



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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March 26, 2020

Mark Cox, Director
Utilities and Community Development
100 West Broadway Suite 31
Montesano, WA 98563

**RE: Grays Harbor County Solid Waste and Moderate Risk Waste Management Plan
For Years 2020 to 2025
Supplement TG-200113**

Dear Mr. Cox:

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) has completed its review of the preliminary draft of the Grays Harbor County 2020 Solid Waste and Moderate Waste Management Plan (Plan).

The Plan proposes to increase tip fees for municipal solid waste (MSW) each year during the Plan period, 2020-2025. As a result of the current forecasted tip fees, there will be a rate impact to ratepayers served by regulated solid waste collection companies in Grays Harbor County. The table below illustrates projected disposal fees and rate increases between 2020 and 2025 based on forecasted tip fees.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Projected Disposal Fees							
Per Ton Disposal Cost	\$106.77	\$110.40	\$114.15	\$118.04	\$124.45	\$128.68	
Per Ton Increase	\$1.92	\$3.63	\$3.75	\$3.89	\$4.01	\$4.15	\$21.35
Projected Rate Increases							
<i>Residential</i>							
Monthly rate for one 32-gallon can per week service	\$0.14	\$0.27	\$0.28	\$0.29	\$0.30	\$0.31	\$1.59
<i>Commercial</i>							
Monthly rate for one-yard per pick up service	\$0.73	\$1.38	\$1.42	\$1.47	\$1.52	\$1.57	\$8.09

Existing collection services for recyclable materials consists of drop-off stations (in the cities of Aberdeen, Cosmopolis, Elma, Hoquiam, McCleary, Montesano, Oakville, Ocean Shores, Westport, and Pacific Beach). These sites accept newspaper, cardboard, magazines, tin cans, aluminum cans, plastic bottles, plastic milk jugs, and glass bottles. Single-stream curbside collection is provided by Harold LeMay Enterprises Inc., d/b/a Harbor Disposal and Eastern Grays Harbor Disposal, (LeMay) on an every-other-week basis throughout its Commission-regulated area and contracted cities. Hometown Sanitation, LLC, provides service to the City of Hoquiam. Private and commercial recycling providers also operate within the County. The materials collected curbside consist of newspaper, cardboard, magazines, tin cans, aluminum cans, PETE (#1 plastic), and HDPE (#2 plastic). Glass is not accepted curbside, but is collected at drop-off sites.

Washington State law requires curbside recycling services to be provided in urban areas unless an alternative plan is approved by the Department of Ecology (Ecology). The requirements of the law appear to be met because curbside recycling is offered countywide by the certificated hauler or is covered in cities contracts for service.

The following list includes some of the recommendations the County has made for improving its recycling programs:

- The SWAC will regularly review recycling market conditions and update its list of designated recyclables collected through comingled or drop-box programs.
- The SWAC will continue to explore new ways to expand sustainable recycling opportunities and programs for the public. The SWAC will hold a solid waste review every April that will include an analysis of recycling activities over the past year and potential changes and improvements.
- The County encourages recycling and reuse through the educational component of the waste reduction and recycling plan.
- The County will provide information through its website about the recycling and reuse of white goods and e-wastes.
- Incorporate flexibility in curbside recycling programs to accommodate changes in the recycling market to determine which materials to collect or discontinue.

Staff has no further comments. Please direct questions or comments to Scott Sevall at 360-664-1230 or by email at scott.sevall@utc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mark L. Johnson

Mark L. Johnson
Executive Director and Secretary

cc: Peter Guttchen, Department of Ecology, Regional Planner