### APPENDIX C

**WUTC COST ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE**

**INTRODUCTION**

By state law (RCW 70.95.090), solid waste management plans are required to include:

“an assessment of the plan’s impact on the costs of solid waste collection. The

assessment shall be prepared in conformance with guidelines established by the Utilities

and Transportation Commission (WUTC or Commission). The Commission shall

cooperate with the Washington state association of counties and the association of

Washington cities in establishing such guidelines.”

The following cost assessment has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines prepared by the WUTC (WUTC 1997). The purpose of this cost assessment is not only to allow an assessment of the impact of proposed activities on current garbage collection and disposal rates, but to allow projections of future rate impacts as well. The WUTC needs this information to review the plan’s impacts to the franchised waste haulers that it regulates. For these haulers, WUTC is responsible for setting collection rates and approving proposed rate changes. Hence, WUTC will review the following cost assessment to determine if it provides adequate information for rate-setting purposes, and will advise Whatcom County as to the probable collection rate impacts of proposed programs. Consistent with this purpose, the cost assessment focuses primarily on those programs (implemented or recommended) with potential rate impacts.

# COST ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

**PLAN PREPARED FOR THE COUNTY OF:** Whatcom County

**PREPARED BY:** Solid Waste Staff, Whatcom County

**CONTACT TELEPHONE:** 360-676-7695

**DATE:** April, 2009

**DEFINITIONS**

These definitions as used in the Solid Waste Management Plan and the Cost Assessment Questionnaire.

Throughout this document:

YR.1 shall refer to 2008.

YR.3 shall refer to 2010.

YR.6 shall refer to 2013

Year refers to (circle one)

**fiscal** (Jul 01 - Jun 30)

1. **DEMOGRAPHICS:** To assess the generation, recycling and disposal rates of an area, it is necessary to have population data. This information is available from many sources (e.g., the State Data Book, County Business Patterns, or the State Office of Finance and Management).

**1.1 Population**

1.1.1 What is the **total** population of your County/City?

YR. 1 191,000 YR.3 195,633 YR.6 202,841

1.1.2 For counties, what is the population of the area **under your jurisdiction?** (Exclude

cities choosing to develop their own solid waste management system.)

YR.1 191,000 YR.3 195,633 YR.6 202,841

**1.2 References and Assumptions**

*Population figures taken from WA State Office of Financial Management, Medium Projection.*

*None of the jurisdictions within Whatcom County have elected to prepare their own CSWMP, therefore the full population of the county is under the County’s jurisdiction.*

**2. WASTE STREAM GENERATION:** The following questions ask for total tons

recycled and total tons disposed. Total tons disposed are those tons disposed of at a landfill, incinerator, transfer station or any other form of disposal you may be using. If other please identify.

**2.1 Tonnage Recycled**

2.1.1 Please provide the total tonnage **recycled** in the base year, and projections for years three and six.

YR.1 132,006 T YR.3 133,326 YR.6 134,659

*Tonnage for base year is for 2007. 2008 numbers not yet available for county total.*

**2.2 Tonnage Disposed**

**2.2.1** Please provide the total tonnage **disposed** in the base year, and projections for years three and six.

YR.1 156,042 T YR.3 157,602 YR.6 159,178

*Tonnage for base year is for 2007. 2008 numbers not yet available for county total.*

**2.3 References and Assumptions**

*Year one recycling and disposal tonnages are from the Dept. of Ecology. Years three and six are projected @ 1%, reflecting economic downturn in disposal and recycling while population continues to rise. Local haulers report 9% drop in tonnage hauled from 2007 to 2008.*

*Only Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) considered for tonnage* ***disposed*** *and* ***recycled*** *and**not including other amounts diverted.*

**3. SYSTEM COMPONENT COSTS:** This section asks questions specifically related to the types of programs currently in use and those recommended to be started. For each

component (i.e., waste reduction, landfill, composting, etc.) please describe the anticipated costs of the program(s), the assumptions used in estimating the costs and the funding mechanisms to be used to pay for it. The heart of deriving a rate impact is to know what programs will be passed through to the collection rates, as opposed to being paid for through grants, bonds, taxes and the like.

**3.1 Waste Reduction Programs**

3.1.1 Please list the solid waste programs which have been implemented and those programs

which are proposed. If these programs are defined in the SWM plan please provide the

page number. (Attach additional sheets as necessary.)

