



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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July 26, 2019

Joantha Guthrie, MPA
Island County Solid Waste Division
P.O. Box 5000
Coupeville, WA 98239
JoanthaG@co.island.wa.us

**RE: Island County Solid Waste Management Plan Preliminary Draft 2019
Supplement TG-190504**

Dear Ms. Guthrie:

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) has completed its review of the preliminary draft of the Island County Solid Waste Management Plan Preliminary Draft 2019 Supplement (Plan).

The Plan proposes to increase tip fees for municipal solid waste (MSW) in 2022. However, the fees for years 2022-2025 have not been determined yet and will likely be determined through a rate study that is anticipated to be conducted in 2021-2022. As a result of the current forecasted tip fees, there will be a rate impact to ratepayers served by regulated solid waste collection companies in Island County. The table below illustrates projected disposal fees and rate increases between 2020 and 2025 based on forecasted tip fees.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
TProjected Disposal Fees							
Per Ton Disposal Cost	\$115.00	\$115.00	\$119.60	\$119.60	\$119.60	\$119.60	
Per Ton Increase	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4.60
Projected Rate Increases							
<i>Residential</i>							
Monthly rate for one 32-gallon can per week service	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.34	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.34
<i>Commercial</i>							
Monthly rate for one-yard per pick up service	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.74	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.74

Existing collection services for recyclable materials include drop-off stations, residential curbside collection and commercial collection services. Residential curbside collection service is provided by the City Of Oak Harbor and The Town of Coupeville, and Camano Island residents have the choice to subscribe with Waste Mangement for every-other-week collection services.

There are five multi-material drop-off collection stations for recyclable material in Island County: Bayview Drop Box Station in Langley; Camano Transfer Station on Camano Island; Island County Solid Waste Complex in Coupeville; Island Recycling in Freeland; and North Whidbey Drop Box in Oak Harbor. The attached table lists items collected at the drop-off facilities.

Washington State law requires curbside recycling services to be provided in urban areas unless an alternative plan is approved by the Department of Ecology (Ecology). The county's urban areas are two cities (Oak Harbor and Langley), one town (Coupeville), and one urban growth area (Freeland). Two of these areas are currently served by curbside recycling (Coupeville and Oak Harbor) and two are not (Langley and Freeland). Curbside recycling is also available on Camano Island.

The county requested and Ecology has approved the following recommendations for recycling programs:

- All urban areas of Island County should receive curbside recycling service. Curbside recycling services should be implemented in Langley and Freeland when recycling markets improve.
- The County should consider expanding curbside recycling programs to additional rural areas at a later date when market conditions improve.
- The County should continue to make changes in recycling programs based on marketability.
- Contamination in recycling programs should be addressed through additional public education that targets specific materials and participants.
- Local agencies should use products with recycled content when possible.

The County requested an alternative recycling plan to continue to utilize the drop-off recycling facilities for most recycling until the recycling commodity markets improve and the customer base is able to sustain the cost of a full curbside recycling program. This appears to be the most cost-effective approach at this time. Staff has no further comments. Please direct questions or comments to Tiffany Van Meter at 360-664-1246 or by email at tiffany.vanmeter@utc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Johnson
Executive Director and Secretary

Joantha Guthrie
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cc: Diana Wadley, Department of Ecology, Regional Planner