SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

Regional Profile

Southeast Alaska Regional Municipal Solid Waste Management Strategy

March 2026

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INTRODUCTION

The management and disposal of solid waste in Southeast Alaska has posed significant challenges for communities, including rising costs associated with transportation, operations, and final disposal. To address these issues, the Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority (SEASWA), established in 2007, aims to provide environmentally sound and cost-effective solid waste management solutions while improving public health, safety, and the environment.

The RMSWMP project seeks to create a comprehensive strategy for solid waste management in Southeast Alaska. It aims to address existing challenges and develop sustainable, economically viable solutions while actively involving community stakeholders.

The purpose of the Southeast Alaska Regional Municipal Solid Waste Management Planning (RMSWMP) project is to develop a comprehensive, collaborative, and sustainable strategy for managing solid waste across the Southeast Alaska region. This initiative aims to address the pressing challenges of rising disposal costs and inefficient waste management practices that have impacted community health, safety, and the environment.

35 communities were identified for inclusion in this study. Each of these communities has an individual Community Profile based on information gathered through research and interviews. The information in the Community Profiles, combined with additional interviews with regional entities, was used to develop this Regional Profile. The Regional Profile summarizes the status of waste management in Southeast Alaska, including disposal methods, waste volumes and types, and available and needed equipment and infrastructure. The Regional Profile also includes a combined SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) and PESTLE (political, environmental, social, technical, legal, economic) analysis.

***Figure 1**. Study Area Communities*

Disposal Methods

Each community has its own mix of methods for disposing of waste, ranging from comprehensive municipal services to individual responsibility for disposal. This section summarizes the main forms of disposal used in the study area communities.

Landfill Locally

There are 18 landfills in the study area, including one Class I landfill, 16 Class III landfills, and one landfill not regulated by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Two of the Class III landfills are unpermitted.

DEC inspects Class I landfills once per year and Class III landfills once every three years. Class I inspection reports include an overall score and detailed assessments of landfill records, development and access, operations, special waste, surface water controls and impacts, monitoring of locations, structures, and plans, and any additional permit requirements. Class III inspection reports include an overall score and focus on site control, burning, operations, water impacts, special waste management, and administration.

Class I Landfills

Class I landfills accept more than 20 tons of waste per day and are inspected once a year by DEC. Landfill staff are encouraged to target a score of 90% or higher.

Capitol Disposal Landfill in Juneau is the only Class I landfill in the study area. It is owned and operated by Waste Management Solutions. The landfill received a score of 86.3% on its 2025 inspection.

Class III Landfills

Class III landfills accept fewer than 5 tons of waste per day and are inspected once every three years by DEC. Landfill staff are encouraged to aim for a minimum score of 70%, though DEC's official target is for Alaska's Class III landfills to have an average inspection score of 80% or higher.

The landfills in the study area are owned and operated by the municipality in which they are located unless otherwise noted. Some landfills are known to regularly accept waste from nearby communities, though any landfill that allows self-haul could receive waste from non-residents.

***Table 1**. Class III Landfills in the Study Area.*

Community Name	Last Inspection	Overall Score	Notes
Angoon	2024	39%	
Gustavus	2024	99%	
Haines	2023	80%	Owned and operated by Community Waste Solutions (private company).
Hoonah	2024	90%	
Hydaburg	2025	58%	
Hyder	2024	41%	This landfill is unpermitted. Hyder is an unincorporated community, so the landfill is owned and operated by the Community Association.
Kake	2023	60%	This landfill is unpermitted. A landfill permit requires landowner consent, and the landowner (Sealaska) has not provided consent. The landfill is owned and operated by the City of Kake.
Ketchikan	2024	99%	This landfill, also known as the Deer Mountain Landfill, is owned and operated by the City of Ketchikan and accepts waste from the entire Ketchikan Gateway Borough, including Saxman. The Borough collects and areawide fee that it transfers to the City for solid waste management services.
Klawock	2025	89%	This landfill accepts waste from Klawock and Craig. The City of Craig provides waste collection services to most of its residents. The Organized Village of Kasaan is planning to install an anaerobic digester at the Klawock Landfill. The 2025 landfill inspection report notes that the facility may be receiving more than 5 tons of waste per day (limit for Class III landfills).
Klukwan	2024	94%	
Pelican	2024	62%	
Petersburg	2023	86%	
Sitka	2023	91%	
Skagway	2024	99%	
Thorne Bay	2025	84%	This landfill accepts waste from Thorne Bay, Kasaan, Coffman Cove, and other communities on Prince of Wales Island. Some disposal fees at the landfill are higher if the person disposing of the waste does not live in Thorne Bay. The Cities of Kasaan and Coffman Cove provide waste collection services for their residents.
Yakutat	2022	85%	

Non-DEC Regulated Landfills

Metlakatla Indian Community's landfill is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), not the DEC, because it is located on the Annette Island Reserve.

Accepted Wastes

As part of the permitting process, DEC identifies which types of waste a landfill is allowed to accept. Table 2 identifies what materials each permitted landfill can accept and what they do with the waste.

