



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**621 Woodland Square Loop S.E. • Lacey, Washington 98503
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April 14, 2022

Deb Geiger
Spokane County Solid Waste Manager
9605 Tilley Road S., Suite C
Olympia, WA 98512

**RE: Spokane County Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan,
Cost Assessment Questionnaire TG-220165**

Dear Deb Geiger:

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) has completed its review of the revised cost assessment questionnaire for the preliminary draft of Spokane County Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan (Plan), submitted March 14, 2022.

Commission staff (Staff) computed projected tip fees based on the data provided in the cost assessment questionnaire in the 2022-2027 Spokane County Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan. The projected impact to rate payers is illustrated in the table below:

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Projected Disposal Fees							
Per Ton Disposal Cost	\$112.00	\$113.58	116.49	119.46	121.04	122.76	
Per Ton Increase	\$0.00	\$1.58	\$2.91	\$2.97	\$1.58	\$1.72	\$10.76
Projected Rate Increases							
<i>Residential</i>							
Monthly rate increase for one 32- gallon can per	\$0.00	\$0.12	\$0.21	\$0.22	\$0.12	\$0.13	\$0.79
<i>Commercial</i>							
Monthly rate increase for one-yard weekly pickup	\$0.00	\$0.60	\$1.10	\$1.13	\$0.60	\$0.65	\$4.08

Staff notes that Spokane County (County) has set goals for the Spokane County Regional Solid Waste System. The top priority is waste reduction. Action items that promote waste reduction and diversion through partnerships with local and regional stakeholders is ongoing. There are outward looking goals of research and evaluation of potential outlets for glass recycling opportunities. Because Spokane County is isolated from the larger recycling processors, it is difficult to find markets for plastics and glass. This research will help find a place to fill this need in the County. Another goal for the County is to hire a recycling consulting service, which would be available for businesses, jurisdictions, and others to educate on recycling. The County has a program called “Stop Wishful-Recycling,” a media campaign, and its goal is to increase awareness of recycling contamination. With the continuation of this media campaign and the County’s goal of a creating a recycling consulting service, the hope is to lower contamination of recycling and teach others on what, when, and how to recycle.

The County has also looked at many options to reduce the amount of waste that ends up in the landfill. To redirect waste, the County’s goal is to increase public awareness on proper handling and disposal of moderate risk waste or MRW through outreach and education. The County has also taken steps to improve curbside services (commercial and residential) to be brought to the Waste to Energy Facility (WEF), the transfer and disposal site. The WEF also generates electricity and uses incineration technology that ranks higher in the Environmental Protection Agency’s hierarchy than landfilling.

Staff has no further comment on the cost assessment questionnaire. Please direct questions or comments to Jaclynn Simmons at (360) 664-1253 or by email at jaclynn.simmons@utc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Amanda Maxwell
Executive Director and Secretary

cc: Steve Gimple, Department of Ecology, Planner and Grants Specialist