



## 2023-2024 Recycling Market Development Center Legislative Report

### Introduction

In 2019, the Washington Legislature took actions to counter worldwide waste import restrictions that negatively impacted Washington’s recycling programs and operations. The Legislature established the Recycling Market Development Center, or the Center, ([Chapter 70A.240 RCW](#)). The law tasks the Center with facilitating research and development, marketing, and policy analysis to bolster recycling markets and processing in Washington.

The Center is jointly operated by Ecology and the Washington Department of Commerce (Commerce) in collaboration with a diverse advisory board. The Center focuses on four areas to conduct its work:

- Convene discussions
- Support innovation
- Conduct research
- Provide business assistance

This report updates the Legislature on the Center’s progress and activities as required by Revised Code of Washington (RCW) [70A.240.030\(3\)](#)<sup>1</sup>, which states:

The center must perform the following activities:

(k) Report to the legislature and the governor each even-numbered year on the progress of achieving the center's purpose and performing the center's activities, including any effects on state recycling rates or rates of utilization of postconsumer materials in manufactured products that can reasonably be attributed, at least in part, to the activities of the center.

### Recycling impacts

In 2023 and 2024, the following changes occurred in Washington’s recycling industry.

#### Paper

In 2021, 948,524 tons of paper packaging (55%) was collected for recycling and 879,871 tons of paper (45%) went to the landfill. The Center’s 2021 [analysis of paper markets](#)<sup>2</sup> provides more details about this industry. The following two mill closures resulted in paper market shifts to ten other operating facilities in Washington that accept post-consumer paper as feedstock.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.240.030>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/\\_1962/Documents/rdcab/PaperPaper-FINAL.pdf](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/rdcab/PaperPaper-FINAL.pdf)

In September 2023, the WestRock Company permanently closed its Tacoma paper mill due to large operational costs and need for facility [improvements](#)<sup>3</sup>. The closure laid off 400 workers and stopped production. In addition to job losses, the mill closure reduced electricity and water demand for Tacoma Public Utilities and Tacoma Water, impacting annual revenue.

In June 2024, the McKinley Paper Company in Port Angeles also closed, laying off 200 employees and stopping the production of recycled [containerboard](#)<sup>4</sup>. The Center is involved in conversations to identify next steps and solutions for materials in the Port Angeles region.

## Organics

In 2021, 1.5 million tons of organics (37%) were composted or recovered and 2.5 million tons of organics (63%) went to the landfill. Organic materials are accepted at 56 composting facilities and 3 anaerobic digesters in Washington.

In September 2023, Divert, Inc., a technology company focused on reducing wasted food, held a [groundbreaking ceremony](#)<sup>5</sup> for their proposed integrated diversion and energy facility in Longview. This new facility will divert food waste from landfill to generate energy. Expected to open in 2025, it will have a processing capacity of 100,000 tons of food waste per year and create 40 new jobs. Divert, Inc. will accept food waste from food retailers, agricultural producers, industrial food manufacturers, local jurisdictions, restaurants, food service businesses, schools, and other commercial waste generators.

## Glass

In 2021, about 80,500 tons of container glass (40%) was collected for recycling and 120,500 tons (60%) went to the landfill. Glass is collected by solid waste service providers from commercial and residential customers. Container glass is delivered to Strategic Materials, Inc., in Seattle, who removes impurities (caps and labels), cleans, and sorts the glass to be delivered to end markets. The material is recycled into new glass bottles, made into fiberglass, used in cement manufacturing, and used as a substitute for construction materials. Until June 2024, glass containers collected for recycling in Washington could be recycled back into glass bottles at three facilities: Ardagh in Seattle, Owens-Illinois in Kalama, or Glass to Glass in Portland.

Since June 2023, Big Industry Glass (BIG) [Recyclers](#)<sup>6</sup>, in partnership with the Glass Packaging Institute, operates a hub-and-spoke collection service for container glass in central Washington. BIG Recycler's hub and spoke model consists of a "hub" located in Pasco where glass is aggregated from the material collected at the "spokes" in Dayton and Walla Walla. Glass is stored in Pasco until enough is collected to ship to glass manufacturing facilities in Portland or Kalama. BIG currently has 62 businesses (restaurants, schools, and wineries) and 270 residential members who pay fees to drop off glass containers. BIG Recyclers recently completed a proof-of-concept recycling drive to test out adding the Yakima area as another spoke in the system.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://ir.westrock.com/press-releases/press-release-details/2023/WestRock-Announces-Plans-to-Close-Tacoma-Wash.-Paper-Mill/default.aspx>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.myclallamcounty.com/2024/06/25/mckinley-to-shutter-port-angeles-mill/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://divertinc.com/divert-breaks-ground-on-new-facility-in-washington-state/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://bigrecyclers.org/>

