



## King County

### **Dow Constantine**

King County Executive

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June 12, 2024

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

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

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 (CSWMP), make progress towards County environmental goals, and do so with a stronger emphasis on equity and social justice in frontline communities.

This proposal contains three elements. The first is an increase to the current per-ton disposal rate by 10 percent in 2025. On average, this change would add an estimated \$0.93 to single-family monthly curbside bills. The second is an increase to the Cleanup LIFT low-income discount from \$16 per transaction to \$18 in 2025. The final element of this proposal would increase the fee for disposal of construction and demolition waste from the 1993 rate of \$4.25 to \$13.00 per ton, in alignment with inflation over that same period.

The Metropolitan Solid Waste Advisory Committee (MSWAC) and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) were briefed monthly, from January to May of this year, on the rate increases proposed in this legislation. Letters from MSWAC and SWAC expressing support for a rate increase are attached. A rate adjustment now will help ensure a smoother rate path going into the future years and is the preferred approach of DNRP's city partners.

The proposed legislation would provide for continued implementation of actions outlined in the CSWM, including capital projects such as ongoing construction of the South County Recycling and Transfer Station in Algona, building the future Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station, and further development at the CHRLF. These new transfer stations will expand access to

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recycling and hazardous waste services, reduce wait times, and increase safety. Investment in these critical infrastructure projects is driving estimated total capital spending of \$678 million between 2025 and 2029.

The proposed rate increase advances the service accessibility goals in the King County Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan by continuing to provide the Cleanup LIFT low-income discount and development of a curbside low-income discount for vulnerable populations in unincorporated King County. In addition, the proposed rate increase supports the goals in the Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP) related to energy and preparation for climate change impacts by expanding investments to implement green building and SCAP priority actions; advancing towards 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.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. This important legislation enables 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 any questions, please contact Pat D. McLaughlin, Division Director of the Solid Waste Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-4501.

Sincerely,



for

Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers  
    ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff  
          Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council  
Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive  
Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive  
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget  
John Taylor, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)  
Pat D. McLaughlin, Division Director, Solid Waste Division, DNRP