IMPLEMENTED PROPOSED

Various existing activities are NA

already conducted for waste reduction

and public education; see plan (Section 2: V & VI)

for further details.

Public Outreach and Promotion

Waste Reduction and Recycling Hotline

Classroom Education

Added new informational website

3.1.2 What are the costs, capital costs and operating costs for waste reduction programs

implemented and proposed?

## IMPLEMENTED

YR.1 $53,000 YR.3 $55,000 YR.6 $55,000

## PROPOSED

YR.1 NA YR.3 NA YR.6 NA

*No new County waste reduction programs planned at this time.*

3.1.3 Please describe the funding mechanism(s) that will pay the cost of the programs in 3.1.2.

## IMPLEMENTED

YR.1 see note YR.3 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ YR.6 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Excise Tax on hauled MSW and grants (primarily from Ecology’s CPG program) are the anticipated funding sources for all years.*

## PROPOSED

YR.1 NA YR.3 NA YR.6 NA

*No new County waste reduction programs planned at this time*

**3.2 Recycling and Composting Programs**

3.2.1 Please list the proposed or implemented recycling program(s) and, their costs, and

proposed funding mechanism or provide the page number in the draft plan on which it is discussed. (Attach additional sheets as necessary.)

## IMPLEMENTED

PROGRAM COST FUNDING

Various existing NA Market revenues, service

private programs charges, tipping fees

MRW Recycling & Disposal. $400,000 yr Grant, excise taxes, fees from

Envirostars $11,000 Small Quantity Business

Generators.

Recycling Hotline $12,000 Excise taxes

Public Outreach & Promotion $15,000 Excise taxes

Classroom Education $25,000 Excise taxes

Solid Solutions Newsletter $19,000 Excise taxes

Countywide Garage Sale $5,000 Excise taxes

Christmas Tree Tags $350 Excise taxes

City of Bellingham $292,280 Excise tax ($120,000 )

Clean Green Yardwaste Site $2.00 Per load fee

Addt’l City funds

Compost Education $20,000 Excise taxes,

## 

Latex Paint Exchange &

Reclamation @ MRW $25,000 Excise taxes, \*Grant

facility \**Grant funding 2008 only*

## PROPOSED

PROGRAM COST FUNDING

Green Building Education $25,000 Excise Tax

**3.3 Solid Waste Collection Programs**

3.3.1 Regulated Solid Waste Collection Programs

Fill in the table below for each **WUTC regulated** solid waste collection entity in your

jurisdiction

### WUTC Regulated Hauler Name Blaine Bay Refuse, Inc.

**G-permit #** G-145

YR.1 YR. 3 YR. 6

**RESIDENTIAL**

- # of Customers 2800 2800 2800

- Tonnage Collected 6000 6000 6000

**COMMERCIAL**

- # of Customers \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_

- Tonnage Collected \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_

**--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

**WUTC Regulated Hauler Name** Nooksack Valley Disposal

**G-permit #** G-166

YR.1 YR. 3 YR. 6

**RESIDENTIAL**

- # of Customers 2264 2284 2360

- Tonnage Collected 1850 1750 1700

**COMMERCIAL**

- # of Customers 404 408 420

- Tonnage Collected 2697 2400 2500

**-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

**WUTC Regulated Hauler Name** Point Recycling and Refuse

**G-Permit #** G-155

YR.1 YR. 3 YR. 6

### RESIDENTIAL

- # of Customers 339 350 350 - Tonnage Collected 609 600 600

*Residential and Commercial tonnage not separated. Total tonnage includes amounts from Commercial customers below.*

**COMMERCIAL**

- # of Customers 30 30 30 - Tonnage Collected *see above*

**------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

**WUTC Regulated Hauler Name** Sanitary Service Company

**G-Permit #** G-14

YR.1 YR. 3 YR. 6

### RESIDENTIAL

- # of Customers 17375 17767 18355

- Tonnage Collected 9281 9300 9300

**COMMERCIAL**

- # of Customers 4058 4274 4598

- Tonnage Collected 32095 32000 32000

3.3.2 Other (non-regulated) Solid Waste Collection Programs Fill in the table below for other

solid waste collection entities in your jurisdiction. (Make additional copies of this section as necessary to record all such entities in your jurisdiction.)

**Hauler Name** Sanitary Service Company.

YR. 1 YR. 3 YR. 6

# of Customers 20810 21410 22310

Tonnage Collected 15462 15000 15000

**Hauler Name** Nooksack Valley Disposal

YR. 1 YR. 3 YR. 6

# of Customers 4514 4550 4650

Tonnage Collected 9830 9650 9500

**3.4 Energy Recovery & Incineration (ER&I) Programs**

NA, no such facilities.

