

# Point Roberts Transfer Station

## Customer Notice

Sum. July 13  
2008

Whatcom County has taken legal action which could result in the elimination of this Company and our operations at this facility,

Therefore, we are required to make the following changes effective July 21<sup>st</sup> 2008.

Station Hours: Noon to 4:00 Saturday and Sunday only as required by the County.

Recycling: We are required by the County to charge 5 cents per pound.  
No more free recycling.

Yard-waste Recycling: We can no longer accept yard-waste for recycling.  
Yard-waste will be accepted as garbage.

Used Oil, Batteries, Fluorescent light bulbs, No longer accepted.  
Tires, Refrigerators and Propane Tanks:

We apologize for the inconvenience but the situation is beyond our control.

If you have questions or comments please call  
Whatcom County Solid Waste at 360-676-7695

Everyone needs to contact all the following people and continue contacting them until these issues are resolved.

Pete Kremen, County Executive Suite 108, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225 <a href="mailto:pkremen@co.whatcom.wa.us">pkremen@co.whatcom.wa.us</a> 360-676-6717	Carl Weimer, County Council Suite 105, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225 <a href="mailto:council@co.whatcom.wa.us">council@co.whatcom.wa.us</a> 360-676-6690	Peter Christiansen, Ecology 3190 160 <sup>th</sup> Ave. S.E. Bellevue, WA 98008-5452 <a href="mailto:Pchr461@ecy.wa.gov">Pchr461@ecy.wa.gov</a> 425-649-7000
Dave Danner, WUTC PO Box 47250 Olympia, WA 98504-7250 <a href="mailto:DDanner@wutc.wa.gov">DDanner@wutc.wa.gov</a> 360-664-1160	Rep. Doug Ericksen 360-786-7980 <a href="mailto:ericksen.doug@leg.wa.gov">ericksen.doug@leg.wa.gov</a>	Rep Kelli Linville 360-738-6177 <a href="mailto:Linville.kelli@leg.wa.gov">Linville.kelli@leg.wa.gov</a>

# Point Recycling and Refuse

This is an update on issues with the County about curbside recycling and some changes we are forced to make.

Whatcom County insists that we restart the curbside recycling collection and cancel the free self-haul recycling. Despite no significant desire from the citizens of Point Roberts for curbside recycling, the County insists that canceling the Company's Certificate is the only option.

At some time, (the date isn't set yet), there will be a hearing before a judge. I see a strong possibility that the Judge will side with the County and revoke the Company's certificate. Now we are in a hostile legal situation; there is no more discussion, mediation or debate, just the strict interpretation of the law regardless of the impact on this community. Without the County suspending their complaint and opening a dialog with the Company and this community, the process will proceed to an inevitable negative conclusion.

## What would happen then?

The Company would be required to stop operations immediately after the hearing. No further residential pickup. We would be forced to dump and pull all commercial containers the next day. If we continued to operate we would face additional fines and legal actions.

We could still operate the transfer station for a few months. We lease the station from the County who sets the station hours, services and rates. This lease is scheduled to be automatically renewed in October. However, because of the County's obviously hostile attitude, I do not believe the lease would be renewed and we would be forced to vacate the site and remove all of our improvements.

Potentially, sometime in August or September there could be no garbage collection company and in November there could be no operating transfer station.

## Can the County do this?

Just as the County has the power to create and support a sustainable solid waste and recycling system that meets your needs, they also have the power to destroy it.

## Why is the County doing this?

Honestly, I don't know why. My job is to serve this community and build the solid waste and recycling system you need, now and into the future. I have done so. All I have ever asked the County is for them to do their job; give me a sustainable and practical system design and support me in my service to you. Every garbage company in Point Roberts has failed because the County just refuses to participate. Free self-haul recycling works; more people are recycling now than ever before. The County simply does not care about Point Roberts. You all know that Point Roberts is too small to get County attention on anything. This County apathy is how we got to this point, and also why the process will continue until the system is destroyed.

## What can you do?

The problem is not just the curbside recycling. The County withdrawing their complaint is not a solution to the actual problems. The County, the WUTC and everyone in this community needs to get on board and support this utility and maybe there is a chance of it surviving.