The communities around Wenatchee, Methow Valley and Leavenworth are in conversation with BIG Recyclers to discuss getting their clean glass to the Pasco aggregation site. Another spoke for the system may be added in the central Columbia Valley where there are several wineries interested in recycling their glass bottles.

In July 2024, the Ardagh Group [halted](#)<sup>7</sup> its glass manufacturing operations in Seattle, impacting 250 workers. The closure was reportedly caused by market conditions and low-priced glass imports from China, Chile, and Mexico. In November 2024, Ardagh [permanently closed](#)<sup>8</sup> their Seattle wine bottle facility. Prior to the closure, Ardagh was processing 465 tons per day of recycled glass. The closure of the Ardagh facility impacts glass recycling in several counties and cities where materials had been received by Ardagh.

As a result of the Ardagh closure, Strategic Materials, Inc., stopped accepting glass from two of the three solid waste service providers in the Puget Sound region. Impacts of the Ardagh closure resulted in landfilling glass from parts of King, Jefferson, Skagit, and Snohomish Counties. Container glass collected in Pierce County is delivered to Glass to Glass in Portland while the glass from Tacoma will be landfilled. It is too early to estimate the impact from this facility closure, as the situation in each community is still changing.

This facility shutdown has not impacted the BIG Recycling operation due to their agreement with Owens-Illinois. Since startup, BIG Recycling delivered 12 tons of glass to Ardagh and 20 tons to Owens-Illinois facilities.

## Center Accomplishments

The Legislature directed the Center to bolster recycling markets and processing in Washington. The Center focused its work through convening discussion, conducting research, supporting innovations, and providing business assistance.

In 2023 and 2024, the Center met with interested parties to discuss recyclable and reusable materials. Those conversations identified challenges and opportunities to improve material use in Washington. Center meetings, research, and facility visits looked into recycling of glass, plastics, mattresses, textiles, construction and demolition debris, and reuse and repair efforts.

The Center funded the NextCycle [Washington](#) program that supports business and community teams across the state working to solve a variety of reuse, repair, recycling, and organics management problems. Center assistance included providing data and contacts for businesses looking to open or expand in Washington. Facility tours resulted in connections for business to contacts developed by the Center. More details are provided below.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.seattletimes.com/business/seattle-bottle-maker-caught-in-bud-light-brouhaha-lays-off-hundreds/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.packagingdive.com/news/ardagh-glass-permanently-closing-seattle-wine-bottle-production-itc/732948/>

## Convene discussions

The Center facilitated advisory board meetings, provided presentations, hosted glass summits, and conducted business tours. The purpose of these meetings and discussions is to learn more about the opportunities and challenges faced when materials are recycled, reused, or repaired.

## Advisory board

The Center advisory board represents public agencies, private industry, universities, and nonprofits. The advisory board meets remotely on a quarterly schedule. Current board members include:

- Karl Englund, Washington State University
- Katie Fleming, San Juan County
- Sara Holzknrecht, Bellevue College
- Allen Langdon, Circular Materials
- Carly Mick, University of Oregon
- Preston Peck, City of Tacoma
- Jocelyn Quarrell, Bold Reuse
- Tim Shestek, American Chemistry Council
- Jay Simmons, North Pacific Paper Company
- Jon Smeija, GreenBiz
- Matt Thurston, Recreational Equipment Inc.
- Heather Trim, Zero Waste Washington
- Jeff Zillich, Waste Management
- Vacant, eastern county representative

## Advisory board meetings

Links to board meetings, agendas, notes, and slides are available on the [advisory board website](#)<sup>9</sup>. Each board meeting includes board member, Ecology, and Commerce updates. Industry expert present on recyclable materials, market challenges, and opportunities. These presentations inform the Center and advisory board about recycling market challenges and develop connections to businesses and jurisdictions working in these areas. Learning more information, understanding the challenges, and making connections are the keys to success for the Center to improve recycling markets in Washington. A future Center project will be the development of a business directory for Washington's recycling markets.

