



Public Infrastructure and Conservation

Deb Bell

Council Initiated:

☐ Yes

☒ No

ECAF: 2025-1230
Ordinance: 25-027

Type:

- ☐ Contract
☐ Board Appt.
☒ Code Amendment
☐ Budget Action
☐ Other

Requested Handling:

- ☒ Normal
☐ Expedite
☐ Urgent

Fund Source:

- ☐ General Fund
☐ Other
☒ N/A

Executive Rec:

- ☒ Approve
☐ Do Not Approve
☐ N/A

Approved as to

Form:

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ N/A

Subject: Amending Snohomish County Code Section 7.41, relating to the solid waste service fee schedule and additional charges for unsecured loads.

Scope: The proposed Ordinance would amend the solid waste service fee schedule, updating tipping fees and establishing a separate fee schedule for waste export specific services starting January 1, 2026. The proposed base rates are recommended to increase annually by 3%, starting on January 1, 2027.

7.41.020(8) Waste Export Service Fees:

Solid Waste	Current	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Self-Haul based on weight at Transfer Stations (per ton)	\$105	\$160	\$165	\$170	\$175	\$180
Self-Haul Minimum Fee at Transfer Stations (up to 360 lbs)	\$20	\$30	\$31	\$32	\$33	\$34
G-Certified Haulers based on weight at Transfer Stations (per ton)	\$105	\$149	\$153	\$158	\$163	\$168
Self-Haul at Drop Box Sites (per cubic yard)	\$20	\$30	\$31	\$32	\$33	\$34
Self-Haul Minimum Fee at Drop Box Sites (up to 1 cubic yard)	\$20	\$30	\$31	\$32	\$33	\$34
Vactor Waste (per load)	\$567*	\$598*	\$616	\$634	\$653	\$673
RRW delivered to Intermodal Facility	\$99*	\$104*	\$107	\$110	\$114	\$117
RRW Minimum Fee (up to 23 tons per container)	\$2,277*	\$2,392*	\$2,464	\$2,538	\$2,614	\$2,692
Hard to handle waste (per ton)	\$200	\$250	\$258	\$265	\$273	\$281
7.41.042						
Unsecured load (<8K lbs)	\$5	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20
Unsecured load (>8K lbs)	\$10	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25

*Approved fee change with Motion 24-325

Fiscal Impact: ☐ Current Year ☒ Multi-Year ☐ N/A

Expenditures (estimate)	2025	2026	2030
402.5067064722 (Waste Export)	\$0	\$32,514,262.95	\$255,643,531.60
Revenue (estimate)	2025	2026	2030
402.3064014372 (Solid Waste Fees)	\$0	\$32,514,262.95	\$255,643,531.60
Solid Waste Tipping Fees Per ton comparison 2025			
Whatcom County \$140 (RDS/WM); \$113 (Allied Waste); \$270 (Point Roberts)			
Pierce (Municipal)	\$174.84	Kittitas County	\$143
Skagit County	\$137	Kitsap County	\$121.54
Chelan County	\$125	Island County	\$173.32
Snohomish County	\$105	King (Municipal)	\$217.20

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Authority Granted: The County Council adopts Ordinance 25-027, under Snohomish County Charter 2.100 and 2.110.

Background: According to Snohomish County Code, the solid waste fee schedule will be based on full cost recovery standards and the service fees for solid waste disposal shall be based upon measured weights whenever possible. Solid waste tipping fees at transfer stations and drop boxes were last adjusted in 2009. In 2022 Council approved [Motion 22-494](#) establishing a minimum weight per container for the Residual Reclamation Waste program (RRW) and raised the fee on Vactor Waste from \$201 per Vactor truck load to \$315 per Vactor truck load. In 2023 Council approved [Motion 23-390](#) revising the operating rules and increased the RRW rate from \$65 per ton to \$85 per ton. To assist with cleanup and disposal of household goods damaged by the Flood Event of December 2023, Council approved [Motion 24-094](#) to provide for the elimination or reduction of solid waste disposal fees for declared emergencies. The Solid Waste Division (SWD) completed a Council approved ([Motion 24-088](#)) Cost of Service and Rate Analysis, which created a service and rate model to assist with cost forecasting. After reviewing the results of the analysis, it was determined that the adopted tipping fee schedule was no longer adequate, and a step approach was recommended for increasing the solid waste service fees.

In August 2024 Council approved [Motion 24-325](#), adjusting the Residual Reclamation Waste, Vactor Waste, Moderate Risk Waste disposal and Illegal Dumping fees. The proposed ordinance would align the fee schedule, which includes adjusting the remaining tipping fees and adding a separate fee schedule for waste export specific services starting in 2026 and includes the addition of an annual 3% increase starting in 2027.

It has also been determined that the current fees associated with unsecured loads did not provide adequate funding for program enforcement and education. These fees are also proposed to be updated within the ordinance but are not to be included in the annual 3% increase. According to the results of the analysis model, without the proposed increase to the solid waste rate fee schedule in 2026 the SWD will not have enough fund balance or incoming revenue to continue operations.

Action Requested: For Council to move the ordinance to May 7th GLS set time and date for a Public Hearing, with the suggested date and time of May 28th, 2025, at 10:30 am.