

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES and ) DOCKET TG -080913  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, ) (*consolidated*)  
)

Complainant, )  
)

v. )  
)

POINTS RECYCLING and REFUSE, )  
LLC, )  
)

Respondent. )  
)

..... )  
WHATCOM COUNTY, ) DOCKET TG - 081089  
)

Complainant, ) (*consolidated*)  
)

v. )  
)

POINTS RECYCLING and REFUSE, )  
LLC, )  
)

Respondent. )  
)

..... )  
RENEE COE, SHELLEY DAMEWOOD, ) DOCKET TG - 082129  
and SHANNON TOMSEN, ) (*consolidated*)  
)

Complainants, )  
)

v. )  
)

POINTS RECYCLING and REFUSE, )  
LLC, )  
)

Respondent. )  

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF JON HUTCHINGS**

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, WHATCOM COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS**

**February 18, 2009**



1 **Q. Please state your name and occupation.**

2 **A.** My name is Jon Hutchings, I am the Assistant Director of Public Works for Whatcom  
3 County.

4 **Q. Please state your general knowledge of the issue.**

5 **A.** On January 24, 2008, Arthur Wilkowski, owner of Point Recycling and Refuse, notified  
6 Whatcom County Public Works of his decision to suspend curbside recycling pick-up at  
7 Point Roberts. (Exhibit 2). In a letter dated February 11, 2008, (Exhibit 3), Whatcom  
8 County Public Works Director Frank Abart put Mr. Wilkowski on notice of noncompliance  
9 with Whatcom County Code, specifically, 8.10.050, and gave Mr. Wilkowski a sixty-day  
10 period within which to cure his noncompliance. When Mr. Wilkowski failed to resume this  
11 service within the sixty days, Whatcom County notified the UTC of his refusal to comply  
12 with the applicable ordinances and statutes. The WUTC then commenced this action.

13  
14 **Q. What has been your role in this matter?**

15 **A.** I am responsible for day-to-day oversight of the Whatcom County Solid Waste Division.  
16 During the evolution of this issue I have advised the County Executive, the Public Works  
17 Director and County legal counsel as to the relevant occurrences, events and issues.

18  
19 **Q. In your opinion, what issues lie at the crux of the matter?**

20 **A.** Mr. Wilkowski's status as a certified hauler under RCW 81.77 requires him to comply with  
21 local solid waste management plans and related ordinances. Mr. Wilkowski violated  
22 Whatcom County Code 8.10.050 by refusing to provide curbside recyclable pick-up services  
23 (Exhibits 4 and 5). Whatcom County has a duty to enforce its ordinances and in doing so

1 has brought Mr. Wilkowski's violations and non-compliance to the attention of the WUTC.

2 **Q. What is your recommended resolution?**

3 **A.** Resolution of this issue requires a finding of whether or not the current business model in  
4 Point Roberts is viable, and based on this finding, either (1) action by UTC to remove Point  
5 Recycling and Refuse's certificate, or (2) action by the Whatcom County Council to either  
6 remove the requirement of curbside recycling pick-up provision from its Code or to change  
7 the Code to ensure an adequate and predictable customer base.

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# Point Recycling and Refuse

P.M.B. 1542, 145 Tye Drive, Point Roberts, WA 98281

Business Phone: (360) 945-1516

January 24, 2008

Penny Lempers  
Whatcom County Solid Waste  
Suite 210  
322 N. Commercial  
Bellingham, WA 98225-4042

RECEIVED  
JAN 25 2008  
PUBLIC WORKS ADMIN

Dear Penny,

This letter is to inform you that Point Recycling and Refuse Company is forced to suspend our curbside recycling collection program in Point Roberts. This is because our recycling collection truck has finally completely died, the engine is blown. We no longer have the equipment necessary to provide the service. Repairing the engine is not cost feasible or affordable and the program is too small to afford purchasing another truck.

I am sending a notice to my 340 recycling customers informing them of the situation and will credit their accounts for any service not provided. For the time being, these customers will be instructed to self-haul their recyclables to the transfer station free of charge.

The collapse of this program is not a failure on our part but an economic inevitability of a system that is too small to support the equipment necessary. I think that it is admirable that we were able to hold the program together for this long. I have repeatedly advised the County and the WUTC of the situation that when this truck was done, the program would also end. The real failure here is that the County and the WUTC refused to understand that solid waste and recycling systems are designed within economic parameters. With an impractical system design and a complete absence of governmental support the task that was set to us was impossible.