**3.5 Land Disposal Program**

No open MSW landfills. Dollars expended for monitoring (Cedarville, Y Road I and II), leachate haul/treatment (Cedarville) and maintenance of closed landfills only.

2008 budgeted amount: $210,000.

*Future needs being assessed at this time.*

3.5.1 Provide the following information for each **land disposal facility** in your jurisdiction

which receives garbage or refuse generated in the county.

**Landfill Name:** County Construction Recyclers (CCR)

**Owner:** Joan Muenscher

**Operator:** Joan Muenscher

***CCR shut down effective 6/30/08. Information not available.***

**Landfill Name:** Foothills Recycling

**Owner:** Robert McKay

**Operator:** Robert McKay

***Foothills Recycling located on tribal trust land. Efforts to close it down have been largely unsuccessful although no new activity has been noted last 12 mos. No data available on costs or tonnage****.*

3.5.2 Estimate the **approximate tonnage** disposed at the landfill by **WUTC regulated**

**haulers.** If you do not have a scale and are unable to estimate tonnages, estimate using

cubic yards, and indicate whether they are compacted or loose.

N/A

3.5.3 Using the same conversion factors applied in 3.5.2, please estimate the **approximate**

**tonnage** disposed at the landfill by other contributors.

N/A

3.5.4 Provide the cost of operating (including capital acquisitions) each landfill in your

jurisdiction. For any facility that is **privately owned and operated**, skip these questions.

County Construction Recyclers: *Privately owned and operated facility*

Foothills Recycling: *Privately owned and operated facility*

YR.1 NA YR.3 NA YR.6 NA

3.5.5 Please describe the funding mechanism(s) that will defray the cost of this component.

Tipping Fees

**3.6 Administration Program**

3.6.1 What is the budgeted cost for administering the solid waste and recycling programs and what are the major funding sources.

## Budgeted Cost

YR.1 $237,000 YR.3 $250,000 YR.6 $255,000

***Administrative costs not separated out by programs****.*

## Funding Source

YR.1 excise tax YR.3 excise tax YR.6 excise tax

3.6.2 Which cost components are included in these estimates?

Expenses that are included under administration costs include staffing, supplies, building maintenance and utilities, education and training, communications, contributions to County general and tort funds, and accounting and technical support.

3.6.3 Please describe the funding mechanism(s) that will recover the cost of each component.

Excise taxes on hauled MSW.

**3.7 Other Programs**

**NA**, no such programs.

**3.8 References and Assumptions** (attach additional sheets as necessary)

*Starting 2008, grant monies (and excise tax) to fund MRW program only. Balance of programs, excise taxes only.*

