



Outreach Summary

Southeast Alaska Regional Municipal Solid Waste Management Strategy

March 2026

OUTREACH STRATEGY SUMMARY

The RESPEC consultant team reached out to municipal, Tribal, and private entities such as waste transfer companies to gather information for the Community and Regional Profiles. Initial outreach was done using the contact information provided by the Southeast Conference (SEC); contacts were updated as information was shared by communities or if emails were undeliverable. Zach Gianotti, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Environmental Specialist for Southeast, also recommended contacts for several communities.

Additionally, the project team attended the 2025 Southeast Alaska Economic Conference & 67th Annual Meeting in September. The consultant team set up a display table with the community profiles, business cards, and surveys (hard copy and QR codes to digital surveys) to provide general comments or comments on the community profiles.

The team also held a workshop on the final day of the conference. Approximately 30 people attended in person or online, representing several communities and industry partners. Participants were encouraged to connect with the project team to schedule interviews or share data. The workshop included a short presentation providing background information on the project and breakout groups to conduct SWOT analyses.

Interview Requests

The first round of interview requests was sent to the municipal and Tribal contacts from SEC in early May 2025. Follow up requests to non-responsive contacts were made by phone or email in the following weeks. All communities were sent their draft Community Profile in late June and asked to provide comments; at this point, the list of communities that had not responded to any outreach attempts was shared with SEC to allow SEC to follow up. Table 1 summarizes which contacts provided information at any point in this outreach process.

While the Community Profiles were being distributed in June, outreach began to regional entities including shipping companies and regional Tribal corporations. Table 2 summarizes which of these contacts provided information.

Interview Questions

Contacts that agreed to be interviewed were sent a standard list of questions in advance of the interview; they were also given the option to respond to the questions in writing. The lists of questions are attached to the end of this report. The questions were adjusted for

communities with landfills to allow the communities to confirm or correct information found on the ADEC Solid Waste Information Management System.

Information Management

The information gathered through interviews and email correspondence was organized into an Excel workbook and included in the Community and Regional Profiles. Several communities provided more information than could fit in a one-page summary, but all information was retained in the workbook.

STAKEHOLDER RESPONSE SUMMARY

Table 1. Responsiveness of Community Contacts

	Municipal Contact	Tribal Contact
Angoon	✓ Provided information	✓ Provided information
Coffman Cove	✓ Provided information	N/A
Craig	✓ Provided information	✗ No response
Edna Bay	✗ No response	N/A
Elfin Cove	✓ Provided information	N/A
Gustavus	✓ Provided information	N/A
Haines	✓ Provided information	✗ No response
Hobart Bay	✗ No contact information	N/A
Hollis	✗ No response	N/A
Hoonah	✓ Provided information	✓ Provided information
Hydaburg	✗ No response	✗ No response
Hyder	✓ Provided information	N/A
Juneau	✓ Provided information	✓ Provided information
Kake	✓ Provided information	✓ Provided information
Kasaan	✓ Provided information	✓ Provided information
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	✓ Provided information	✓ Provided information
Ketchikan	✓ Provided information	✓ Provided information
Klawock	✓ Provided information	✓ Provided information
Klukwan	✗ No response	✗ No response
Kupreanof	✗ Declined	N/A
Metlakatla	✓ Provided information	
Naukati Bay	✗ No response	N/A
Pelican	✓ Provided information	N/A
Petersburg	✓ Provided information	✓ Provided information
Point Baker	✗ No response	N/A
Port Alexander	✗ No response	N/A
Port Protection	✗ No response	N/A
Saxman	✗ No response	✓ Provided information
Sitka	✓ Provided information	✓ Provided information
Skagway	✓ Provided information	✓ Provided information
Tenakee Springs	✓ Provided information	N/A
Thorne Bay	✓ Provided information	N/A
Whale Pass	✗ No response	N/A
Wrangell	✓ Provided information	✗ No response
Yakutat	✓ Provided information	✗ No response

Table 2. Responsiveness of Regional Entities and Service Provider Contacts

Entity	Response
Alaska Department of Resources	Division of Mining, Land and Water provided information.
Alaska Marine Lines	Provided information.
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium	Multiple individuals provided information.
Alaska Wildlife Troopers	Provided information.
Central Councils of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska	Provided information.
Goldbelt Incorporated	No response.
Haines Community Waste Solutions	Provided information.
Haines Friends of Recycling	Provided information.
Icy Strait Point (Huna Totem Corporation)	Provided information.
Juneau Composts	Provided information.
Lynden	No response.
Republic Services	No response.
Sealaska	Provided information.
Totemic Solutions	No response.
Waste Management Solutions	Declined interview and deferred to City and Borough of Juneau.
Zender Environmental Group	Provided information.

INTERVIEW REQUEST EMAIL

The following text was sent to the municipal and Tribal contacts provided by SEC in early May 2025.

Hello,

My name is [Name], and I am a planner with RESPEC working with the Southeast Conference on a municipal solid waste management strategy for the region (<https://www.seconference.org/solid-waste/>). Our goal is to develop a comprehensive and sustainable approach to managing solid waste that addresses the unique needs and challenges of our communities.