I will continue to move forward with development of the transfer station for self-haul recycling. We need to meet to discuss where to go from here. I am available whenever you are ready.

Sincerely,



Arthur Wilkowski

CC: Peter Christianson, Dept of Ecology  
Gene Eckhardt, WUTC



February 11, 2008

Mr. Arthur Wilkowski  
Point Recycling and Refuse  
P.M.B. 1542, 145 Tye Drive  
Point Roberts, WA 98281

Dear Mr. Wilkowski:

Whatcom County Public Works is in receipt of your letter, Dated January 24, 2008, regarding your decision to suspend curbside collection of recycling due to equipment failure with your recycling truck. As stated in your letter, you have opted to provide free self-haul of recycles to your current customers while there is no curbside collection available to them.

Per Whatcom County Code 8.10.050, "A. Certificated haulers shall collect source separated recyclables from all residences in unincorporated portions of Whatcom County that receive regularly scheduled garbage collection . . ."

As per Section K of Whatcom County Code 8.10.050, you are hereby given notice that you have 60 days from this date to cure noncompliance with the aforementioned code. If you cannot continue curbside recycling, the County will take whatever measures deemed appropriate as a next step.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank M. Abart". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Frank Abart  
Public Works Director

cc: Pete Kremen  
WUTC

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## Chapter 8.10 SOLID WASTE AND RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING COLLECTION<sup>1</sup>

### Sections:

- 8.10.010 Purpose.
- 8.10.020 Findings.
- 8.10.030 Definitions.
- 8.10.040 Single-family residential garbage collection.
- 8.10.050 Residential recycling collection.
- 8.10.060 Nonresidential and multifamily garbage collection.
- 8.10.070 Submittal of documents and notices.
- 8.10.080 Notice to Utilities and Transportation Commission.
- 8.10.090 Modification of collection schedules.
- 8.10.100 Severability.

### **8.10.010 Purpose.**

A. Policies expressed in Whatcom County's 1999 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan Update ("plan") make waste reduction and recycling the preferred methods of handling solid waste. The purpose of this chapter is to specify service levels and rate structures for recycling and solid waste collection that encourage recycling and waste reduction, that protect the public health and safety, and to ensure that, to the maximum extent practicable, only the remainder after separation should be incinerated or landfilled.

B. Certain service levels and rate structures for solid waste and recycling collection are hereby established in Whatcom County to further the objectives of the plan, including a high level of waste reduction and recycling; to ensure the provision of such solid waste collection and disposal systems and services as are in the public interest; and to secure a healthful environment for all citizens of Whatcom County. (Ord. 2003-018; Ord. 2001-041; Ord. 2001-34; Ord. 97-067; Ord. 95-045).

### **8.10.020 Findings.**

The county council, in establishing service levels and rate structure principles, determines and finds:

A. Waste reduction and recycling measures contemplated by the plan promote the health, safety, and welfare of residents by encouraging the reuse of products and reducing the use of incineration and landfill facilities.

B. State and federal laws and regulations have increased the responsibility of local governments to manage solid waste systems in a manner that protects public health and safety.

C. The state and the county have set waste reduction and recycling as the highest priorities in managing solid waste. In order to make programs for waste reduction, curbside recycling and other source separation feasible, rate structures must make it cost-effective for residents and businesses who generate small amounts of waste to participate in such programs, and all nonresidential accounts must be offered the option of subscribing to recycling service.

D. It is the policy of the county that collected recyclable materials be processed locally whenever practicable and that they be utilized according to the following priorities: (1) reuse intact materials in their original form for their original purposes; (2)

recycle materials back into their original form for their original purpose; (3) recycle materials for other uses and preserve the future ease of recyclability; and (4) reuse materials for single end uses that do not allow or that inhibit further recycling.

E. Adoption of the ordinance codified in this chapter is necessary for the protection of natural resources and the environment, the immediate preservation of the public health and welfare and the support of governmental activities. (Ord. 2003-018; Ord. 2001-041; Ord. 2001-34; Ord. 97-067; Ord. 95-045).

