



# Public Infrastructure and Conservation

Deb Bell

Council Initiated:

Yes

No

**ECAF:** 2024-1854

**Motion:** 24-325

**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:** Revised Solid Waste Fee Schedule 2025 and 2026.

**Scope:** The Snohomish County Public Works Solid Waste Division has completed the cost-of-service analysis and rate study, which has evaluated current program fees and operational expenses for the utility. Results of the analysis recommend updates to many Division programs. At this time, the Division is requesting adjustments to the fee schedule for four programs: Residual Reclamation Waste (RRW), Vactor Waste, Moderate Risk Waste disposal (see provided list of items from Aerosol Pesticides to Vape Pens, etc.) and Illegal Dumping reduced fees. *(Please note that all other programs, including commercial and self-haul of household waste to transfer stations and drop box sites are not proposed to change with the current proposed fee schedule adjustment.)*

**Duration:** Proposed start date: January 1, 2025, with a subsequent fee adjustment beginning January 1, 2026.

**Fiscal Impact:**  Current Year  Multi-Year  N/A

The projected fund balance at the end of 2026 is expected to decrease by \$22 million, leaving a remaining balance of \$17 million, the equates to approximately 150 days of operating expenses, slightly above the minimum 120 days required for operational sustainability.

Revenue	2025	2026	Total
402.3064014372 Solid Waste Fees	\$3,157,000	\$3,157,000	\$6,314,000

**Authority Granted:** Approves and authorizes the County Executive to implement new solid waste rates as recommended by the Solid Waste Rate Study, effective January 1, 2025, with a subsequent rate plan beginning January 1, 2026, ensuring alignment with the financial and operational objectives of the Solid Waste division, under SCC 7.41.020.

**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. The last full assessment of Solid Waste fees occurred in 2009. Fee adjustments to the RRW and vactor programs were implemented in 2022 and 2023.

In November 2022 the Council approved [Motion 22-494](#) establishing a minimum weight per container for the RRW program and raising the fee on Vactor Waste from \$201 per vactor truck load to \$315 per vactor truck load.

In September 2023 the Council approved [Motion 23-390](#) which revised the operating rules and increased the RRW rate from \$65 per ton to \$85 per ton.

A new contract for Moderate Risk Waste disposal was signed in January 2024 and the Division is currently paying higher disposal costs than what is published on the existing fee schedule.

The following table highlights the requested fee schedule updates:

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<b>Material</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>
Vactor Waste (per load)	\$201	\$315	\$315	<b>\$567</b>	<b>\$598</b>
RRW delivered to Intermodal Yard (per ton)	\$65	\$65	\$85	<b>\$99</b>	<b>\$104</b>
RRW Minimum Fee (23 tons per container)	\$1,955	\$1,955	\$1,955	<b>\$2,277</b>	<b>\$2,392</b>
Reduced Fee for Illegal Dumping (per ton)	\$25	\$25	\$25	<b>\$50</b>	<b>\$52</b>
Moderate Risk Waste				<b>Various</b>	<b>Various</b>

**Requested Action:** Move to GLS on August 28, 2024, for consideration.