Table 2. *Waste Accepted at DEC-Permitted Landfills*

	Ash	C&D	Inert	Municipal	NonRACM	Polluted Soils	RACM	Sewage Solids	Treated Medical Waste
Angoon	✓	✓		🔥					
Gustavus	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Haines		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Hoonah	✓	🔥		🔥				✓	
Hydaburg	✓	✓	✓	🔥					
Juneau	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	🚢			🚢
Ketchikan	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
Klawock		✓		✓				✓	
Klukwan	✓	🚚	✓	🔥					
Pelican	✓	✓		🔥					
Petersburg		🔥🚢	✓	🔥🚢				⊖	
Sitka		✓	✓		✓		⊖	✓	
Skagway	✓			🔥🚢					
Thorne Bay		🔥	✓	✓					
Yakutat	✓	✓	✓	🔥					
Total	***10***	***14***	***10***	***12***	***4***	***1***	***2***	***5***	***1***

RACM: regulated asbestos-containing material

✓ Landfilled

🔥 May be burned or landfilled

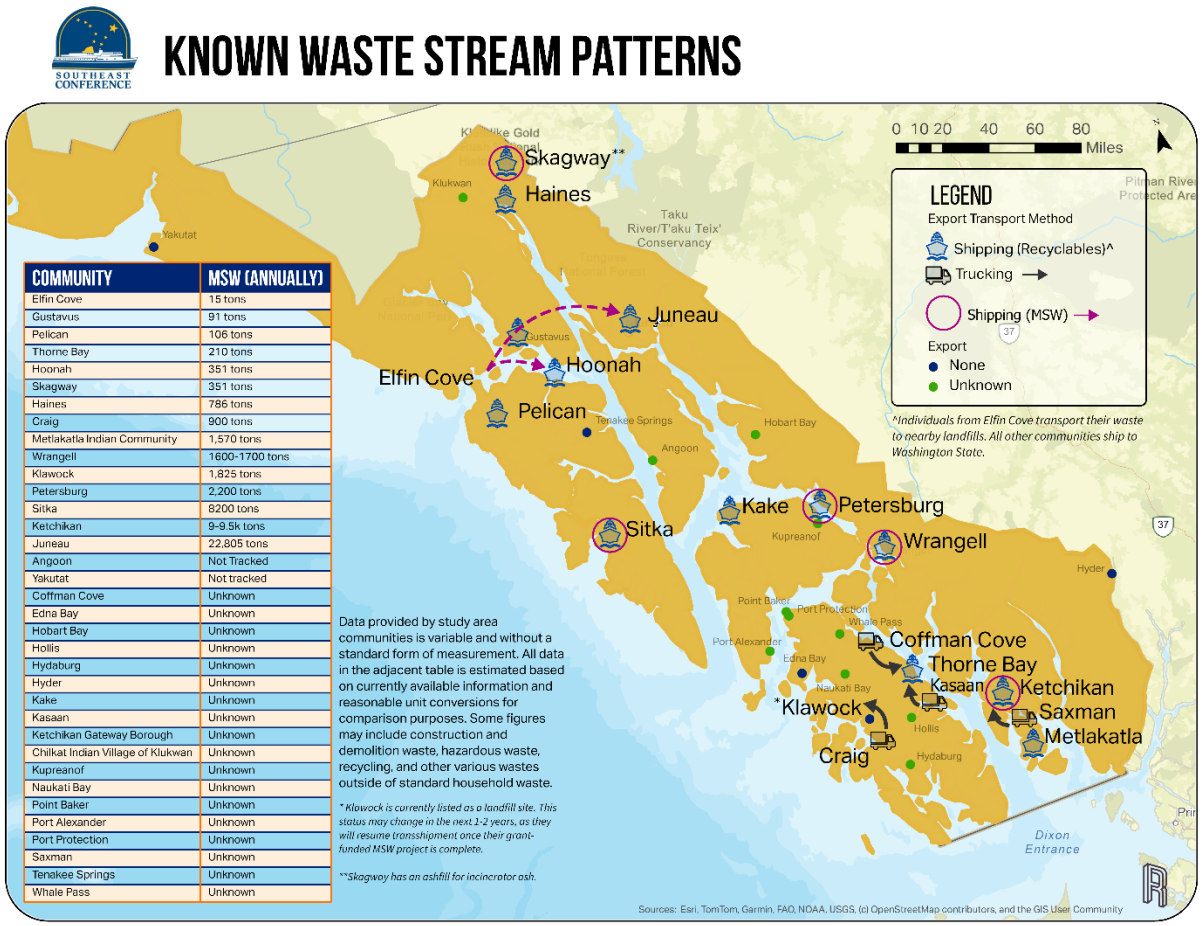
🚢 Shipped out of state

🚚 Diverted to nearby landfill

⊖ Permitted to accept but not actively accepting

Export

Several communities transport some or all of their MSW outside their community, either to a nearby landfill or out of state. Most MSW sent out of Alaska is barged to Seattle by Alaska Marine Lines (under contract with Republic Services), transferred to a rail car near the port, and sent to the Roosevelt Landfill in Washington. Recycling is typically barged to Seattle. Communities that collect household hazardous waste (HHW) must ship the waste out; if the HHW collection contract is through Republic Services, the waste is barged to Seattle and transported by rail to a hazardous waste landfill in Grand View, Idaho.



