jugs, & Jars\*^

#2 Lids and Handles >2"\*

#5 PP Lids >2"\*

#5 PP Large Containers\*

#5 PP Other Bottles & Containers\*

#5 PP Other Packaging & Food Serviceware\*

# Preliminary Alternative Collection List

The preliminary alternative collection list includes materials better managed through specialized collection systems because of safety, operational, infrastructure, or other technical considerations. The mode of alternative collection may often be via drop off, but might be through some other specialized mode.

| Key                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------|
| *Covered materials                                    |
| ^ Non-covered materials                               |
| *^ Includes products that are covered and non-covered |

## Film Plastic Packaging

PE Bag and Film Non-food Packaging\*^

## Metal Packaging

- Aluminum Aerosol Cans\*
- Compressed Gas Cylinders\*^
- Ferrous Aerosol Containers\*
- Other Ferrous Packaging\*^
- Small Format Metal Packaging\*

## Preliminary Residential Composting Guidance

The following materials have not been designated to a collection list. Though some of these materials may technically be compostable in some compost streams, inclusion of these materials on a collection list makes them mandatory for collection statewide. This would mandate, for example, the collection of compostable food scrap collection bags in programs that do not collect food scraps. Ecology may consider providing guidance for the collection of these items.

### Key

\*Covered materials

^ Non-covered materials

\*^ Includes products that are covered and non-covered

#### Film Plastic Packaging

Certified Compostable Bags and Film\*^

#### Organics & Wood Packaging

Untreated Wooden Packaging\*

#### Paper Packaging

Certified Compostable Coated Food Service Paper\*

#### Products & Other Organics & Wood

Clean Wood & Dimensional Lumber^

Food Waste^

Yard/Garden Waste^

#### Rigid Plastic Packaging

Certified Compostable Plastic Food Packaging & Food Service\*

Certified Compostable Plastic Non-food Packaging\*

Certified Compostable Plastic Single-use Utensils\*

# Materials Needing Additional Evaluation

These material categories include a subset of materials that are expected to be managed in an alternative collection program operated by Interchange 360. The consulting team seeks guidance for separating materials managed by Interchange 360 from those covered materials that will be managed by CAA.

For materials that may be covered by RRA, this includes other metal and rigid plastic packaging used for household hazardous products not exempted or listed elsewhere. Non-covered materials in this category may include other metal and rigid plastic packaging used for exempted pesticides, herbicides, or fungicides.

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| <b>Metal Packaging</b>          |
| Other Metal Packaging for HHW*^ |
| <b>Rigid Plastic Packaging</b>  |
| Plastic Packaging for HHW*^     |