

# SWAC | Solid Waste Advisory Committee

King Street Center | 201 South Jackson Street, Suite 6400 | Seattle, WA 98104-3855

June 12, 2026

To: King County Executive Girmay Zahilay  
King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski  
King County Councilmember Rhonda Lewis  
King County Councilmember Sarah Perry  
King County Councilmember Jorge L. Barón  
King County Councilmember Steffanie Fain  
King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci  
King County Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer  
King County Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda  
King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn

RE: Advisory note in support of the 2027 solid waste rate proposal

Dear Executive Zahilay, Council President Perry, and Councilmembers,

Despite significant regional affordability challenges for King County residents and business owners, including higher than usual projected rate increases for all critical regional utility systems, the King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) recognizes the need for an adequate revenue stream to support the County's regional solid waste system, environmental conservation policy goals, and the 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan.

To achieve these operational and programmatic requirements, the proposed 2027 King County solid waste rate schedule contains a uniform 8.5% annual increase across all customer segments and fee schedules. This 2027 solid waste rate proposal also reflects a forecasted stable rate path going forward with a projected annual 8.5% rate increase for the next six years. This rate plan provides stability and predictability for the County and our disposal system customers now and in the years ahead.

SWAC members appreciate the Solid Waste Division's cost-control efforts for the 2027 rate setting process. Members support the continuation of these efforts, as they could identify efficiencies and cost-saving opportunities that could lower future projected rate increases. SWAC members also value the ongoing dialogue with County staff regarding future solid waste rates. These efforts include:

- Funding critical capital investments while deferring appropriate projects into the future to more evenly distribute spending over several years
- Reviewing programmatic and operational opportunities for efficiency and effectiveness that balance the priorities of fiscal and environmental responsibility.
- Leveraging new revenues, such as the revenue generated by the newly acquired Cedar Hills Renewable Gas to Energy (CHARGE) facility

SWAC members also support the Solid Waste Division's incorporation of providing reduced rates to commercial haulers in the event of temporary, unplanned closures of King County transfer stations. These reduced fees reflect the cost savings to the County and enable haulers to recoup a portion of their unexpected labor, fuel, operating costs and route inefficiencies if closed transfer stations require them to divert their drivers to another transfer station or directly to the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill.

Finally, SWAC members request that the County convene another Regional Utilities Rate Affordability Summit in the fall of 2026. Our region's residents and business owners are facing significant economic headwinds that include unsustainable forecasted rate increases in all their utility bills over the next several years. It is recommended the County take a leadership role in addressing this affordability challenge and coordinate efforts to review and address ways to mitigate utility rate increases in the systems the County operates on behalf of King County residents and business owners.

Thank you for your consideration of the SWAC input on the proposed 2027 solid waste rates.

Signed on behalf of SWAC,

Signed by:



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Wendy Weiker

Chair, Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Sustainability and Community Outreach Manager, Republic Services

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William Louie

Vice Chair, Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Interested Resident