COMMUNITY	MSW (ANNUALLY)
Elfin Cove	15 tons
Gustavus	91 tons
Pelican	106 tons
Thorne Bay	210 tons
Hoonah	351 tons
Skagway	351 tons
Haines	786 tons
Craig	900 tons
Metlakatla Indian Community	1,570 tons
Wrangell	1600-1700 tons
Klawock	1,825 tons
Petersburg	2,200 tons
Sitka	8200 tons
Ketchikan	9-9.5k tons
Juneau	22,805 tons
Angoon	Not Tracked
Yakutat	Not tracked
Coffman Cove	Unknown
Edna Bay	Unknown
Hobart Bay	Unknown
Hollis	Unknown
Hydaburg	Unknown
Hyder	Unknown
Kake	Unknown
Kasaan	Unknown
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	Unknown
Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan	Unknown
Kupreanof	Unknown
Naukati Bay	Unknown
Point Baker	Unknown
Port Alexander	Unknown
Port Protection	Unknown
Saxman	Unknown
Tenakee Springs	Unknown
Whale Pass	Unknown

***Figure 2**. Movement of MSW and Recyclables Within and From Southeast Alaska.*

Divert

Waste diversion helps to prolong the lifespan of the landfill and allows for reuse or repurposing of materials. Strategies include composting food waste, collecting recyclables for shipment, designating areas for salvage, or encouraging use of thrift stores. Figure 3

shows the communities that reported some form of diversion, primarily through recycling or composting.

***Figure 3**. Communities that divert waste through recycling, compost, or other method.*

Current Regional Collaboration

The Prince of Wales (POW) Tribal Environmental Coalition (TEC) is already engaged in regional collaboration to divert waste from landfills. This organization, which comprises Craig Tribal Association, Hydaburg Cooperative Association, Klawock Cooperative Association, and the Organized Village of Kasaan, engages is a range of environmentally focused programs and activities. These activities include electronic waste recycling, trash clean-up events, and future compost and recycling programs.

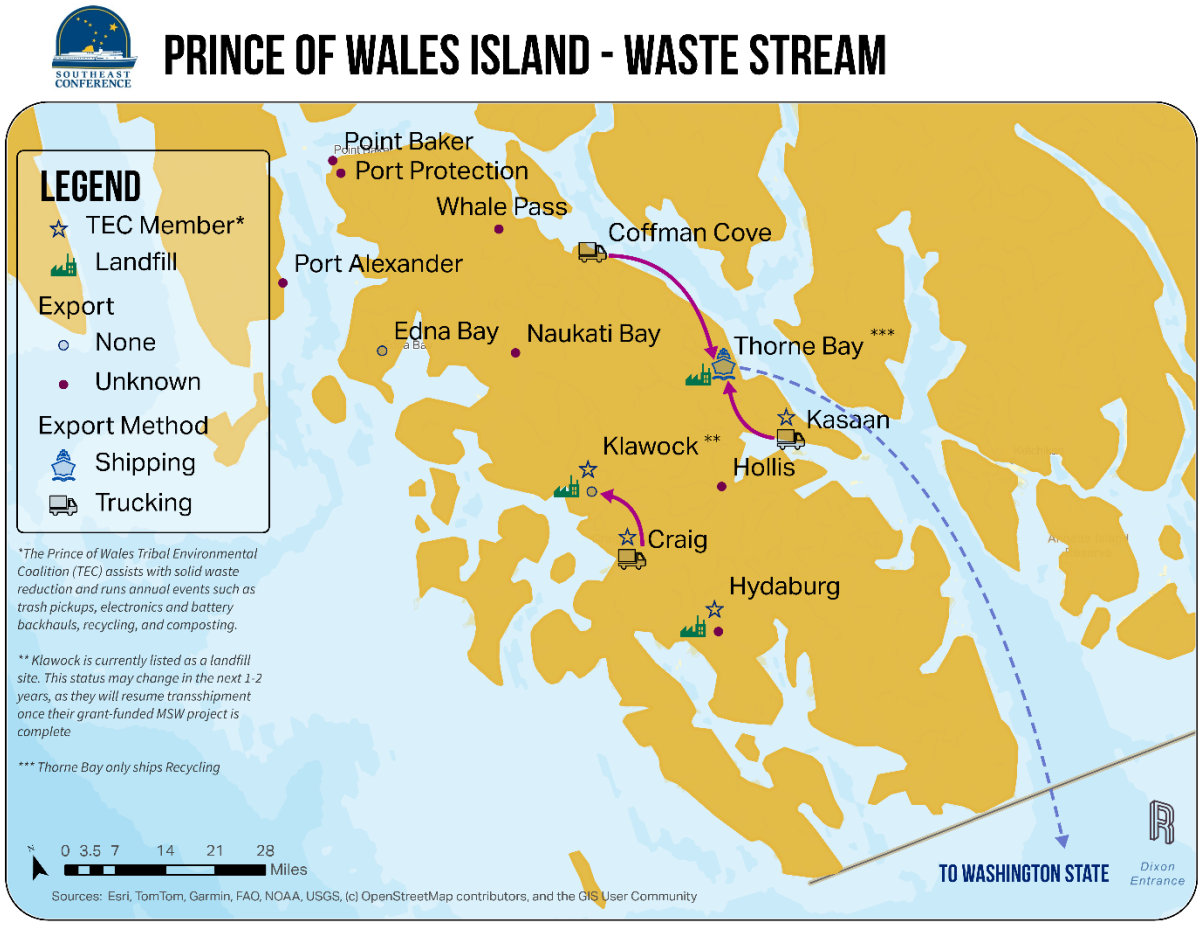


***Figure 4**. Movement of Waste on Prince of Wales Island.*

The Chilkat Valley also has organizations working to divert waste from local landfills. Haines Friends of Recycling accepts all materials by drop-off and coordinates with Klukwan to support their diversion activities. The Chilkat Valley Compost Center, operated by the Takshanuk Watershed Council, accepts waste by drop-off from members who may be located anywhere in the region.

There is a network of composters throughout Southeast who hold regular virtual meetings to share information and provide support.