Quarterly meeting agenda topics are listed below.

- **March 2023:** 2023 legislative session update and presentations on collection and management of recyclable materials.
- **June 2023:** presentations on economic and business analysis of recycling, the Recycle Right campaign, recycling challenges for colleges, thermoset plastic polymers, and expanded polystyrene.
- **October 2023:** review of the [organics management law](#)<sup>10</sup> and a board discussion of Center priorities.

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<sup>9</sup> [https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias\\_\\_1962/37596/recycling\\_development\\_center\\_advisory\\_board.aspx](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37596/recycling_development_center_advisory_board.aspx)

<sup>10</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/organics-and-food-waste/2022-organics-management-law>

- **January 2024:** recycling textiles challenges for hotels and research into cotton fiber recycling.
- **April 2024:** Washington disposal data waste impact analysis and reuse and repair activities including textiles and furniture.
- **August 2024:** Washington construction and demolition data and projects where construction materials are successfully reused.
- **October 2024:** mattress recycling challenges and opportunities.

## Presentations

In addition to quarterly board meetings, the Center regularly presents to communities or at conferences about the Center’s work or specific material topics. These presentation opportunities provide additional connections and information sharing.

- **Local solid waste advisory committee** presentations discussed the duties and opportunities offered by the Center at the Clallam, Jefferson, and San Juan solid waste advisory committee meetings.
- **Precycle Materials Exchange Network** meeting in Spokane included an introduction to the Center and an overview of materials in Washington’s solid waste stream.
- **Textile-focused presentations** at the Washington State Recycling Association conference, California’s Recycling Market Development Zone Works mini-series, and the Northeast Recycling Coalition’s textile webinar series on community planning.

## Glass Recycling Summits

The Center convened two summits focused on challenges to recycling container glass in Central Washington where most glass is landfilled. Meetings were facilitated by the Center and open to all interested parties. Meeting notes, agenda, and slides are on the [advisory board website](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37596/recycling_development_center_advisory_board.aspx)<sup>11</sup>.

**Summit 1 in May 2023:** The first summit was hosted at Ecology’s office in Union Gap and offered presentations on policy issues, glass container recycling, innovations, and operations. This meeting provided baseline information about how glass container recycling happens and provided specific examples of efforts conducted at the local level, most commonly through the purchase of a glass crusher which provides materials for local project use. Other presentations covered use of glass in construction projects, a hub and spoke collection approach (by BIG Recyclers), and an innovative use of glass to make a lightweight construction aggregate. Outcomes from this meeting included the opportunity for local government and community-based glass projects to meet and share experiences. Several entities connected after the meeting to learn from each other and combine efforts. There was interest from eastern Washington communities in the BIG Recyclers hub and spoke operation, which had not yet started operations.

**Summit 2 in May 2024:** The second summit was held online only with a more focused series of presentations. The purpose of the meeting was to update the status of glass recycling one year

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<sup>11</sup> [https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias\\_\\_1962/37596/recycling\\_development\\_center\\_advisory\\_board.aspx](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37596/recycling_development_center_advisory_board.aspx)

later, focus on reduction and reuse options, and get a one-year update from BIG Recyclers. The meeting was well attended and identified ongoing interest in finding solutions to divert glass from landfilling.

## Facility Tours

The Center arranged facility tours to learn more about materials recovered, reused, and recycled in Washington. Common themes from these meetings and tours included the challenges of using recycled content, the higher purchase price of recycled materials, need for financial support (grants or loans), networking opportunities, and infrastructure challenges (like building space, access to transportation, and need for additional trucks). Listed below are the facilities visited and their recycling or reuse focus:

