



## King County

### Dow Constantine

King County Executive  
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June 15, 2022

The Honorable Claudia Balducci  
Chair, King County Council  
Room 1200  
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that, if enacted, would increase King County's disposal fees charged at transfer stations or the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill (CHRLF) for disposal of municipal solid waste. The revenue provided by these fees would enable King County to maintain essential solid waste disposal services, expand access to recycling, meet obligations in the *2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan* (Comp Plan), make progress towards County environmental goals, and do so with a stronger emphasis on equity and social justice in frontline communities.

The proposal would increase total projected revenues by 9.6 percent in 2023 and again in 2024. On average, these changes would add an estimated \$0.79 in 2023 and \$0.90 in 2024 to single-family monthly curbside bills. The proposal would increase the yard and wood waste fees at transfer stations from \$100 per ton to \$115 per ton in 2023. Finally, this proposal increases the Cleanup LIFT low-income discount from \$14 per transaction to \$15 in 2023 and \$16 in 2024. All of these changes are included in the 9.6 percent increase in revenues.

The Metropolitan Solid Waste Advisory Committee (MSWAC) and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) were briefed monthly, from January to May of this year, on the rate increases proposed in this legislation. Letters from MSWAC and SWAC expressing support for a rate increase are attached. A rate adjustment now will ensure a smoother rate path going into the future years and is the preferred approach of DNRP's city partners.

The proposed legislation would provide for continued implementation of actions outlined in the Comp Plan, including capital projects such as building the South County Recycling and Transfer Station in Algona, building the future Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station, and further development at the CHRLF. These new transfer stations will expand access to recycling and hazardous waste services, reduce wait times, and increase safety. Investment in these critical infrastructure projects is driving estimated total capital spending close to \$770 million through 2028.

The Honorable Claudia Balducci

June 15, 2022

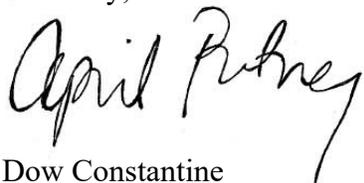
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The proposed legislation furthers the King County Strategic Plan goal of efficient, accountable regional and local government by aligning funding, policy, and operational goals with community priorities such as transfer station modernization and Re+ (zero waste of resources). The proposal also advances the service-accessibility goals in the King County Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan by continuing to provide the Cleanup LIFT low-income discount for vulnerable populations. In addition, the proposed legislation supports the goals in the Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP) related to energy and preparation for climate change impacts by expanding investments to implement green building and SCAP priority actions; advancing towards the goal of zero waste of resources through actions to increase recycling of food waste, organics, and recyclables; and further improving landfill gas collection at the CHRLF.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. This important legislation enables King County to continue to provide essential, safe, reliable, efficient, and environmentally sustainable solid waste transfer, recycling, and disposal services to our community, and help the County continue to move toward zero waste of resources.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Pat D. McLaughlin, Division Director of the Solid Waste Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-4501.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers  
ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff  
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council  
Shannon Braddock, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive  
Karan Gill, Deputy Chief of Staff, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive  
Mina Hashemi, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive  
Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)  
Pat D. McLaughlin, Division Director, Solid Waste Division, DNRP