

# SWAC

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Solid Waste Advisory Committee

King Street Center ▪ 201 South Jackson Street, Suite 5701 ▪ Seattle, WA 98104-3855

May 17, 2024

To: King County Executive Dow Constantine  
King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski  
King County Councilmember Girmay Zahilay  
King County Councilmember Sarah Perry  
King County Councilmember Jorge L Barón  
King County Councilmember Dave Upthegrove  
King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci  
King County Councilmember Pete Von Reichbauer  
King County Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda  
King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn

CC: John Taylor, DNRP Director  
Pat D. McLaughlin, Solid Waste Division Director

RE: ADVISORY NOTE IN SUPPORT OF THE 2025 SOLID WASTE RATE PROPOSAL

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) recognizes the need for an adequate revenue stream to support the regional solid waste system and ensure continued progress on key capital projects such as transfer station modernization, maximizing disposal capacity at the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill, diverting resources from disposal and expanded recycling services. Toward this objective, King County's Solid Waste Division (SWD) has proposed a rate increase that would raise the current per-ton disposal rate by 10%, or the equivalent of an additional \$0.93 on the average monthly bill for curbside customers. SWD also proposes increasing the fee on landfilled construction and demolition (C&D) waste to \$13.00 per ton, up from \$4.25 (unchanged since 1993). We look forward to discussions about how to further enhance C&D diversion in future rate proposals.

While we understand significant economic and inflationary pressures are impacting King County residents, we also know environmentally responsible, cost-effective stewardship of public funds is a priority for solid waste customers county wide. Maintaining, operating, and planning for the future of our critical public infrastructure in these challenging economic times requires these rate increases to meet our obligation in meeting the public health, safety, and materials management requirements of our local and regional waste streams. The proposed 2025 rate increases will also fund King County's key climate action initiatives around zero waste goals and support the landfill diversion efforts of the RE+ initiative so the King County Solid Waste Division can maintain a smooth, predictable and steady rate path for our customers in future years. SWAC is committed to programs and services that protect the environment and enhance

the quality of life in our local communities. Ensuring King County residents continue to have access to the full range of essential waste diversion, disposal and recycling services that King County's Solid Waste Division provides is our top priority. We are also invested in the division's long-range comprehensive planning goals to boost recycling rates, modernize the Northeast and South County Recycling and Transfer Stations (with expanded services), and advance programs and policies to mitigate climate change.


The Division's 2025 rate proposal will fund key, priority Solid Waste Program Areas including:

- Decrease the tonnage of materials being delivered to the Cedar Hills landfill by adopting environmentally beneficial waste prevention and resource recovery programs, such as Re+,
- Provide public access to self-haul recycling and waste disposal services seven days a week at eight transfer stations and six days a week at two rural drop boxes.
- Implement capital improvements and updated technology to modernize outdated facilities while generating family-wage jobs in the construction trades and also expanding access to recycling in communities that currently have limited access to such services.

This rate proposal was deliberated multiple times in the January, February, March, April, and May SWAC meetings this year. It was not an easy recommendation given the challenging economic pressures our organization and residents face, but your SWAC supports the staff recommendation on this responsible rate path forward to sustain the County's critical solid waste infrastructure needs and climate action work.

Our sincere thanks to the Executive and County Council for considering our advisory input on 2025 King County Solid Waste Division rates.

Signed on behalf of SWAC,

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Wendy Weiker  
Chair, Solid Waste Advisory Committee  
Republic Services

DocuSigned by:  
  
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William Louie  
Vice-Chair, Metropolitan Solid Waste Advisory Committee  
Interested Resident



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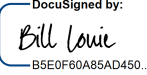
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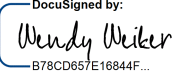
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