

# Mason County Daily News.com

Provided By Olympic Broadcasting And KMA5

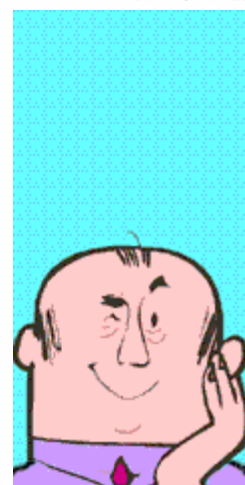
News -> News Article

## CURBSIDE RECYCLING STILL MANDATORY

By Dedrick Allan 08/05/2009

The Mason County Commission has approved amendments to the County's Recycling ordinance but an attempt to change curbside recycling to a voluntary program failed. The changes to the ordinance relate to the schedule for implementing the service, the materials accepted, a portion of the commodities credit going back to the hauler, and the location of the ordinance in the County's Code. During the first hearing on the revisions held last month, several residents voiced their displeasure about Mason County Garbage and Recycling's plan to add a charge for curbside recycling to all of its customers regardless of whether they use the service or not, making curbside recycling mandatory, as it is in many jurisdictions such as the City of Shelton. The charge for recycling collection would increase a customer's monthly bill by close to \$8. Many of those to testify on July 15th were retired people, on fixed incomes who don't have much to recycle, if any at all, and called the charge unfair and unnecessary. Many of the same residents also testified Tuesday during the continued hearing on the ordinance. Their message was the same but this time they asked the Commissioners to make the program voluntary. Officials with Mason County Garbage, its parent company Waste Connections, and the County's Solid Waste Program, repeatedly told those in attendance that this mandatory program is the most efficient, cost effective way to collect recycling as it spreads the cost over all customers. A voluntary program would likely fail and would be twice as expensive for those who participated. During the nearly two hours of discussion, Commissioner Tim Sheldon made a motion to make curbside recycling voluntary but his attempt failed as neither Commissioner Ross Gallagher and Commissioner Lynda Ring Erickson seconded the motion. The four revisions were then approved on a two to one vote with Commissioner Sheldon voting against the mandatory program. Commissioner Ring Erickson included in her motion that the County work with Mason County Garbage to create a senior or low income rate and create as many options as possible for garbage and recycling collection. The rate for curbside recycling is set by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission based on the hauler's expenses. That proposed rate has been reduced to just over \$7. A public hearing on the curbside recycling rate before the WUTC is set for 9:30 AM August 13th in Olympia.

[Return](#)



**EVERETT L. HUGHES**  
ENROLLED AGENT  
**Government at your door?**  
821 W. RAILROAD AVE  
360-427-0427

**HELP WANTED**



