

July 24, 2018

## **NOTICE OF PROPOSED RATE INCREASE**

To Our Valued Customers:

Thank you for your support of our solid waste services. We work hard to provide superior service at the lowest possible price. This rate increase will become effective for services rendered on or after September 7, 2018. Billing for the rate increase will correspond with your normal billing cycle. Therefore, customers billed in the month of June for July and August will see the new rates on the June billing. Similarly, customers billed in July for July and August or for August and September will see the new rates on the July billing.

Our last general rate increase took effect on November 1, 2015. Since then, costs have continued to increase over these last nearly three years. On March 1, 2018, Cowlitz County increased the disposal fees by 2.5%. Additionally, fuel, labor, medical insurance and new equipment costs have increased. These increases, along with nearly three years of other cost increases, forced us to file a request with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (the Commission) to increase our rates.

Our proposed rates are reflected on the preceding pages. For questions about how this increase affects you, please feel free to contact Rick or Rolly at 360-425-4302 (360-225-7808 for Woodland customers).

The commission has the authority to set final rates that may vary from our company's request, depending on the results of its investigation. Commission staff will make a recommendation to the Commissioners at an open meeting in Olympia.

You will have an opportunity to comment in person at this meeting. If you are unable to attend the open meeting, the commission has a bridge line which enables you to participate or listen by telephone. Call 360-664-1234 the day before the open meeting for instructions and to sign in. You can also comment by using the "Public Comment" feature at the commission's Web-site at [www.utc.wa.gov](http://www.utc.wa.gov), or by using the contact information below. The UTC is committed to providing reasonable accommodation to participants with disabilities. If you need reasonable accommodation, please contact the commission at (360) 664-1132 or [human\\_resources@utc.wa.gov](mailto:human_resources@utc.wa.gov).

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Thank you for your continued trust in us.