I'm reaching out to key stakeholders like yourself to gather information about each community's waste disposal volumes, costs, needs, challenges, and successes. Additionally, we would greatly appreciate it if you could share any studies, reports, or data that could inform the planning process.

Please let me know some dates and times over the next two weeks that would work for you to have a 30–45-minute Microsoft Teams or phone call with our planning team.

Please feel free to invite your colleagues or other partners who could add to the conversation. If you have any immediate questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [email address] or [phone number].

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to working with you to create a sustainable future for the region!

Best regards,

[Signature]

STANDARD INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Municipality/Community

1. We found the following information on the Solid Waste Information Management System (SWIMS). Is this accurate? **OR** We were unable to find information about a landfill in your community. How is solid waste currently handled?
2. Does your community have any recycling or composting facilities?
3. Can you provide data or estimates of the average volume of waste your community disposes of monthly or annually, broken down by type?
 - Municipal solid waste (MSW):
 - Household hazardous waste (HHW):
 - Construction & demolition waste (C&D):
 - Recyclables:
 - Compost:
 - Scrap metal:
 - White goods (i.e., refrigerators and freezers, appliances):
 - Other (e.g., junk vehicles, tires, special wastes):
4. What are the current costs associated with waste disposal in your community? (monthly or annual)
 - Sanitation Department budget:
 - Cost to consumer:
 - Revenue:
5. What factors are considered when determining the cost to residents and businesses for MSW pick-up, transportation, and disposal?
6. Does your community have any local solid waste plans, studies, or other data that you could share?
7. Do any private companies, non-profit organizations, or other partners participate in solid waste management in your community? Who are they and what are their roles?
8. Are there any challenges in complying with waste management regulations or policies that apply to your community?
9. Is your community's MSW infrastructure currently at capacity, or is there room for future growth?
10. Are there any key infrastructure or equipment improvements needed to enhance waste management?
11. Is your community interested in more regional collaboration to support your goals or plans for waste management? Collaboration could include:
 - Sharing equipment or services for pick-up, hauling, transportation, or disposal
 - Accepting waste from other communities or sending local waste elsewhere
 - Other ideas for collaboration?
12. Is there anything else you think we should know about waste management in your community?

Recycling or Compost Service Provider

1. Which Southeast Alaska communities does your organization currently serve? Has this changed over time?
2. What infrastructure or equipment do you use in the communities you serve?
3. Is your recycling and/or composting infrastructure currently at capacity, or is there room for future growth?
4. Can you provide details on the volume and types of recyclable and/or compostable input materials accepted and processed monthly or annually?
5. How does your recycling and/or composting process work, and what types and volumes of recycled/composted output products are generated monthly or annually?
6. What are the current costs associated with recycling and/or composting for the communities you serve? (monthly or annual cost to consumer, cost to run the program, revenue generated)
7. What factors are considered when determining the cost to residents and businesses for recycling and/or composting services?
8. What are the main challenges your organization faces in providing recycling and/or composting services? (e.g., policy/code/regulations, infrastructure, community education & buy-in, etc.)
9. Does your organization have any initiatives for educating and engaging the community in recycling and/or composting practices?
10. Are there any new recycling and/or composting technologies you are considering for future implementation?
11. Is your organization interested in engaging in more regional collaboration to support your future goals or plans for recycling and/or composting services?
12. Is there anything else you think we should know about waste management in your communities or the region?

Waste Service Provider

1. Which Southeast Alaska communities does your company currently serve? Has this changed over time?
2. What infrastructure or equipment do you use in the communities you serve?
3. Can you provide data or estimates of the average volume of waste your company collects from communities and/or disposes of monthly or annually, broken down by type?
 - Municipal solid waste (MSW):
 - Household hazardous waste (HHW):
 - Construction & demolition waste (C&D):
 - Recyclables:
 - Compost:
 - Scrap metal:
 - White goods (i.e., refrigerators and freezers, appliances):
 - Other (e.g., junk vehicles, tires, special wastes):
4. What are the current costs associated with waste management services for the communities you serve? (monthly or annual cost to consumer, cost to run the program, revenue generated)
5. What factors are considered when determining the cost to residents and businesses for the waste management services you provide?
6. What are the main challenges your company faces in providing waste management services? (e.g., policy/code/regulations, infrastructure, transportation/disposal process, etc.)
7. Can you describe the process and logistics involved in shipping waste to the Lower 48 via barge? What challenges or unmet needs exist?
8. What regulations must your company comply with when providing waste management services locally and/or transporting waste to the Lower 48? Are there challenges with meeting these regulations?
9. Can you provide information on the facilities where the waste is disposed of in the Lower 48? Are there any challenges or unmet needs associated with disposal?
10. What technologies or innovations has your company implemented to improve waste management efficiency? Are there any new technologies you are considering for future implementation?
11. Has your company developed or considered implementing any sustainable waste practices such as methane capture for energy or heat production, composting, or recycling services?
12. Is your company interested in engaging in more regional collaboration to support your future goals or plans for waste management services?
13. Is there anything else you think we should know about waste management in your communities or the region?