- **March 2023**, [McConkey Growers](https://mconkeyco.com/)<sup>12</sup>, Sumner, makes horticultural goods like plant pots from 100% recycled plastic.
- **June 2023**, [StyroRecycle](https://styrorecycle.com/)<sup>13</sup>, LLC, Kent, accepts and processes expanded polystyrene, clear bubble wrap, clear plastic wrap, and cardboard to be remanufactured into new products.
- **August 2023**, [Pioneer Recycling Services](https://pioneerr.com/)<sup>14</sup>, Tacoma, offers processing services to sort mixed recyclables using mechanical, electrical, magnetic, and optical machines.
- **February 2024**, visited several reuse operations:
  - [Shoreline Tool Library](https://seattlereconomy.org/stl/)<sup>15</sup>, Shoreline, provides reused building materials for sale, tools for lending, and game, toy, and seed libraries.
  - [Refugee Artisan Initiative](https://refugeesarts.org/)<sup>16</sup>, Seattle, partners with refugee and immigrant women to learn skills and handcraft goods from reusable textiles.
  - [Furniture Repair Bank](https://www.repairbank.org/)<sup>17</sup>, Seattle, refurbishes unwanted furniture for families in need.
  - [Ravel](https://www.ravelfuture.com/about)<sup>18</sup>, Seattle, processes blended textile fibers back to mono-material feedstocks, resulting in textile derived pellets to be transformed back into fiber, yarn, fabric, and eventually clothing.
- **May 2024**, visited two operations:
  - [Prairie Underground](https://www.prairieunderground.com/)<sup>19</sup>, Seattle, makes sustainable women's attire. This tour included an event organized by [Northwest Sewn](https://seattlegood.org/our-programs/#nwsewn)<sup>20</sup> where interested parties discussed textile waste issues.

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<sup>12</sup> <https://mconkeyco.com/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://styrorecycle.com/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://pioneerr.com/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://seattlereconomy.org/stl/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://refugeesarts.org/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.repairbank.org/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.ravelfuture.com/about>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.prairieunderground.com/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://seattlegood.org/our-programs/#nwsewn>

- [Washington State Surplus](#)<sup>21</sup>, Tumwater, receives and redistributes surplus items from state and public agencies to other state agencies, governmental entities, and non-profit organizations.
- **June 2024**, [Arlington Recycle Warehouse](#)<sup>22</sup>, Everett, accepts and processes mattresses and box springs for recycling, also accepts appliances and lawn equipment.
- **July 2024**, [Composite Recycling Technology Center](#)<sup>23</sup>, Port Angeles, remanufactures waste carbon fiber from the aerospace industry into functional products like benches, pickle ball net frames, architectural panels, and marine cables.
- **August 2024**, [San Juan Transfer Station](#)<sup>24</sup> and [Orcas Island Exchange](#)<sup>25</sup>, San Juan County, manages waste and recycling for the island community and hosts a reuse facility.
- **September 2024** attended the presentation of the documentary [Fashion Reimagined](#)<sup>26</sup> in Olympia. Joined in discussions with members of the [Chayah Movement](#)<sup>27</sup> regarding textile industry waste.

## Support Innovation

### NextCycle Washington

The Center supports [NextCycle Washington](#)<sup>28</sup>, which provides circular economy opportunities to businesses and communities across Washington. NextCycle Washington’s innovative projects reduce waste and greenhouse gasses through reuse and recycling, while increasing jobs and economic growth. NextCycle Washington offers two types of support to qualified project teams focused on waste reduction and recycling. In general, accelerator teams receive training, but no funding, and grant teams receive funding only.

**Accelerator teams** participate in a six-month training program (often called a ‘business accelerator’) that ends with a pitch competition in front of an audience that includes potential investors. Teams receive consultant support and technical assistance for general business issues, strategic and operational plans, communications, marketing, site development, research, and mapping assistance.

**Grant teams** receive up to \$10,000 in funding, along with technical assistance and administrative support from NextCycle Washington consultants. These funds can be used to hire staff and interns, provide training and workshops, complete project feasibility analysis and software programming, connect with other organizations to develop partnerships, build pilot project facilities, or cover project operational costs.

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<sup>21</sup> <https://www.des.wa.gov/services/dispose-surplus/about-surplus-storage>

<sup>22</sup> <https://recyclewarehouse.org/>

<sup>23</sup> <https://compositerecycling.org/>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.sanjuantransferstation.com/>

<sup>25</sup> <https://exchangeorcas.org/tag/lopez-island/>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.fashionreimaginedfilm.com/>

<sup>27</sup> <https://thechayahmovement.com/>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.nextcyclewashington.com/>

In 2023, NextCycle Washington offered accelerator training to 13 teams and grants to 41 teams working on waste reduction and recycling projects. The accelerator teams' culminating pitch event was hosted at the University of Washington. The three cash prize winning accelerator teams were:

- [Refugee Artisan Initiative](#) (RAI) is a non-profit in Lake City that employs refugee women artists and uses upcycled textiles to create new products including bags, apparel, pet toys, and more.
- [Ravel](#), is a small business in Seattle that recycles complex, multi-material textiles into single fiber material to be remanufactured into new textiles.
- [Restaurant 2 Garden](#), part of the Seattle Parks Foundation, created a decentralized and hyper-local community composting facility using neighborhood restaurant food waste in Seattle's Chinatown International District.

