



**MASON COUNTY  
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COMMISSIONERS**

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TO: Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

FROM: Mason County Board of Commissioners

DATE: July 21, 2009

RE: Minimum Service Level Ordinance 147-08

In December of 2008, we passed an ordinance making recycling a mandatory part of part of residential collection. This ordinance was developed with our Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) staff, and Mason County Garbage (MCG). During the initial stage of ordinance development MCG indicated an anticipated rate would be about \$5.00/month for residential service. However, a much smaller service area was the base of the rate projection. After much discussion MCG has expanded the service area for collection but is proposing a rate approaching \$8.00 per customer.

The passage of the mandatory collection of recycling complies with our Solid Waste Management Plan, (chapter 3, recycling, recommendations) and RCW 70.95. As you are aware this model of garbage and curbside recycling has proven to be successful model throughout Washington State and nationally.

In March of this year, the County, MCG and SWAC began work on amendments to the curbside collection ordinance. There were three items, which required code modification. A fourth item was later identified. These proposed changes were discussed at SWAC, with a recommendation to approve all four brought to the Board of County Commissioners:

1. *Code numbers:* this ordinance was filed under Chapter 6 in the County Code. It should be under Chapter 13.
2. *Implementation Schedule:* it was agreed that a new implementation period for curb side recycling would allow MCG to acquire equipment and rearrange routes for collection in a shorter phased approach.
3. *Materials Accepted:* based on drastic changes in the marketability of recycled commodities, dairy tubs were removed from the list of acceptable items for recycling.
4. *Commodity Credit:* Mason County Garbage would be allowed a share of the commodity credit associated with the sale of recycled material.

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