



Local Hazardous Waste Management Program

Serving Seattle, King County, Cities, and Tribes throughout King County

January 20, 2015

King County

**Solid Waste Division
Water and Land
Resources Division**

Public Health

Seattle and King County

Seattle

Public Utilities

Sound Cities Association

**Participating Cities
and Tribes:**

Algona
Auburn
Beaux Arts
Bellevue
Black Diamond
Bothell
Buriem
Carnation
Clyde Hill
Covington
Des Moines
Duvall
Enumclaw
Federal Way
Hunts Point
Issaquah
Kenmore
Kent
Kirkland
Lake Forest Park
Maple Valley
Medina
Mercer Island
Muckleshoot Tribe
Newcastle
Normandy Park
North Bend
Pacific
Redmond
Renton
Sammamish
SeaTac
Shoreline
Skykomish
Snoqualmie
Snoqualmie Tribe
Tukwila
Woodinville
Yarrow Point

Dear Mayors and City Managers

As you probably know, [the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County](#) (Program) fulfills local government responsibilities under state law (RCW 70.105.220) for managing hazardous waste. The Program collaborates with city and tribal partners throughout King County to provide for safe disposal of hazardous materials and wastes from residents and small-volume business generators throughout King County, as well as a range of services and prevention programs to reduce exposure and risk from hazardous waste. The Program is funded by local hazardous waste (LHW) fees on solid waste (garbage) and sewer accounts and nominal fees charged at transfer stations. The LHW waste monthly fee currently is \$1.08 for residents and \$11.24 for businesses^[1].

I am writing to let you know that the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program's rate structure will be changing on April 1, 2015. In July, the King County Board of Health approved a change in the way that LHW fees are assessed to business and multi-family solid waste ratepayers. Currently, LHW fees on solid waste are assessed as a flat rate per account. Beginning on April 1, 2015, the LHW fees on businesses and multi-family collection services will change to a volume-basis, with a three-tiered rate. This change will affect only business and multi-family accounts—it will not affect single family accounts.

Why the change? The Program is interested in making its rates fairer by more clearly aligning fees with the amount of waste generated. The current system charges all business ratepayers the same, regardless of their waste volume. The new rate structure will reduce fees for businesses that generate less waste and raise fees for those that generate more waste. The new rate structure also changes fees for multi-family complexes, making those rates consistent across the County. These changes are calculated to be revenue neutral.

Starting April 1, 2015, all multi-family ratepayers and commercial rate payers will be charged a fee for each garbage service they have, based on the size of their container(s) as shown in the table below:



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Tier	COMMERCIAL Solid Waste Container Size	Current Fee	2015 Fee
Small volume	≤ 0.48 cu. yds. (Carts and cans)	\$ 11.24	\$ 1.46
Medium volume	> 0.48 cu. yds. and < 10 cu. yds. (Dumpsters)	\$ 11.24	\$ 12.01
Large volume	≥ 10 cu. yds. (Roll-off containers)	\$ 11.24	\$ 46.15

Under the new structure, approximately 20% of commercial accounts will pay less than they are now; 71% will pay about a dollar more, and about 8% will pay about \$35 more.

Although the residential rate structure has not changed, the **LHW fee for single family residents will be *reduced by \$0.24 per month.***

In the coming weeks most of the solid waste haulers will be notifying commercial ratepayers in their service areas about these changes. Our Program has prepared a billing insert and post card to help with this notification (copies attached). Questions will be directed to the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program website and Customer Service Lines.

For additional information visit www.HazwasteHelp.org/rates.

Please help us to share this information with others in your agency and community who will care about this. If you hear misinformation, please correct it when you can. If you would like to receive copies of the final billing insert, have questions or receive questions from others, please contact Liz Tennant, Office of the Program Director, at 206-284-7974, or Liz.Tennant@kingcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

Lynda Ransley

Program Director

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⁽ⁱ⁾ Businesses include commercial enterprises, not-for-profit organizations, governments, schools, universities, hospitals, and other institutions.