Collectively, these NextCycle Washington teams created 117 jobs, diverted over 5 million pounds of materials from the landfill, and raised nearly \$50 million in capital investments.

In 2024, NextCycle Washington only offered an accelerator training program. The accelerator accepted [13 teams](#)<sup>29</sup> of for-profit, non-profit, and community groups from a field of applicants across the state. During the six-month accelerator program, teams received consulting, technical, business, and marketing support. The teams also connected with potential partners, suppliers, and funders. In September of 2024, teams competed in the culminating pitch showcase in front of potential investors. The four cash prize winning teams included:

- [NaturallyContained](#), from Whistler British Columbia, developed a renewably sourced, plastic-free, backyard compostable soil packaging using coconut fiber. They are seeking to make inroads with Washington's gardening industry market.
- [Revino](#), based in Portland, Oregon, created a pick-up service for reusable wine bottles. Revino washes, inspects, and readies the bottles for reuse. The company pitched its plan to bring reusable, refillable wine bottles to Washington wineries and grocery stores.
- [Furniture Repair Bank](#), a Seattle non-profit organization, collects worn and damaged furniture to repair, refurbish, or redesign into like-new condition. They offer a service that matches revived furniture to refugees and immigrants in need or offers the items for rent or sale to help fund its operations.
- [Reclaim Project Recovery](#), a Spokane nonprofit, pitched a plan to add a new Reuse Rebuild Center offering deconstruction and building material reuse services to support existing workforce development programs focused on construction and "green collar" jobs.

The 2024 NextCycle Washington program did not offer the grants that were included in the 2023 program. Collectively, the accelerator teams, without grant funds, created 18 jobs,

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<sup>29</sup> <https://www.nextcyclewashington.com/news-collection/cohort-2-team-selection-nextcycle-washington-accelerator>



diverted 1.6 million pounds of materials from the landfill, and raised over \$13 million in capital investments.

In 2025, the third round of Next Cycle Washington accelerator teams will work through the six-month programming. Sixteen teams will attend a training event in January 2025 and their pitch competition is scheduled for May 2025.

The 2024 and 2025 NextCycle Washington programs operate a scaled-down accelerator training using the Center's base budget and a one-time Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling grant from EPA. With more funding NextCycle Washington would increase the number of teams in each accelerator, expand outreach across Washington, access industry partners, and conduct supportive research.

## The ReUse Commons

The Center worked with [Seattle ReConomy](#)<sup>30</sup> and the City of Seattle to develop a ReUse Commons in King County. With plans to open in late 2025 or early 2026, the ReUse Commons will house an array of businesses and programs in the recycle, reuse, and repair community. The ReUse Commons will be a one-stop-shop for sustainably recycling, repairing, and repurposing durable items with a focus on equitable access for underserved communities.

## Conduct Research

### Market development

The University of Washington Evans School of Public Policy and Governance researched [market development efforts](#)<sup>31</sup> in other states to inform the Center's future work. The report, published in July 2023, recommended the Center work with stakeholders to develop partnerships, fill data gaps, and develop clear priorities that incorporate equity.

### Glass

The Center analyzed Washington's 2021 data to provide a snapshot of residential glass recovery by county. The [summarized 2021 data](#) was shared with attendees at both glass summits. The Center will continue to track glass container recovery around the state while working with partners to find glass end markets. The Center is participating in the discussions about the Ardagh facility closure.

### Textiles

Center staff researched textile use, reuse, and recycling in Washington. There is a lack of information on secondary thrift markets and a need to invest in textile reuse and repair and provide opportunities for collaboration. Current Center efforts include attending and participating in local textile discussions and convening discussions about sustainable solutions.

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<sup>30</sup> <https://seattlereconomy.org/>

<sup>31</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2307024.html>

The Center also tracks other state efforts to address this problem and provides expertise as requested for efforts in Washington. The Center will offer a webinar series on textiles in 2025.