Recycling

Recycling programs look very different in each community, from comprehensive programs with detailed recordkeeping to stockpiles of scrap metal waiting to be backhauled. Table 3 describes the recycling activities in each community, based on the most up-to-date information available to the study team.

Gustavus Disposal and Recycling Center (DRC) is a strong example of a municipally managed operation with high diversion rates. In addition to recycling, DRC accepts food waste for composting and manages the Community Chest, a thrift store that diverts usable materials from the landfill. Interviews with individuals outside Gustavus highlighted that this community has a strong culture of supporting diversion and taking individual responsibility for waste management (e.g., pre-sorting materials) that took many years of deliberate effort to create. Many other communities do not have this cultural norm.

Haines Friends of Recycling (HFR) is a good example of a non-profit organization supporting waste management in a community and may be interested in receiving recyclable materials from other communities. The Haines Borough Mayor noted that HFR has helped prolong the life of the local landfill by diverting large volumes of waste. He also noted that while it is great that the various waste management entities in Haines (HFR, Community Waste Solutions, Chilkat Valley Compost Center) are very cooperative with one another, it is a challenge to have such a piecemeal system. The mayor summarized this by saying, “our patchwork has some holes in it.” HFR, as a non-profit, benefits from free and discounted shipping with AML.

The region would benefit from increased recycling, especially coordinated scrap metal removal at regular intervals. The owner of several local companies (Channel Construction/Skookum Recycling and Tideline Construction/Stikine Recycling) offered to help develop “an efficient, regular pickup circuit at a reasonable price.” Backhaul Alaska, a non-profit organization, also works with communities throughout the state to remove materials such as scrap metal. Coffman Cove noted that Prince of Wales Island would benefit from an annual scrap metal clean-up and removal program and an on-island recycling plant.

***Table 3**. Recycling Programs in Each Community*

Community	Recycling Program
Angoon	Angoon Community Association is exploring a new recycling program. The City has a free program to collect large waste, including scrap metal/junk vehicles, but there is low participation. The City is interested in recycling and scrap metal backhaul programs.
Coffman Cove	Waste is brought to Thorne Bay Landfill, which has a recycling program. Unclear if collection by the City of Coffman Cove includes separate recyclables collection.
Edna Bay	Unknown.
Elfin Cove	None (there is no organized waste management system).
Gustavus	In FY24, Gustavus diverted 55% of the waste collected at the landfill. In addition to exporting materials for recycling, they pulverize glass to use as landfill cover.
Haines	Haines Friends of Recycling accepts a range of recyclable materials for free and charges for some materials that require processing (e.g., freezers/refrigerators, fluorescent tubes).
Hobart Bay	Unknown.
Hollis	Unknown.
Hoonah	Icy Strait Point (owned by Huna Totem) has a recycling program for waste generated through their operations, but there is no community-wide recycling program.
Hydaburg	There does not appear to be a recycling program, though the Hydaburg Cooperative Association is a member of the TEC.
Hyder	There is not a formal recycling program, though the community has attempted to bring recycling to Canada in the past. This is fairly straightforward for individuals, but large volumes of recycling/waste require insurance, paperwork, and fees that have proven to be a barrier.
Juneau	There is a recycling facility at the landfill and residents and businesses can drop off materials for free. The facility is owned and operated by Waste Management Solutions. D&S Recycling (private company) also collects non-ferrous materials and Skookum Recycling (private company owned by Channel Construction) collects bulk scrap metal (e.g., junk cars).
Kake	The Organized Village of Kake recently received a grant and plans to start a recycling program. Scrap metal, white goods, and junk vehicles are sent to the local scrap metal yard for shipping.
Kasaan	The Organized Village of Kasaan provides weekly recycling pick-up for residents and is a member of the TEC.

Community	Recycling Program
Ketchikan	The Ketchikan Landfill accepts cardboard, aluminum, and scrap metal for recycling.
Klawock	Unknown. The City of Craig noted that they burn carboard at this landfill, so it is likely the City of Klawock also collects cardboard separately for burning. The Klawock Cooperative Association is a member of TEC.
Klukwan	Chilkat Indian Village (Klukwan) collaborates with Haines Friends of Recycling.
Kupreanof	Residents of Kupreanof bring their waste to the Petersburg Landfill.
Metlakatla	Metlakatla separates recyclable and salvageable materials and stores them in a separate area of the landfill. Scrap metal is occasionally collected by a third party (unidentified). Zender Environmental pays for shipping e-waste to the Lower 48.
Naukati Bay	Unknown.
Pelican	Aluminum, batteries, scrap metal, and white goods are collected separately from other waste at the landfill. Skookum Recycling collects the aluminum and scrap metal.
Petersburg	The Petersburg Landfill collects comingled recycling and scrap metal. Petersburg Indian Association occasionally hosts e-waste events.
Point Baker	Unknown.
Port Alexander	Unknown.
Port Protection	Unknown.
Saxman	Saxman uses the Deer Mountain Landfill in the City of Ketchikan.
Sitka	The Sitka Recycle Center accepts newspaper, cardboard, plastic (#1, #2, #5), tin, and aluminum for shipment to Washington. Glass is also accepted and is crushed for on-island uses.
Skagway	Glass jars and bottles, aluminum beverage cans, and corrugated cardboard are collected at the transfer station for recycling.
Tenakee Springs	None (there is no organized waste management system).
Thorne Bay	The 2025 inspection report notes that there are separate collection areas for scrap metal and aluminum at the landfill.
Whale Pass	None (there is no organized waste management system).
Wrangell	Stikine Recycling (same owner as Skookum Recycling) collects scrap metal, junk vehicles, and white goods. Paper and cardboard are burned. Car and boat batteries are accepted at the transfer station for shipping.
Yakutat	Aluminum cans, metal, and batteries are accepted for recycling.