### **8.10.030 Definitions.**

As used in this chapter:

A. "Carrier" means a common, contract or private carrier as defined by RCW 81.80.010.

B. "Certificated hauler" means a solid waste collection company as defined by Chapter 81.77 RCW and certificated to operate in Whatcom County. Certificated haulers are Sanitary Services Company (WUTC No. G-14); Nooksack Valley Disposal, Inc. (WUTC No. G-166); Blaine-Bay Refuse, Inc. (WUTC No. G-145); Waste Management of Washington, Inc. (WUTC No. G-237); and Point Recycling and Refuse, L.L.C. (WUTC No. G-155).

C. "Executive committee" means the group of seven mayors and the county executive as established and governed by interlocal agreements between the county and cities in July 1989.

D. "Multifamily dwelling" means a residential dwelling containing five or more units on one lot or parcel.

E. "Nonresidential account" means a building or facility that is not occupied as a permanent residence including, but not limited to, commercial and industrial businesses, schools, hospitals, government buildings, recreation facilities, and transportation facilities.

F. "On-call service" means garbage pickup service and drop-off recycling on other than regularly scheduled days, from a dwelling unit that is a seasonal vacation or weekend home. On-call garbage service does not include roadside recycling service and tends to be on a variable infrequent basis.

G. "Recyclables" and "recyclable materials" mean those solid wastes that are separated for recycling or reuse as identified in this chapter.

H. "Seasonal vacation or weekend home" is defined as a secondary residence used only for weekend or vacation use and not as a full-time or primary residence.

I. "Single-family residence" means a residential dwelling containing four or fewer dwelling units on one lot or parcel. Where two, three, or four units are on one lot or parcel, each unit shall be considered as an individual single-family residence.

J. "Solid waste" shall have the meaning given to it by RCW 70.95.030. (Ord. 2003-018; Ord. 2001-041; Ord. 2001-34; Ord. 97-067; Ord. 95-045).

### **8.10.040 Single-family residential garbage collection.**

A. Certificated haulers shall perform collection and hauling of garbage from single-family residences that request collection service in unincorporated portions of Whatcom County. Service to single-family residences shall be provided on a schedule of either weekly, every-other-week or monthly collection. In Point Roberts only, seasonal vacation or weekend residents will be encouraged to participate in recycling and have the option of on-call service.

B. Garbage containers provided by and for single-family residences shall be 30 to 32 gallons and 15 to 20 gallons. Haulers may also offer 60- or 90-gallon containers. A specific size within the 15- to 20-gallon "mini-can" range shall be approved by the

hauler and shall be consistent within the certificated area. Ninety-gallon can service shall be available only on a weekly or every-other-week basis. The design of all containers shall be subject to approval by the hauler.

C. Collection rate structures shall be designed to encourage waste reduction and recycling and to comply with the plan. (Ord. 2003-018; Ord. 2001-041; Ord. 2001-34; Ord. 97-067; Ord. 95-045).

#### **8.10.050 Residential recycling collection.**

A. Certificated haulers shall collect source separated recyclables from all residences in unincorporated portions of Whatcom County that receive regularly scheduled garbage collection, except as provided in subsection K of this section. All single-family residences shall be provided with recycling collection at least every other week and on the same day of the week as garbage collection. Service to multifamily residences shall be provided at least every other week. The hauler shall provide residents, who have completed the garbage exemption process, the opportunity to subscribe to recycling-only collection service without subscribing to garbage collection. Recycling-only customers will be charged the full cost of recycling collection service plus an appropriate administrative/billing fee. In Point Roberts only, single-family residences are defined as permanently year-round occupied buildings and every-other-week recycling collection does not have to be on the same day as garbage pickup.

B. The hauler shall provide recycling containers to each residence at the customer's request. Container design and use shall be subject to the prior approval of the county. The cost to the hauler of the initial container set for each dwelling unit, of damaged containers, and of containers for new customers as necessary, shall be a cost incorporated into the collection rate. The cost of lost or stolen containers shall be borne by the customer. The hauler shall deliver all containers to the dwelling unit unless otherwise directed by the county.

C. 1. Haulers shall collect, and recycling containers shall be designed to hold, the following materials:

- a. Newspaper;
- b. Mixed waste paper;
- c. Aluminum containers;
- d. Tin-plated steel containers;
- e. Glass containers;
- f. All plastic bottles; all remaining plastic containers are eligible as approved by the county and the hauler;
- g. Yard Waste. Collection of this material is deferred pending further amendments to this chapter.

2. The following materials shall also be collected when placed adjacent to set-out containers:

- a. Corrugated cardboard;
- b. Scrap metal no longer than 24 inches in any dimension or heavier than 35 pounds per piece;
- c. Lead-acid batteries that show no signs of leakage;
- d. Used motor oil in sealed containers;
- e. Other source separated materials designated by the county and the hauler and approved by the county council.

