

Service Date: January 29, 2026



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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January 29, 2026

Katie Stickels
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RE: Request for Review San Juan County Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste Management Plan, For Years 2025-2030, dated December 2025.

Dear Katie Stickels:

Thank you for filing San Juan County's 2025-2030 Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste Management Plan.

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) has completed its review of preliminary draft of the San Juan County Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste Management Plan (Plan).

The 2025-2030 Plan proposes in San Juan County, the projected tip fee is to increase for annual inflationary adjustment at a rate of 5 percent for both the San Juan Transfer Station and Orcas Recycling Services facilities. Tip fees of San Juan County are based on operators' costs associated with transportation (including boat, truck, and, in some cases, train), labor, and equipment. The annual inflationary adjustment accounts for costs to maintain current programs, including Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Roundups conducted each spring, early outreach activities, expanded education on non-toxic and less-toxic product use, and efforts to encourage retailers to offer safer alternatives. Table 1 shows the adjustment that results in an increase for both San Juan Transfer Station and Orcas Recycling Services. The projected rate increases from 2025 to 2030 for both residential and commercial customers are illustrated below in Table 2.

The County currently does offer curbside recycling through regulated haulers but not yard waste. The County offers additional recycling drop-box facilities. In addition, the County offers municipal recycling and yard waste collection operations within the planning area. For organics they do offer drop-off locations.

Table 1: San Juan County Six-Year Projected Disposal Fees 2025-2030

Projected Disposal Fees	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
San Juan Transfer Station						
Per Ton Disposal Cost	\$372.57	\$391.20	\$410.76	\$431.30	\$452.87	\$475.52
Per Ton Increase	\$0.00	\$18.63	\$19.56	\$20.54	\$21.57	\$22.65
Percentage Increase	0%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Orcas Recycling Services						
Per Ton Disposal Cost	\$450.00	\$472.50	\$496.13	\$520.94	\$546.99	\$574.34
Per Ton Increase	\$0.00	\$22.50	\$23.63	\$24.81	\$26.05	\$27.35
Percentage Increase	0%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%

Table 2: San Juan County Six-Year Projected Customer Rate Increase 2025-2030

Projected Rate Increases	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
San Juan Transfer Station						
Residential						
Monthly Rate for One 32-Gallon Can Per Week Service	\$0.00	\$1.37	\$1.44	\$1.51	\$1.59	\$1.67
Commercial						
One-Yard Per Pick Up	\$0.00	\$7.06	\$7.42	\$7.79	\$8.18	\$8.59
Orcas Recycling Services						
Residential						
Monthly Rate for One 32-Gallon Can Per Week Service	\$0.00	\$1.66	\$1.74	\$1.83	\$1.92	\$2.01
Commercial						
One-Yard Per Pick Up	\$0.00	\$8.53	\$8.96	\$9.41	\$9.88	\$10.37

The Plan does not speak to RCW 81.77.195, which allows for discounts for low-income and low-income senior customers. Under the RCW authority, the County may request a regulated solid waste company to provide discount rates for charges or services to low-income or low-income seniors. Currently, the County has not requested such a rate in the Plan. Recently, the

Commission has been receiving more public comments expressing a wish for such a rate and believe it may be worth the County to consider requesting discounted rates. We understand that it may not happen in the current Plan but offer the assistance we can provide when the time comes for such a proposal.

Commission Staff has no further comments on the Plan.

Please direct questions or comments about the Commission's Plan review process to Zhujun Cheng at (360) 664-1280.

Sincerely,

Jeff Killip
Executive Director and Secretary

cc: Katie Fleming
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