Compost

In an interview, Juneau Composts emphasized the need for local composting in each community. A regional compost program would be expensive and impractical, but local composting would allow communities to divert food waste, thereby prolonging the lifespan of the local landfill or reducing shipping costs for communities who export waste.

Eight communities have some form of active composting programs: **Gustavus** (through the landfill), **Haines** (through membership with the Chilkat Valley Compost Center), **Hoonah** (only for Icy Strait Point operations), **Juneau** (through membership with Juneau Composts), **Klukwan** (through membership with the Chilkat Valley Compost Center), **Metlakatla** (through the landfill), **Skagway** (through the landfill), and **Wrangell** (through the Wrangell Community Association or a local organic farm). The City of Ketchikan composts biosolids from the wastewater treatment plant. Until recently, Petersburg Indian Association (PIA) collected fish waste from local canneries and fish processing plants for composting, but the funding for the program ended. PIA is actively seeking funds to restart the composting program and would like to include residential food waste in the future. Klawock and Tenakee Springs are interested in developing composting programs, though Tenakee Springs raised concerns about bear attraction.

Other Diversion Efforts

Many communities will have occasional e-waste collection events or periodically backhaul scrap metal. These events tend to occur when funds are available; many communities would likely benefit from more regular special waste collection and backhaul events.

Some communities have local businesses that will collect special wastes for recycling or disposal, such as an auto parts store that collects used vehicle batteries, though this information can be difficult to find; a centralized list of disposal options can help.

WASTE COMPOSITION

The information about the volume and composition of waste in each community is based on interviews or correspondence with community representatives, estimates in plans that were provided to the project team, or details in landfill inspection reports (most inspection reports do not contain this data). There are gaps in the data because several communities do not keep track of waste, representatives were unable or unwilling to provide records, or community contacts were unresponsive to interview requests. Some communities without formal waste tracking provided anecdotal information to estimate waste volumes. Table 4 describes the waste data that were collected for each community; analysis of this data and waste management costs will be provided in subsequent reports or memoranda.

***Table 4**. Availability of Waste Data*

Community	Availability of Waste Data
Angoon	Does not track waste
Coffman Cove	No data (Coffman Cove sends waste to Thorne Bay Landfill)
Craig	Typical annual volume
Edna Bay	No data (did not respond to outreach)
Elfin Cove	Anecdotal estimate
Gustavus	Detailed waste breakdown
Haines	Detailed waste breakdown
Hobart Bay	No data (no contact information for community)
Hollis	No data (did not respond to outreach)
Hoonah	Anecdotal estimate
Hydaburg	No data (did not respond to outreach)
Hyder	Does not track waste
Juneau	Waste characterization study
Kake	Does not track waste
Kasaan	No data (Kasaan sends waste to Thorne Bay Landfill)
Ketchikan	Typical annual volumes
Klawock	Rough estimate from landfill inspection report
Klukwan	No data (did not respond to outreach)
Kupreanof	No data (individuals bring waste to Petersburg Landfill)
Metlakatla	Does not track waste
Naukati Bay	No data (did not respond to outreach)
Pelican	Typical volumes per month or year
Petersburg	Typical annual volumes
Point Baker	No data (did not respond to outreach)
Port Alexander	No data (did not respond to outreach)
Port Protection	No data (did not respond to outreach)
Saxman	No data (Saxman uses the Ketchikan Deer Mountain Landfill)
Sitka	Typical annual volumes
Skagway	Typical annual volumes
Tenakee Springs	Does not track waste
Thorne Bay	Typical annual volumes
Whale Pass	No data (did not respond to outreach)
Wrangell	Typical annual volumes
Yakutat	Does not track waste

EQUIPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The information about equipment and infrastructure in each community is based on landfill inspection reports and interviews or correspondence with community representatives. Figures 4 and 5 show the locations of landfills, transfer stations, and equipment in the region.