D. Materials shall be collected on the improved public road nearest to the residence (or mutually agreed upon location) when properly set out on the designated collection day. The hauler is not required to collect materials at any



particular hour. The collector is not required to enter private property to collect material while an animal considered or feared to be vicious is loose. The resident shall confine such an animal on collection day.

E. In case of missed collection, the hauler shall investigate and, if the missed collection is verified, shall arrange for the collection of the uncollected recyclable material within one business day after the complaint is received, unless otherwise agreed by the hauler and customer. All haulers shall add staff as needed to answer questions and respond to complaints from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on collection days.

F. Each hauler shall charge the same recycling collection rates to each residential dwelling unit that receives garbage collection service from that hauler.

G. Haulers and recycling companies shall take reasonable actions in marketing recyclable materials to implement the county's policies regarding local processing and priorities of use. All materials collected shall be processed and marketed such that no recyclable material is landfilled, incinerated, or disposed of in any way other than recycling. Haulers shall adopt collection procedures and technologies to minimize the cross-contamination or nonrecyclability of collected materials.

H. The county, in consultation with certificated haulers and purchasers of recyclable materials, shall establish promotional strategies by which the haulers shall inform the public about recycling collection service. The county may adopt, and pay for, additional promotional strategies if they wish. Any hauler that wishes to adopt additional promotional strategies shall obtain the prior approval from the county. Requirements imposed by the WUTC are not promotional strategies for purposes of this section.

I. It is unlawful for any person, other than the collectors as authorized by this chapter, to collect, remove, haul, or dispose of recyclable materials set out for collection pursuant to this section without first obtaining the consent of the occupant or owner of the premises. Any violation of this subsection shall constitute a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, violators shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$500.00. Each day of such violation, and violation at each dwelling unit, shall be deemed a separate and independent offense.

J. The business name and telephone number of the collector shall be clearly visible on each side of each vehicle used to provide residential recycling service. The collector shall contain, tie, or enclose all collected materials to prevent leaking, spilling, or littering.

K. If the county executive determines that a certificated hauler has materially failed to comply with the requirements or policies of this chapter, the county executive shall provide the hauler with a written notice specifying the noncompliance and affording the hauler 60 days to cure the noncompliance; provided, however, that the hauler shall not be required to cure any noncompliance that is caused by an event or condition, including a threat to the public health or safety, that is beyond the hauler's control. At the discretion of the county executive, the period for cure may be extended. If the hauler fails to cure, the county may contract for the provision of residential recycling service pursuant to RCW 36.58.040 in the area served by the hauler. All single-family residences located in Point Roberts, meeting the definition of seasonal vacation or weekend homes as defined under WCC 8.10.030(H), are exempt from curbside recycling collection.

L. Should the county or the hauler determine that there is no reasonable market for a material and/or the cost of recycling that material is unreasonable, they can petition the executive to eliminate the requirement for that material to be collected as a recyclable. The executive has full discretion whether to accept or deny the request. The executive must state the period of time the exemption will be allowed. (Ord.

2003-018; Ord. 2001-041; Ord. 2001-34; Ord. 97-067; Ord. 95-045).

#### **8.10.060 Nonresidential and multifamily garbage collection.**

A. Certificated haulers shall perform collection and hauling of garbage from nonresidential and multifamily accounts in Whatcom County.

B. Container sizes for nonresidential and multifamily accounts shall be approved by the hauler.

C. Rate structures for nonresidential and multifamily garbage collection shall be designed to encourage waste reduction and recycling and to comply with the plan.

D. Certificated haulers shall bill each customer at least once every three months. (Ord. 2003-018; Ord. 2001-041; Ord. 2001-34; Ord. 97-067; Ord. 95-045).

#### **8.10.070 Submittal of documents and notices.**

A. Whenever a certificated hauler files a proposed tariff revision with the WUTC, the hauler shall simultaneously provide the county with copies of the proposed tariff and all nonproprietary supporting materials submitted to the WUTC at any time prior to approval of the tariff. Such materials include but are not limited to any correspondence or other information concerning rate calculation parameters and details, tariff sheet application and adjustments, and annual reports.