**3.3.** *All haulers are private companies not under contract to County.*

**4. FUNDING MECHANISMS:** This section relates specifically to the funding mechanisms currently in use and the ones which will be implemented to incorporate the recommended programs in the draft plan. Because the way a program is funded directly relates to the costs a resident or commercial customer will have to pay, this section is crucial to the cost assessment process. Please fill in each of the following tables as completely as possible.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.1.1 Facility Inventory | | | | | | | |
| Facility Name | Type of  Facility | Tip Fee  per Ton  2008 | Transfer  Cost | Transfer Station  Location | Final Disposal  Location | Total Tons  Disposed  2008 | Total Revenue Generated  (Tip Fee x Tons) |
| Disposal of Toxics (DoT) | MRW  only | \*NA | NA | Airport Way  Bellingham | Various Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites depending on material. | 32,887 Disp. 82,097 Recycled | $46,485 SQG fees |
| Recycling & Disposal Svcs (RDS) | Transfer Station | $78 -Construct.  $100 -MSW | Proprietary | 4916 LaBounty  Ferndale, WA | Transferred to Columbia Ridge Landfill, Oregon | 56,256.5 T  MSW  8,175.5 T  Household Gbg. | $5,625.650  $817,550 |
| Regional Disposal | Transfer Station | $67.57 | Proprietary | 1254 Slater Rd.  Ferndale, WA | Transferred to Roosevelt Regional Landfill, Klickitat Co. | 57,920.5 T  MSW | $3,913,688 |
| Clean Green Yardwaste | Yardwaste Drop-off, transfer | $2  truck load | Hauling & Composting  $182,216  Yr 2008 | Corner of Woburn & Lakeway, Bellingham | Transferred to Skagit County composting facility | 5352 T | $73,526 Load fees |
| Birch Bay Recycling | Drop off, transfer | $.15 per lb. $5 minimum | N/A | 4297 Birch Bay Lynden Rd.  Birch Bay | Transferred to RDS, then Roosevelt Regional Landfill | 148.38 T | Not available |
| Cedarville Recycling | Drop off, transfer | $,15 per lb. $5 minimum | N/A | Cedarville Rd. Bellingham | Transferred to RDS, then Roosevelt Regional Landfill | 137.52 T | Not available |
| Pt. Recycling & Refuse | Drop off, transfer | $.125 per lb. $5.50 minimum | N/A | Johnson Rd.  Point Roberts | Transferred to RdS, then to Roosevelt Regional Landfill | 421.67 T | Not available |
| Sanitary Service Co. | Drop off, transfer | $5.85 minimum | N/A | 1001 Roeder St.  Bellingham | Transferred to RDS, then to Roosevelt Regional Landfill | 140.43 T | Not available |
| Nooksack Valley Disposal | Drop off, transfer | $.10 lb  $2.00 min | N/A | 250 Birch Bay Lynden Rd.  Lynden | Transferred to RDS, then to Roosevelt Regional Landfill | 927.60 | Not available |
| Foothills Recycling | Landfill | Mostly  C&D | None |  | Same | N/A | N/A |
| County Construction Recyclers  Closed 6/08 | Landfill | $Varied per Yard  C&D only | None | 1960 E. Hemmi  Everson, WA | Same | N/A | N/A |

\* *Free for residential quantities. Fee for Small Quantity Generator dependent upon material and quantity.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| Table 4.1.2 Tip Fee Components | | | | | | | |
| Tip Fee by Facility | Surcharge  NONE | City Tax  2008 | County Tax | Transportation Cost | Operational Cost | Administration  Cost | Closure Costs |
| Disposal of Toxics (DoT) |  | 0 | 0 | Contracted, combined services  $365,000 + SQG fees | | | 0 |
| Recycling & Disposal Svcs (RDS) |  | 8% SW  3% Recycling | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0 |
| Regional Disposal |  | 8% SW  3% Recycling | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0 |
| Clean Green Yardwaste |  | 0 | 0 | Yr 2008 Hauling & composting –  $182,216 | $104,422 | $5,639 | 0 |
| Birch Bay Recycling |  | 0 | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0 |
| Cedarville Recycling |  | 0 | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0 |
| Pt. Recycling & Refuse |  | 0 | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0 |
| Sanitary Service Co. |  | 12.99% | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0 |
| Nooksack Valley Disposal |  | 6% | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0 |

*County Excise tax on Haulers only, not Facilities.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.1.3 Funding Mechanism | | | | | | | | | | |
| Name of Program  Funding Mechanism  will defray costs | Bond  Name | Total  Bond  Debt | Bond  Rate | Bond Due  Date | Grant Name | Grant Amount | Tip Fee | Taxes | Other | Surcharge |
| DoT-MRW Facility  Envirostars |  |  |  |  | CP Grant | $219,106 | see above | Excise tax monies $142,039 | SQG fees  $46,000 in 2008 |  |
| Recycling & Disposal Svcs (RDS) |  |  |  |  |  |  | 100% |  |  |  |
| Regional Disposal |  |  |  |  |  |  | 100% |  |  |  |
| Clean Green Yardwaste – City of Bellingham (COB) |  |  |  |  |  |  | Per load fee  Approx.  25% | Excise tax, funds approx 37.5% as County subsidy ,  $120,000 max | Balance  COB gen. fund |  |
| Birch Bay Recycling |  |  |  |  |  |  | 100% |  |  |  |
| Cedarville Recycling |  |  |  |  |  |  | 100% |  |  |  |
| Pt. Recycling & Refuse |  |  |  |  |  |  | 100% |  |  |  |
| Sanitary Service Co. |  |  |  |  |  |  | 100% |  |  |  |
| Nooksack Valley Disposal |  |  |  |  |  |  | 100% |  |  |  |