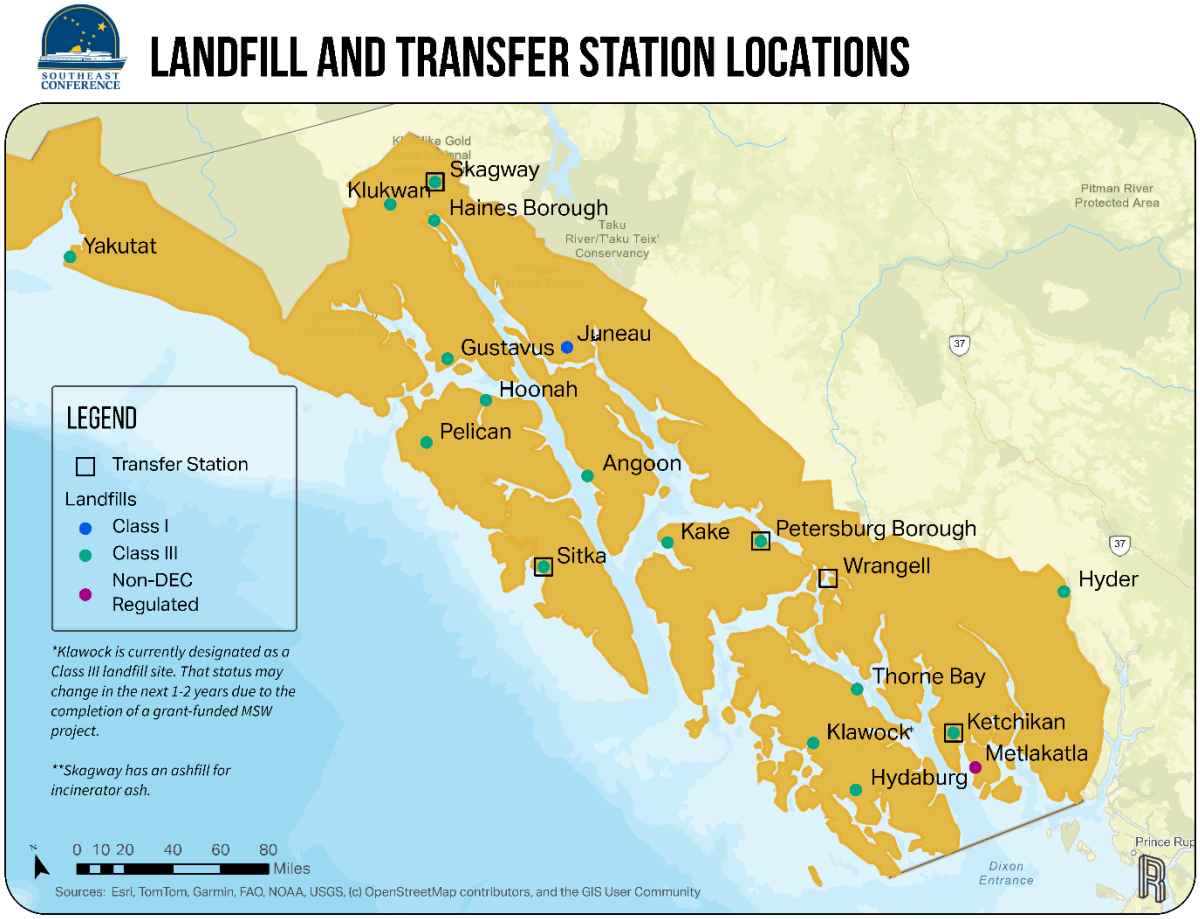


***Figure 5**. Communities with Landfills and Transfer Stations*

***Figure 6**. Locations of Equipment Identified Through Interviews and Research*

Table 5 identifies equipment, infrastructure, or programs that would improve the waste management systems in each community, based on correspondence with community representatives and partners, previous plans, and landfill inspection reports. The phrase "none identified" indicates that the study team had correspondence with the community and did not receive information about needs. The phrase "unknown" indicates that the study team did not have correspondence with the community and was unable to identify needs through other sources.

***Table 5**. Community Needs*

Community	Identified Needs
Angoon	Tire shredder Security cameras Signage Storage for recyclables Storage for hazardous waste Space for landfill expansion Space to process vehicles/white goods
Coffman Cove	Island-wide annual scrap metal clean-up and removal On-island recycling plant
Craig	None identified
Edna Bay	Unknown
Elfin Cove	A system to manage waste disposal
Gustavus	Larger building Horizontal baler
Haines	Funding for junk car removal Facility to store junk cars Collection facility in Mosquito Lake. Funding for new facility (HFR) Sifter for processed compost (Chilkat Valley Compost Center)
Hobart Bay	Unknown
Hollis	Unknown
Hoonah	Tire shredder Baler and Quonset hut for cardboard (Icy Strait Point) Garbage truck + storage Additional staff
Hydaburg	Signage Storage for recyclables Additional staff Garbage truck + storage
Hyder	Means to fund solid waste management
Juneau	Replacement plan for when Capitol Disposal Landfill closes (within 10 years), including new recycling and household hazardous waste facilities Transfer station

Community	Identified Needs
	Large industrial grinder
Kake	New burn unit Fencing Signage Land ownership or agreement Garbage truck + storage
Kasaan	Storage for recyclables Garbage truck + storage
Ketchikan	Equipment is well-maintained but aging (will need replacing)
Klawock	Recycling and compost programs Vehicle and white goods backhaul New water monitoring program for landfill Fencing Signage E-waste recycling containers Garbage truck + storage Front end loader Small excavator
Klukwan	Burn unit Signage Storage for recyclables
Kupreanof	Unknown
Metlakatla	Baler Scale
Naukati Bay	Unknown
Pelican	Shredder for large demolition waste
Petersburg	Funding for compost program (PIA)
Point Baker	Unknown
Port Alexander	Unknown
Port Protection	Unknown
Saxman	Unknown
Sitka	More diversion methods Bear cans Public communication Long-term plan for waste management

Community	Identified Needs
Skagway	New incinerator (may have recently purchased one)
Tenakee Springs	Waste management system, likely including a transfer station
Thorne Bay	Enclosed burn unit Certified refrigerant recovery equipment
Whale Pass	Unknown
Wrangell	Tire shredder Glass crusher
Yakutat	None identified

TRANSPORTATION

Most communities in Southeast Alaska are accessible by air or water; only Skagway, Haines, Klukwan, and Hyder are connected to the Canadian Highway System. Figure 6 shows the different transportation options available in each community, regardless of whether they are currently used for waste management.