B. 1. All certificated haulers, recycling collectors and processors, transfer facilities, and disposal facilities shall provide the county with the following quarterly information on April 20th, July 20th, October 20th, and January 20th for each of the previous three months and, where appropriate and practical, separately listed for each city and unincorporated area of the county:

a. Daily disposal tonnages to and from municipal disposal facilities for each primary disposal or processing method, transfer stations, and convenience centers;

b. Monthly disposal tonnages from industrial and other private landfills;

c. Monthly recycling tonnages per material from all recycling collectors and processors;

d. Solid waste collection, disposal, and recycling collection and processing service contracts and amendments within incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county; and

e. A log of all customer complaints about recycling, specifying the date, nature of complaint and resolution for each complaint.

2. In addition, all certificated haulers shall provide the county with the following information regarding residential recycling and, where appropriate and practical, separately listed for single-family and multifamily residences broken out by city/county:

a. Monthly tonnages and, if available, volumes of materials collected by type of material collected, and revenues/costs by type of material;

b. Number of eligible customers and number of set-outs per month. (Ord. 2003-018; Ord. 2001-041; Ord. 2001-34; Ord. 97-067; Ord. 95-045).

#### **8.10.080 Notice to Utilities and Transportation Commission.**

The Whatcom County council, pursuant to RCW 36.58.040, hereby notifies and requests the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to carry out and implement the policies and programs specified in this chapter and in the plan in coordination with certificated haulers and common carriers through the Commission's rate setting and oversight authority. (Ord. 2003-018; Ord. 2001-041; Ord. 2001-34; Ord. 97-067; Ord. 95-045).

**8.10.090 Modification of collection schedules.**

The provisions of this chapter concerning (1) the frequency of collection of recyclable materials and garbage; (2) service levels in rural areas in the event that mandatory collection is not adopted; and (3) rate structures in the event that the WUTC issues an inconsistent order may be modified by agreement of the county executive and all certificated haulers, subject to approval by the county council. (Ord. 2003-018; Ord. 2001-041; Ord. 2001-34; Ord. 97-067; Ord. 95-045).

**8.10.100 Severability.**

If any portion or section of this chapter or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the chapter or the application of the section to other persons or circumstances is not affected. (Ord. 2003-018; Ord. 2001-041; Ord. 2001-34; Ord. 97-067; Ord. 95-045).

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Prior legislation: Ords. 90-95, 91-003 and 91-054.

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**Table 5-1 - 1995 Whatcom County Recycling Tonnage**

Commodity	Total Tons
Aluminum Cans	787.3
Construction/Demolition	760.0
Container Glass	3,050.0
Corrugated Paper	12,632.1
Ferrous Metals	13,491.4
Food Waste	4,180.5
Gypsum	1,435.0
HDPE Containers	41.9
High Grade Paper	2,973.0
LDPE Plastics	4.0
Mixed Waste Paper	7,054.1
Newspaper	8,806.8
Nonferrous Metals	650.2
Other Plastics	20.1
Other Recyclables	11.4
PET Bottles	9.5
Textiles	0.0
Tin Cans	1,213.0
Used Oil	346.2
Vehicle Batteries	1,512.9
White Goods	1,524.0
Yardwaste	3,057.7

<b>Total Recycled</b>	<b>63,561.1</b>
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In Whatcom County, recyclable materials are collected through a variety of programs, both private and publicly sponsored. The following sections of this chapter review current recycling efforts for a variety of sectors, including single family residential; multifamily residential; commercial/non-residential collection; drop off/buy-back sites; and the recycling of special materials.

### **5.1.1 Single Family Collection Programs**

Single family household recycling collection ("curbside recycling") has been established in Whatcom County since 1982 and is now offered to all single through four-unit dwellings within the County. All such residential collection programs within Whatcom County use identical blue, red, and white recycling containers, although slight variations exist between programs in the types of materials collected in each bin. Single family dwellings are defined as one through four-unit residences in both the County's Service Level Ordinance and municipal contracts.

## Collection Framework

State law currently allows both cities and counties to control both single family and multifamily residential recycling, although to differing degrees. Cities have the most authority and may directly provide, contract for, franchise, or allow Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC)-certificated collection companies to collect recyclables within their jurisdictions. Counties have less authority and may only contract or allow WUTC-certificated collection companies to collect residential recyclables and/or organics in unincorporated areas.

