

MSWAC | Metropolitan Solid Waste Advisory Committee

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

June 10, 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

CC: Mo McBroom, Department of Natural Resources and Parks Interim Director
Rebecca Singer, Solid Waste Division Director

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

Dear Executive Zahilay, Council President Perry, and Councilmembers,

The Metropolitan Solid Waste Advisory Committee (MSWAC) recognizes the need for an adequate revenue stream to support the regional solid waste system, make progress on environmental goals, and meet commitments made in the [2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan](#) (the Plan). Toward this objective, the proposed 2027 solid waste rate includes a uniform 8.5% increase across all fee categories.

MSWAC would like to commend SWD Director, Rebecca Singer, on her leadership in re-examining the solid waste rate to help mitigate the impacts of rate increases on ratepayers. MSWAC supported one-year rates for 2026 and 2027 to allow this analysis to take place. MSWAC concurs with the division's plan to return to the typical approach of two-year rates for the next biennium.

MSWAC also appreciates former Department of Natural Resources and Parks Director, John Taylor, and former King County Executive Shannon Braddock for bringing together elected officials, regulators, and subject matter experts at the Regional Utilities Rate Affordability Summit in 2025. MSWAC members believe this dialogue on rate affordability is valuable and should continue, especially as investments for long-term disposal anticipated in the next solid waste comprehensive plan are projected to be significant.

The current proposal forecasts a stable rate path with an annual 8.5% rate increase for the next six years, providing stability and predictability for customers. Rate stability was achieved through the implementation of cost savings measures, some of which are listed below:

- Funding critical capital investments while deferring appropriate projects into the future to more evenly distribute spending over several years
- Limiting additional operating costs beyond inflation
- Leveraging new revenues, such as the revenue generated by the newly acquired Cedar Hills Renewable Gas to Energy (CHRGE) facility

MSWAC supports the division's cost control efforts that have helped drive down the proposed 2027 rate increase from the previous projection of over ten percent.

MSWAC is committed to programs and services that protect the environment and enhance the quality of life in our communities. The proposed 2027 solid waste rate will fund our key priorities adopted in the Plan, including:

- Decreasing the tonnage of materials being landfilled by adopting waste-prevention and resource-recovery programs, such as [Re+](#), that are beneficial to the environment and local economy.
- Providing access to recycling and waste disposal services seven days a week at eight transfer stations and six days a week at two rural drop boxes.
- Implementing planned transfer station capital improvements that expand recycling access to communities that are currently underserved, including the new [South County Recycling and Transfer Station](#) slated to open later this year.
- Continuing planning and engagement on the long-term disposal method to be used after Cedar Hills Regional Landfill reaches capacity.

The King County solid waste fee generally makes up about 20% to 33% of the overall solid waste retail rate, so the proposed 8.5% King County solid waste rate increase would increase the overall rate for single-family, multi-family, and commercial customers by approximately 1.5% to 3%. An example of the proposed rate increase for a residential customer with a 32-gallon garbage can (a common service level that usually represents about a third to a half of single-family residential customers in jurisdictions) is forecasted to be \$0.73 per month on average in 2027.

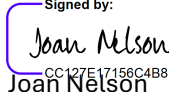
This proposal was discussed in this year's February, March, April, and May MSWAC meetings. We value this dialogue with County staff and look forward to continuing to work together to maintain a responsible rate path for the County's crucial solid waste infrastructure and planning needs. We thank the Executive and King County Council for considering our advisory input on the proposed 2027 solid waste rates.

Signed on behalf of MSWAC,

Signed by:

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Jon Gire
 Chair, MSWAC
 Solid Waste Program Manager, City of Bellevue

Signed by:

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Joan Nelson
 Vice Chair, MSWAC
 Utility Billing Services Manager, City of Auburn