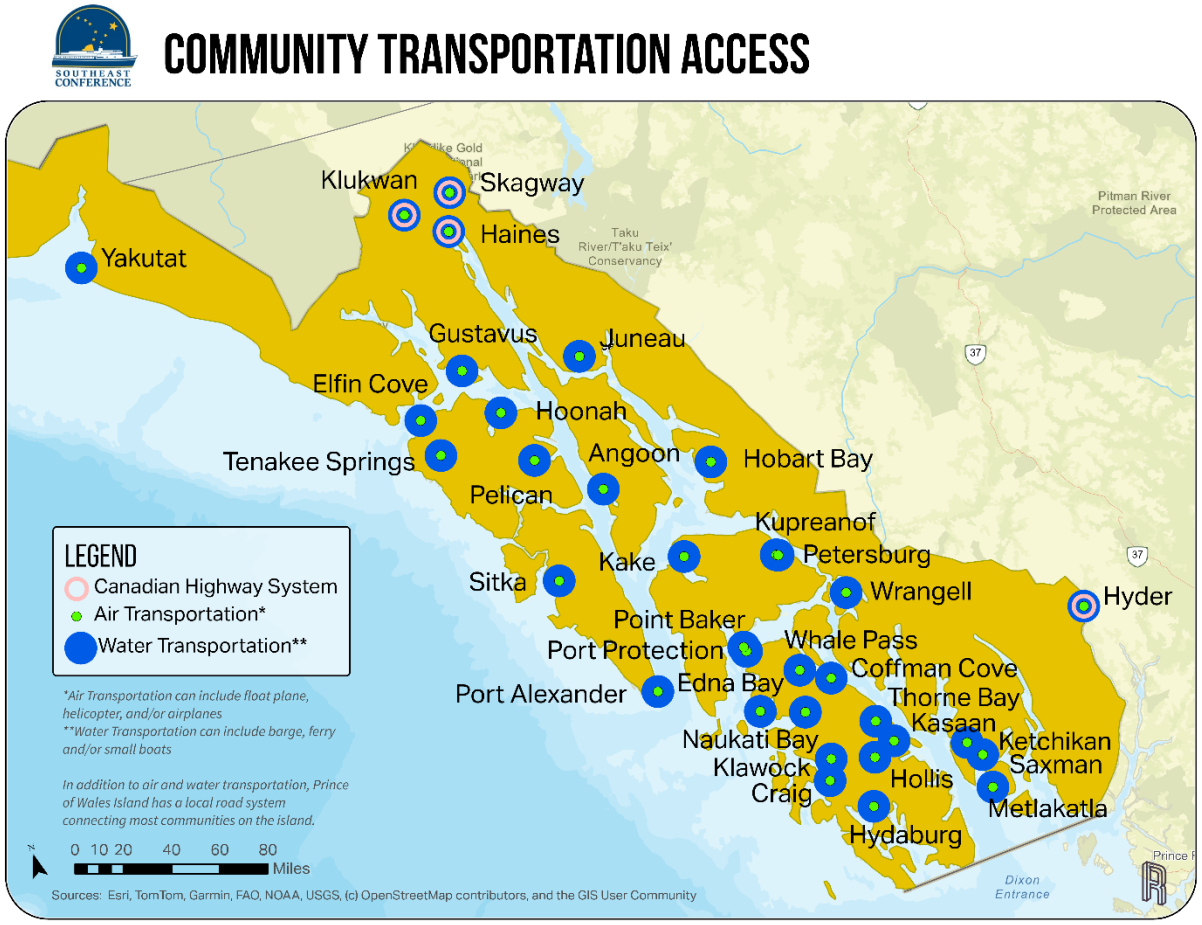


***Figure 7**. Modes of Transportation*

SWOT/PESTLE Analysis

SWOT and PESTLE are two types of analyses used to document the state of a system and guide decision-making. SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. **Strengths** and *Weaknesses* are current characteristics of the system that **provide an advantage** or *create constraints*, respectively. Opportunities and Threats are future characteristics.

PESTLE stands for Political, Environmental, Social, Technological, Legal, and Economic (see definitions). A PESTLE analysis organizes factors into each of these categories so similar items can be considered together.

Political: governmental processes, political will, civic engagement

Environmental: health of the natural environment and connections with human well-being

Social: public opinion, cultural traditions, private partners

Technological: current and emerging equipment, infrastructure, and techniques; transportation & logistics

Legal: local, state, and federal laws and regulations

Economic: market trends, funding sources

By combining the SWOT and PESTLE analyses, the study team can identify current and future advantages and challenges within each of the six PESTLE categories. This creates a more manageable breakdown of information that can be used to inform recommendations.