Most cities within Whatcom County, including Everson, Ferndale, Lynden, Nooksack, and Sumas, have exercised their authority to control collection services and have contracted for single family and multifamily recycling collection services. The City of Bellingham contracts for single family recycling collection, but not multifamily collection, which is performed in Bellingham under the regulation of the WUTC. The City of Blaine does not contract for any collection services and prefers to have all collection services regulated by the WUTC. Recycling collection services in the Cities of Lynden, Everson, Nooksack and Sumas are jointly coordinated by means of their intergovernmental authority named LENS.

In 1990, Whatcom County chose to direct WUTC-certificated haulers to provide single family and multifamily recycling collection through a County ordinance rather than directly contracting for services. The provision of recycling collection services in areas not superseded by municipal contract (unincorporated areas, Blaine, and Bellingham multifamily collection) was directed by Whatcom County's Service Level Ordinance (SLO) #90-95, adopted October 9, 1990. The SLO has been amended to clarify intent and to extend deadlines, most recently in 1997. The Ordinance specifies recyclable materials to be collected, collection frequencies, the provision of containers, reporting requirements, and other related requirements. The Ordinance expires December 31, 2002.

### Services

In 1982, a group of neighborhood volunteers, with the assistance of Western Washington University's Associated Students Recycling, started neighborhood recycling collection in the City of Bellingham's Birchwood neighborhood. During the next two years, the program gradually expanded to several other neighborhoods. Neighborhood representatives joined to form a non-profit organization, Bellingham Community Recycling, to provide an organized means to seek City funding and expand services. From 1984 to 1989, the City sponsored the collection program, which expanded to several additional neighborhoods. During this period, the program experimented with monthly, biweekly, and weekly collection and a range of collection vehicles, to provide data to design a citywide program. In 1989, the City of Bellingham contracted with Sanitary Service Company and Recycling Services Inc. to provide citywide garbage and recycling collection services. The new collection services started in July 1989. Bellingham's collection program is based on the provision of three stacking recycling containers to all single through four-unit households within the City. Recycling collection is offered weekly, on the same day as garbage collection.

The Cities of Lynden, Everson, Nooksack, and Sumas, in a program jointly coordinated and managed by means of their intergovernmental authority named LENS, initiated weekly curbside recycling collection services in July 1989, with service provided by the cities' contracted collector, Nooksack Valley Disposal, Inc. Similar three-stacking recycling containers are available to all households requesting recycling service. Recycling collection in these four cities is now offered every-other-week, on the same day as garbage collection, to all single through four-unit households within the cities. Service went from weekly to every-other-week in September 1992.

The City of Ferndale started recycling collection services in September 1991 through the City's contracted collector, Sanitary Service Company. Recycling containers are available to households requesting recycling service. Recycling collection service is offered every-other-week, on the same day as garbage collection, to all single through four-unit households within the City.

The unincorporated areas of Whatcom County and the City of Blaine (which is serviced through a certificated hauler) started receiving recycling collection services in September 1991. Collection services are provided by WUTC-certificated haulers, as directed by Whatcom County's service level ordinance number 90-95 and successive amendments. The County was able to use Ecology implementation grants to fund the majority of the capital costs of household recycling containers. The County-owned containers were provided to certificated haulers for distribution to households requesting recycling collection service. Recycling collection is offered every-other-week, on the same day as garbage collection, to all single through four-unit households within the City of Blaine and unincorporated areas.

All Whatcom County recycling collection programs accept newspaper, mixed scrap paper, cardboard, container glass, tin and aluminum cans, vehicle batteries, scrap metal, plastic bottles and used motor oil.

Table 5-2 provides a summary of single family residential recycling collection programs throughout Whatcom County. Both municipally-contracted and WUTC-certificated programs are listed. The table lists the number of households in each jurisdiction or certificated area (based on 1990 Census data), the number of households subscribing to garbage collection services, the number of service exemptions, the number subscribing to recycling services, and various recycling participation and diversion statistics.

Participation data is approximate, since differences exist in how residents are "signed-up." The City of Bellingham, Nooksack Valley Disposal, and Blaine Bay Refuse collection programs distributed recycling containers to all garbage collection subscribers automatically. Sanitary Service Company and Point Distributors, Inc. issue recycling containers only to those customers that specifically request service. Sanitary Service Company's participation estimates are based on monitoring container inventories, not actual recycling customer counts. Point Distributors, Inc.'s participation estimates are based on a count of signed-up households.

The wide variations in participation and diversion noted in Table 5-2 may be due to differences in program structure, performance, and/or record keeping.