

Point Recycling and Refuse

P.M.B. 1542, 145 Tye Drive, Point Roberts, WA 98281
Business Phone (360) 945-1516

July 1, 2008

Penny Lempere
Whatcom County Public Works
Suite 210
322 N. Commercial St
Bellingham, WA 98225

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WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

Dear Penny,

Point Recycling and Refuse Company has just completed our 18th Bi-annual Community Litter Cleanup.

Twenty-three people collected 1,720 pounds of litter from 14 road miles in Point Roberts. Attached are their names and a map showing areas cleaned.

For nine years I have tried to facilitate all litter clean-up by providing equipment and collection service to people year round. Often I pay for disposal of litter that does not meet your narrow definition of funded litter. I have the policy that if a person is going to volunteer to collect litter, I will not place any barriers, constraints or costs on their efforts. As the solid waste and recycling utility it is not my obligation to address these issues but I have always felt a responsibility to this community.

Litter and illegal dumping are significant and persistent problems in our community. Several factors contribute to this problem: cross-border shipping where people dump their packaging and the local Post Office has removed all garbage cans from their customers. The most significant reason is that the majority of the residents do not participate in the solid waste system at all. The use of commercial dumpsters by households has required all businesses to remove public litter cans and lock down their dumpsters. The problem is so severe that the Marina has canceled garbage service in order to remove their dumpsters from public use.

This problem reflects a fundamental failure of the County to address solid waste issues in Point Roberts and to implement the Universal Service Ordinance which was written in part to address litter and dumping problems. Litter and illegal dumping are the obligation and responsibility of the County.

Recent unwarranted action by the County seeking the cancellation of the Company G-Certificate has placed us in a position where we are no longer able to provide charitable community services. This is the last litter cleanup we will organize. We will accept litter at the Transfer Station only if the customer pays for it. We have placed the litter collection equipment in the County Roads building. We will instruct persons with litter or cleanup questions to contact your office.

Sincerely,



Arthur Wilkowski
Owner/ Operator

Cc: Whatcom County Council, Executive,
Peter Christianson, Dept of Ecology
Dave Danner, WUTC
Meg Olson, All Point Bulletin

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