

RECYCLING UPDATE

Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board
February 2026

TRACE BRADBURN
Solid Waste Management Director





CLEAN RECYCLABLES ONLY

GLASS



- Bottles & Jars – **NO LIDS**



Questions?
Visit Recycling Services

PAPER



- Newspaper
- Corrugated Cardboard
- Magazines & Catalogs
- Office Paper
- Junk Mail
- Cereal & Pop Boxes
- Non-Coated Paper Products

Paper Cups

METAL



- Aluminum Cans
- Tin, Steel Cans
- Aerosol Cans – **EMPTY, NO LIDS OR TIPS**

PLASTIC

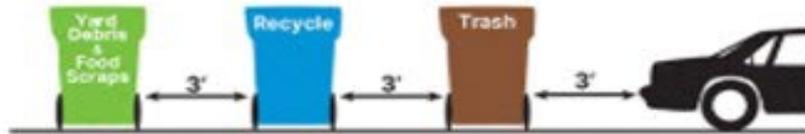


- Bottles, Jugs & Tubs – **NO LIDS**

Plastic Cups

NOT ACCEPTED

- ⊗ Garbage
- ⊗ Plastic Bags
- ⊗ Styrofoam
- ⊗ Food Contaminated Items
- ⊗ Microwave trays
- ⊗ Ceramics & Dishes
- ⊗ Light Bulbs
- ⊗ Window Glass & Mirrors
- ⊗ Hazardous Waste Containers
- ⊗ Syringes
- ⊗ Un-numbered Plastics
- ⊗ Lids
- ⊗ Batteries
- ⊗ Electronics
- ⊗ Sharp Metal
- ⊗ Coated & Laminated Paper Products



Please allow 3 feet between carts and around cars.



PLEASE REMEMBER:

- ✓ Empty & Rinse Containers
- ✓ Flatten Cardboard to Fit into Cart with Lid Shut

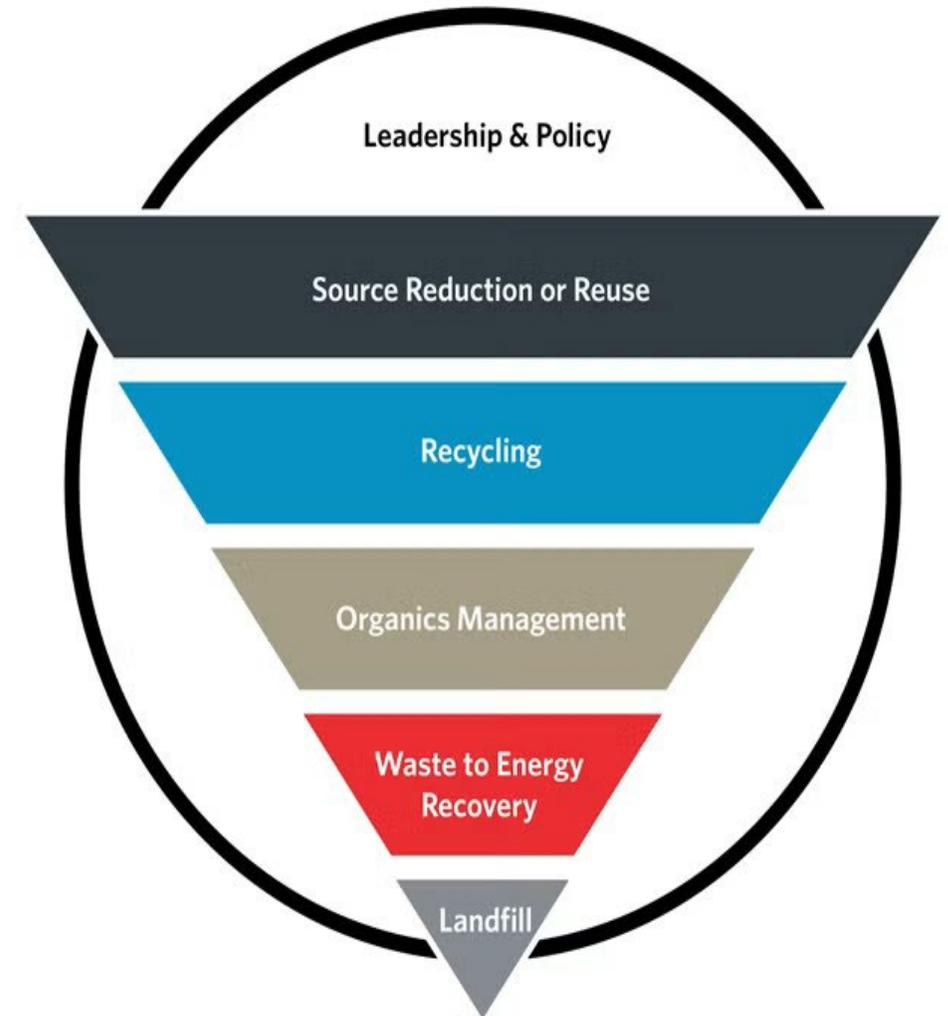
For a complete list of acceptable materials, please visit my.spokanecity.org or call 311.

Department of Solid Waste



Waste to Energy Diversion

- **Recycling is the highest-value use** for #1 (PET), #5 (PP), and paper cups
- These materials have **established markets and processing capacity**
- **Waste-to-Energy remains critical** for materials that cannot be recycled
- **Diverting recyclables:**
 - Preserves WTE capacity for true residual waste
 - Reduces combustion of recoverable commodities
 - Supports material recovery and circular use
- Aligns with the City's **waste hierarchy and climate goals**



Environmental & Climate Benefits

- **Investing in the right outcomes**
- **Lower lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions**
Recycling PET (polyethylene terephthalate), PP (polypropylene), and fiber avoids energy-intensive virgin production
- **Reduced combustion of recyclable materials**
Limits direct carbon release from burning recoverable commodities
- **Protects material value**
Keeps plastics and fiber in productive use rather than becoming ash
- **Leverages prior investment**
The City helped fund modern sorting infrastructure to recover these materials
- **Doing the right thing, the right way**
Using existing capacity to prioritize recycling where it delivers greater environmental benefit





QUESTIONS?