



King County | Office of the Executive

Executive Girmay Zahilay

Chinook Building, CNK-EX-0800
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104-2391

June 15, 2026

The Honorable Sarah Perry
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Perry:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that, if enacted, would increase King County's disposal fees charged at transfer stations or the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill (CHRLF) for disposal of municipal solid waste. The revenue provided by these fees would enable King County to maintain essential solid waste disposal services, expand access to recycling, meet obligations in the 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (Comp Plan), and make progress toward County environmental goals.

The Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) is proposing an 8.5 percent across-the-board increase in tipping fees for 2027. At this time, the Solid Waste Division (division) is forecasting annual rate increases at the same level of 8.5 percent in each year from 2028 to 2032. The impact of King County rate increases for a typical residential customer with a 32-gallon can, after commercial haulers pass along these costs, is forecasted to be \$0.73 per month in 2027.

The proposed legislation would provide for continued implementation of actions outlined in the Comp Plan, including completion of the South County Recycling and Transfer Station and development to maximize the capacity of CHRLF. To balance projected increases in capital spending, and maintain more affordable rates, the division is reprioritizing projects to spread costs over a longer time horizon.

The proposed legislation supports the goals in the Strategic Climate Action Plan related to energy and preparation for climate change impacts; advancing toward the goal of zero waste of resources through actions to increase recycling of food waste, organics, and recyclables; and further improving landfill gas collection at the CHRLF.

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Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. This important legislation would enable King County to continue to provide essential, safe, reliable, efficient, and environmentally sustainable solid waste transfer, recycling, and disposal services to our community, and help the County continue to move toward zero waste of resources.

If your staff have questions, please contact Rebecca Singer, Division Director of the Solid Waste Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-263-2244.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Girmay Zahilay".

for

Girmay Zahilay

King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Karan Gill, Deputy Executive, Office of the Executive

Jasmin Weaver, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Hyeok Kim, Chief Operating Officer, Office of the Executive

Sierra Howlett Browne, Director of Government Relations, Office of the Executive

Garrett Holbrook, Council Relations Manager, Office of the Executive

John Taylor, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

Rebecca Singer, Division Director, Solid Waste Division, DNRP