



Strategy Workshop

*Southeast Alaska Regional Municipal Solid
Waste Management Strategy*

April 10, 2026



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SEASWA MEMBERS

Coffman Cove
 Craig
 Hydaburg

Kasaan
 Klawock
 Peterburg

Tenakee Springs
 Thorne Bay
 Wrangell

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Project Background
 - a. Scope
 - b. Deliverables
 - c. Stakeholder Input
3. SEASWA Background
 - a. History & Purpose
 - b. Powers

BREAK

4. SEASWA Scenarios
 - a. Status Quo
 - b. Member-Focused
 - c. Collaborator
 - d. Regional Powerhouse
5. Preliminary List of Solutions
 - a. Meet “Basic” Needs
 - b. Level Up Systems
 - c. Connect and Collaborate

BREAK

6. Discussion of Solutions
 - a. Most Impactful
 - b. What’s Missing?
7. Group Networking
8. Closing Thoughts & Next Steps

SEASWA POWERS

Purpose

“The purpose of a regional solid waste management authority is **to provide environmentally sound and cost-effective management of solid waste**, including storage, collection, transportation, separation, processing, recycling, and disposal, to protect the public health, safety, and welfare; improve the environment of the state; recover resources and energy; and prevent pollution.” (AS 29.35.800)

Members and Boundary

SEASWA members must be **Title 29 municipal government** within the SEASWA boundary, which includes “the land, the tidelands, and the submerged lands” in Southeast Alaska. This region is bounded by the northern boundary of the City and Borough of Yakutat to the north, the US/Canada border to the east and south, and the US territorial limits to the west.

Board of Directors

Each SEASWA member, known as a participating municipality, shall have a Participating Municipality Director appointed to the SEASWA Board of Directors. The Participating Municipality Director must be a resident of the municipality they represent and serve three-year terms.

Meetings and Decisions

SEASWA meetings are subject to the Open Meetings Act and public records laws defined in the Alaska Statutes.

A quorum is required for the board to vote on actions (i.e., a majority of the total members must be present).

Municipal Property

Municipalities may transfer, convey, or lease real or personal property to SEASWA for use by the authority.

Funding Mechanisms

The enabling ordinances of SEASWA’s member communities allows SEASWA to charge fees, accept grants, enter into loan agreements, and engage in other financial activities to support the authority’s purpose.

SEASWA SCENARIOS

Status Quo



- ♻️ No staff, volunteers only
- ♻️ Some shared equipment for rent
- ♻️ Regular meetings to share individual updates with members and other interested parties

Member Focused



- ♻️ Executive Director (part- or full-time)
- ♻️ Shared services / collective contracts among SEASWA members
- ♻️ Some collaboration with non-members

Collaborator



- ♻️ Executive Director (full-time)
- ♻️ Active collaboration with other entities and municipalities (e.g., joint services, grant applications, etc.)

Regional Powerhouse



- ♻️ Executive Director (full-time) and staff
- ♻️ Provider of services for members and non-members
- ♻️ Regional facilitator

POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

Meet “Basic” Needs

- ♻️ Ensure each community has **sufficient equipment and infrastructure** (e.g., incinerators, balers, covered hazardous waste storage)
- ♻️ Focus: **meet minimum needs** to protect human and environmental health

Level Up Systems

- ♻️ Use **innovative techniques** and **new technology** to reduce landfilled waste, increase efficiency, and lower costs
- ♻️ Focus: improve local systems

Connect and Collaborate

- ♻️ Develop **regional programs** (e.g., regular backhauls, regional landfill and/or material recovery facilities)
- ♻️ Focus: share and leverage resources throughout Southeast for **collective success**

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- ♻️ What role should SEASWA play in solid waste management?
- ♻️ How could SEASWA help you manage waste in your community?
- ♻️ Who is missing from this conversation?
- ♻️ What is the most pressing solid waste challenge in your community that would be easier to fix with outside help?
- ♻️ What is something you do in your community that you think everyone should do?