

Proposed adjustments of Residual Reclamation Waste (RRW) disposal fees

Background:

The Solid Waste Division (SWD) last adjusted the tipping fee for the disposal of solid waste in 2009, when it was increased from \$89 to \$105 per ton. The disposal fee has remained consistent for the last 14 years, providing an exemplary value for the Snohomish County residents, while inflation, operational costs and additional expenses continue to increase. During the last decade, SWD has consistently relied on fund balance to supplement operational and program budgets for SWD activities. The Division has multiple programmatic and capital projects slated for the next several years to meet regulatory and infrastructure requirements. To support these needs, SWD is implementing a multifaceted initiative to review Division program fees. The Division is investigating all programs impacted by service fees and determining where immediate progressive increases may be implemented to offset rapidly increasing operational expenses.

The RRW program represents 20% of the waste exported in the Snohomish County system. Non-recycled waste from recyclers/reclamation facilities in Snohomish County must bring their residuals to a system facility. If qualified, RRW customers may utilize an intermodal container and haul directly to the county's intermodal facility in North Everett. The program was developed in 2011 and is outlined in [SCC 7.35.125](#). Current fees associated with the program are \$65/ton for material transported directly to the intermodal facility. A minimum weight of 23 tons per intermodal container was recently implemented in December 2022. However, fees charged to businesses utilizing the program do not accurately reflect actual expenses of program operation. The SWD recommends implementing a progressive increase of RRW fees, until a larger systemwide rate analysis of all SWD programs can be conducted.

Proposed Rate:

The SWD proposes that the RRW rate be increased from \$65 to \$85/ton of residual waste transported to the intermodal facility.

Projected Revenue Increase:

In 2023, projected tonnage and revenue from the RRW program are estimated at 140,000 tons of material generating \$9,100,000 in revenue. It is anticipated that a fee increase to \$85/ton will facilitate an additional 2.8 million dollars, resulting in a 31% increase in RRW-related revenue generated.