Organization
King County

Project Title
Wasted Food Prevention Project for King County's Solid Waste Division (SWD)

Organizational Background
King County’s Solid Waste Division (SWD) provides garbage transfer and disposal, and recycling services for approximately 1.3 million residents and 660,000 employees in King County. SWD continuously improves waste prevention, resource recovery, and waste disposal in the region through a number of innovative programs and services.

Project Description
In the United States, the USDA estimates that food waste is between 30-40 percent of the food supply. King County’s Solid Waste Division (SWD) implements a wide array of strategies aimed at diverting this food waste from disposal. However, the majority of SWD efforts have been aimed at diverting material from disposal toward the composting infrastructure, instead of waste prevention, which has the potential for larger reductions in greenhouse gas emissions than composting or anaerobic digestion. Through this project, the consultants will analyze current policies and strategies, evaluate opportunities from other organizations, and offer recommendations for Preventing Wasted Food in King County, focusing on the highest tier of the Food Waste Hierarchy, the prevention of food waste.

Travel Required?
No

Deliverables
The consulting project will develop:

- A policy analysis of regional, state and Federal policies and regulations that affect King County’s capacity to prevent and reduce wasted food
• An evaluation of other regional, state, national, and international organizations with successful strategies or programs for preventing and reducing wasted food

• Recommendations and opportunities SWD could implement that target prevention of wasted food in King County business, institutions and households

Key Tasks for Consultants

• Review King County food waste characterization data and reports.

• Assess current relevant policies that affect prevention of wasted food and identify policy gaps.

• Interview key stakeholders, as identified by SWD, in other regional, state, national, and international organizations with successful strategies or programs for reducing wasted food.

• Compare strategies and programs of SWD to other regional, state, national, and international organizations aimed at reducing wasted food, and locate opportunities for SWD to improve its strategies and programs.

• Make policy and program recommendations for how to increase the effectiveness of the wasted food prevention efforts at King County and improve the circular economy of the food supply in the region.