

September 28, 2023



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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September 28, 2023

Michelle Mulrony
Regional Planner and Grant Manager
WA State Department of Ecology, Central Region Office

RE: Benton County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan, Docket TG-230680

Dear Michelle Mulrony:

Thank you for filing Benton County’s 2024-2029 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan.

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) has completed its review of the preliminary draft of the Benton County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan Update (Plan).

Although the Commission does not regulate Benton County, RCW 70A.205.065 requires the Commission to complete a review of the Plan and advise the County of the probable impacts of that Plan. The 2024-2029 Plan will have no regulated rate impact to ratepayers served in incorporated areas by solid waste collection companies because these customers are not regulated by the Commission.

There is impact to customers in unincorporated areas because these customers fall under solid waste carriers, Ed’s Disposal, Inc. (G-110), Basin Disposal, Inc. (G-118), Waste Connections of Oregon, Inc. dba Sanitary Disposal (G-173), and Waste Management of Washington, Inc. dba Waste Management of Kennewick (G-237) that are regulated by the Commission.

The 2024-2029 Plan proposes to increase tip fees by approximately two percent each year to keep up with inflation. As a result, there will be a minimal rate impact to ratepayers served by regulated solid waste collection companies in Benton County.

| Projected Disposal Fees | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Per Ton Disposal Cost | \$118.62 | \$120.22 | \$123.11 | \$126.08 | \$127.66 | \$129.38 |
| Per Ton Increase | | \$1.60 | \$1.63 | \$1.66 | \$1.71 | \$1.73 |
| Percentage Increase | | 1.35 | 2.40 | 2.41 | 1.25 | 1.35 |
| | | | | | | |
| Projected Rate Increases | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 |
| Residential | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Monthly Rate for One 32-Gallon Can Per Week Service | \$2.24 | \$0.12 | \$0.21 | \$0.22 | \$0.11 | \$0.13 |
| Commercial | | | | | | |
| One-Yard Per Pick Up | \$11.53 | \$0.61 | \$1.10 | \$1.14 | \$0.59 | \$0.65 |

Staff has no further comment on the Plan.

Please direct questions or comments about the commission's plan review process to Rachel Stark at (360) 664-1272 or rachel.stark@utc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hunter
Acting Executive Director and Secretary

cc: Jackie Mayfield
Administrative Assistant
Benton County, WA
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509-574-2455