## Agricultural plastics

The Center’s research into the use of plastics in Washington’s agricultural industry started with outreach to farmers, non-profits, trade associations, academia, businesses, and recyclers. These interviews revealed a gap in the data on use, management, and disposal of agricultural plastics. This data gap is a priority for additional research, including an analysis of agricultural plastics management planned for 2025.

## Business Assistance

The Center regularly helps businesses who ask about recycling and waste data. Through an interagency agreement with Commerce’s Circular Economy Unit programs have been established to reduce industrial waste, support innovation, and create jobs in Washington. Part of Commerce’s work includes business development services. This support includes business recruitment, retention, and expansion, industrial site selection, tax incentive analysis, identifying funding opportunities, and sharing tools on the [Choose Washington](#)<sup>32</sup> website.

One highlight is Commerce’s Industrial Symbiosis Grant program ([RCW 43.31.635](#)<sup>33</sup>) which annually funds projects that turn one industry’s waste into valuable resources for another. Funded projects have transformed waste heat, water, residual materials, and biomass into usable end products. These grants help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute toward Washington’s goals for a cleaner future. In 2023 and 2024, Commerce met with the following companies to discuss opportunities in Washington:

Atlas Agro	Lamb Weston
Brightmark	Lightning Protection International
Carbotura	Myno Carbon
Cascadia Produce	Nouryon
Center for Sustainable Infrastructure	Project Hyas
Columbia Marketing International	Qualterra
Corumat	Rockwool
Creative Energy	Royal Family Farming
Divert, Inc.	Terratico
Double Diamond Fruit Co.	The Soil Center
Evergreen Recycling	Tidal Vision
FibroCorp	WA Pulp and Paper Foundation
Heidelberg Materials	Waste Loop
Kilows	Wilcox Farms

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<sup>32</sup> <https://choosewashingtonstate.com/>

<sup>33</sup> <http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=43.31.635>

## Budget Summary

Table 1 shows the Center’s budget for the current biennium, July 1, 2023, to July 30, 2025. The table reflects spending totals for June 2023 through November 2024. Center funding comes primarily from the Waste Reduction, Recycling, and Litter Control Account. Funding for NextCycle Washington includes Environmental Protection Agency grant funds from the [Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling](#)<sup>34</sup> program. The Center anticipates using all remaining funds by the end of the biennium (July 30, 2025).

Table 1 – Center funding status for July 2023 to November 2024

Center work	Two-year Budget	Spent through Nov. 2024
Ecology and Commerce staff	\$ 1,450,469	\$ 805,353
NextCycle Washington	\$ 995,000*	\$ 447,185
Community material forums	\$ 50,000	\$ 0
Reuse commons project	\$ 25,000	\$ 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,520,469</b>	<b>\$ 1,252,538</b>

\*Includes Environmental Protection Agency grant funding of \$390,075

In September 2024, Ecology submitted a decision package to the Office of Financial Management requesting additional funding for the Recycling Market Development Center in the next biennium. That request would fund NextCycle [Washington](#)’s accelerator with \$1 million per year. This would increase the number of NextCycle Washington accelerator teams from 8 per cycle to 16 per cycle, add program research and resources, and allow for more outreach and involvement from communities around the state.

## Next steps

In the next two years, the Center will continue to convene discussions to provide information and make connections, support innovative projects through NextCycle Washington, conduct research into specific material markets, and provide business assistance to new, emerging or expanding businesses. This work is expected to include the following actions:

- Facilitate quarterly advisory board meetings, arrange site visits at businesses and support community efforts related to recycling end markets, host material-specific webinars or summits, and present on Center-related efforts;
- Fund efforts of NextCycle Washington in 2025 and 2026 with at least one business accelerator program scheduled each year that will support waste reduction, recycling and reuse projects;
- Conduct research on agricultural plastic waste, textile management, and construction and demolition materials; and
- Continue to provide support for businesses looking to expand or locate in Washington.

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<sup>34</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure/solid-waste-infrastructure-recycling-grant-program>

## Publication information

This report is available on the Department of Ecology's website at <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/2407026.html>

Cross-referenced or relevant documents.

Publication 20-07-022: [2020 Recycling Development Center Report to the Legislature](#)<sup>35</sup>

Publication 22-07-032: [2022 Recycling Development Center Report to the Legislature](#)<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2007022.html>

<sup>36</sup> <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/1904029.html>

<sup>37</sup> [www.ecology.wa.gov/contact](http://www.ecology.wa.gov/contact)