	Current		*Future/Potential*	
	Strength	**Weakness**	**Opportunity**	**Threat**
Political	*SEASWA allows for collaboration and open communication tables [2021 SWMA] *Some regional collaboration is already happening (SEASWA, POW TEC, RMSWMS) [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Interest in sharing equipment and resources [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop]	*Weak collaboration between municipalities and Tribes [2021 SWMA] *Lack of municipal control in some communities/for some services [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Lack of collective contracts, e.g., household hazardous waste [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop]	*Regionalized efforts for solid waste management that incorporate the strengths of different communities [2021 SWMA] [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Broad interest in regional collaboration for backhauling and equipment sharing *Regional partnerships per commodity [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Public/Private Partnerships [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *More shared/rentable equipment, such as a trailer-mounted car crusher [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Regional facility(ies) [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop]	*Regional solutions will require sharing of resources, which rate payers and elected officials may be opposed to *Some communities do not have an organized government to implement a management plan
Environmental		*An abundance of junk cars without viable strategies to dispose of them [2021 SWMA] *An abundance of junk tires without viable strategies to dispose of them [2021 SWMA] *Long-term remediation of closed/full landfills [2021 SWMA] *Wildlife management, especially bears [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *The rainy Southeast climate creates significant leachate challenges at landfills in the region [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Illegal dumping *Limited landfill availability [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Many communities do not have capacity to manage septic sludge, must ship out [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Climate influences/impacts on waste management [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Health impacts of poorly managed waste [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Electric batteries, new waste streams [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Large amount of landfilled material is food waste that could be composted [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *PFAS [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop]	*Developing robust recycling programs to divert waste away from shipping containers and landfills [2021 SWMA] *Developing composting programs in order to lower costs of shipping waste and to extend the life of landfills [2021 SWMA] *Recommended strategies will incorporate best practices and may increase human and environmental health outcomes *Community composting (and gardening) programs [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Emerging waste-to-energy technology [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Ties to agricultural programs [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop]	*Some strategies may have unintended environmental consequences (e.g., the carbon footprint of backhauling) *Environmental and health impacts of poorly managed waste/inaction [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Landfill capacity within the region [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop]
Social	*Many communities have strong adoption of waste diversion strategies, including through for-profit, nonprofit, and Tribal entities *Multiple communities have strong education and outreach programs *Tribal influence [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Subsistence lifestyle [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Reuse, resourcefulness (thrift stores, Facebook marketplace) [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop]	*Lack of awareness and education for solid waste issues and practices [2021 SWMA] *Barge fires caused by unacceptable waste [2021 SWMA] [improperly sorted or processed waste] *Illegal dumping *Residents don't always sort recycling properly [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Difficulty attracting/retaining workforce [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Large amount of landfilled material is food waste that could be composted [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop]	*Information sharing and peer education *Expand or develop local cultures that support waste reduction and diversion [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Community composting (and gardening) programs [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Ties to agricultural programs [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Increase community education programs [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop]	
Technological	*SEASWA tire shredder *Nearly half of SE communities have a permitted landfill *Barge/water transportation [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Consolidation in individual communities [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop]	*Aging equipment *Communities using landfills for longer than they should [2021 SWMA] *Barge fires caused by unacceptable waste [2021 SWMA] [fires damage barges and containers & can create delays in containers being returned to communities] *Transportation must be by water or air (only road system communities require passage through Canada) *Many communities do not have capacity to manage septic sludge, must ship out [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Lack of adequate infrastructure [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Lack of facilities for hazardous waste and overburden [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Electric batteries, new waste streams [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop]	*Baling waste using baling systems [2021 SWMA] *Utilizing commercial or home-made burn units [2021 SWMA] *Local/regional processing of recycling, such as to produce plastic lumber *Regional re-use of waste materials *Waste oil reclamation in more communities (or delivery of waste oil to communities with existing setups) *Regional landfill *More shared/rentable equipment, such as a trailer-mounted car crusher [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Concrete recycling [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Transition to semi-automatic collectors [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Emerging waste-to-energy technology [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop]	*Aging equipment *Landfills reaching end of their lifespan *Small populations mean the volumes of waste produced are not sufficient for Waste to Energy *Cost of purchasing new equipment *Industry changes [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Many types of plastic are not (easily) recyclable and new types keep being invented
Legal		*Several communities struggle to maintain compliance with DEC or other regulations *Permitting can be difficult (e.g., Kake, Hyder) [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Lack of municipal control in some communities/for some services, especially landfill ownership [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Lack of collective contracts, e.g., household hazardous waste [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop]	*Recommended strategies will align with local, state, and federal regulations *Collective contracts [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop]	*Permitting obstacles for developing new facilities [2021 SWMA] *Long-term remediation of closed/full landfills [2021 SWMA] *Barge fires caused by unacceptable waste [2021 SWMA] [risk of shipping companies no longer accepting waste] *Potential loss of permits [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop]
Economic	*High rate of communities with permitted landfills, which provide access to grants to improve solid waste programs [2021 SWMA] *Ability to customize recycling on a community scale to reduce waste stream (e.g., Gustavus) [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Interest in sharing equipment and resources [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop]	*Many communities rely on shipping at least some of their waste to the Lower 48, which is expensive *Lack of economies of scale for the small communities in Southeast [2021 SWMA] [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *An abundance of junk cars without viable strategies to dispose of them [2021 SWMA] *An abundance of junk tires without viable strategies to dispose of them [2021 SWMA] *The need for expensive, higher-tech equipment (AML requires baling) [2021 SWMA] *Cancellation of awarded grants *Recycling is not cost postive, must be shipped out [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Anything that is shipped requires extra handling (extra cost) [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *High labor cost for peak demand *Distance to facilities (e.g., Roosevelt Landfill, Grand View Landfill, recycling facilities) *Fuel prices [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Cost of processing/disposing of waste with freon, etc. [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop]	*Developing robust recycling programs to divert waste away from shipping containers and landfills [2021 SWMA] *Developing composting programs in order to lower costs of shipping waste and to extend the life of landfills [2021 SWMA] *More costly solutions can be afforded with pooled resources *Greater collaboration between Tribes and municipalities could lead to more IGAP funds [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Transition to semi-automatic collectors [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *More shared/rentable equipment, such as a trailer-mounted car crusher [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop] *Regional facility(ies) [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop]	*Shipping costs are high and increasing *Volatility regarding recycling commodities rates (metals, plastics) [2021 SWMA] *Barge fires caused by unacceptable waste [2021 SWMA] [increased insurance rates for shipping companies lead to higher costs for communities] *Some communities do not have an organized government that could collect taxes or fees to fund a management strategy *Cost of purchasing new equipment *Fuel prices [2025 SEC Annual Meeting Workshop]

SWMA: Solid Waste Management Alternatives
POW TEC: Prince of Wales Island Tribal Environmental Coalition