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| Table 4.1.4 Tip Fee Forecast | | | | | | |
| Tip Fee per Ton by Facility | Year One  2008 | Year Two  2009 | Year Three  2010 | Year Four  2011 | Year Five  2012 | Year Six  2013 |
| Disposal of Toxics (DoT) | \*\*  See below | \*\* | \*\* | \*\* | \*\* | \*\* |
| **Recycling & Disposal Svcs**  - Construction  - General MSW | \*  $78 T  $100 T | $78 T  $100 T | No projection available | No projection  available | No projection available | No projection available |
| **Regional Disposal**  - Construction  - General MSW | \*  $70 T  $70 T | $75 T  $75 T | No projection available | No projection available | No projection available | No projection available |
| Clean Green Yardwaste | $2 Load | $2 Load | $2.50 Load | No projection available | No projection available | No projection available |
| Birch Bay Recycling | $.15 lb $5 min. | $.15 lb $5 min. | $.15 lb $5 min. | No projection available | No projection available | No projection available |
| Cedarville Recycling | $.15 lb $5 min. | $.15 lb $5 min. | $.15 lb $5 min. | No projection available | No projection available | No projection available |
| Pt. Recycling & Refuse | $.12 lb no min. | $.125 lb  $5.50 minimum | $.125 lb  $5.50 minimum | No projection available | No projection available | No projection available |
| Sanitary Service Co. | $5.85 minimum | $5.85 minimum | $5.85 minimum | No projection available | No projection available | No projection available |
| Nooksack Valley Disposal | $.10 lb  $2.00 minimum | $.10 lb  $2.00 minimum | $.10 lb  $2.00 minimum | No projection available | No projection available | No projection available |

*\*Reduced Fees may be negotiated w/individual haulers.*

\*\* *Free for residential quantities. Fee for Small Quantity Generator dependent upon material and quantity.*

4.2 **Funding Mechanisms** summary by percentage: In the following tables, please summarize the way programs will be funded in the key years. For each component, provide the expected percentage of the total cost met by each funding mechanism. (e.g. Waste Reduction may rely on tip fees, grants, and collection rates for funding). You would provide the estimated responsibility in the table as follows: Tip fees=10%; Grants=50%; Collection Rates=40%. The mechanisms must total 100%. If components can be classified as “other,” please note the programs and their appropriate mechanisms. Provide attachments as necessary.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.2.1 Funding Mechanism by Percentage | | | | | | |
| **Year One** | | | | | | |
| Component | Excise Tax | Grant % | Bond % | Rates & Charges % | Other % | Total |
| Waste Reduction | 100 |  |  |  |  | 100% |
| Recycling | 75 | 22 |  | 3% SQG |  | 100% |
| Collection | 35 | 55 |  | 10% SQG |  | NA |
| ER&I |  |  |  |  |  | NA |
| Transfer |  |  |  |  |  | NA |
| Land Disposal |  |  |  |  |  | NA |
| Administration | 100 |  |  |  |  | 100% |
| Other |  |  |  |  |  | NA |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.2.2 Funding Mechanism by Percentage | | | | | | |
| Year Three | | | | | | |
| Component | Excise Tax | Grant % | Bond % | Rates & Charges % | Other % | Total |
| Waste Reduction | 100 |  |  |  |  | 100% |
| Recycling | 75 | 22 |  | 3% SQG |  | 100% |
| Collection | 35 | 55 |  | 10% SQG |  | NA |
| ER&I |  |  |  |  |  | NA |
| Transfer |  |  |  |  |  | NA |
| Land Disposal |  |  |  |  |  | NA |
| Administration | 100 |  |  |  |  | 100% |
| Other |  |  |  |  |  | NA |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.2.3 Funding Mechanism by Percentage | | | | | | |
| **Year Six** | | | | | | |
| Component | Excise Tax | Grant % | Bond % | Rates & Charges % | Other % | Total |
| Waste Reduction | 100 |  |  |  |  | 100% |
| Recycling | 75 | 22 |  | 3% SQG |  | 100% |
| Collection | 35 | 55 |  | 10% SQG |  | 100% |
| ER&I |  |  |  |  |  | 100% |
| Transfer |  |  |  |  |  | 100% |
| Land Disposal |  |  |  |  |  | 100% |
| Administration | 100 |  |  |  |  | 100% |
| Other |  |  |  |  |  | 100% |

**4.3 References and Assumptions**

Please provide any support for the information you have provided. An annual budget or similar

document would be helpful.

***4.1.4***  *Information on future tipping fees is not available at this time*.

**4.4 Surplus Funds**

Please provide information about any surplus or saved funds that may support your operations.

No expected surplus funds generated.