



King County
Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

Customer Notice

An Increase in *Local Hazardous Waste Management Program* Fees Will Affect Garbage Disposal Costs At King County Transfer Stations

Effective January 1, 2006:

**The Total Per Ton Disposal Cost will Increase by 93¢.
(from \$88.17 to \$89.10)**

**The Total Minimum Fee Disposal Cost will Increase by 25¢.
(from \$15.25 to \$15.50)**

In May 2005, the King County Board of Health approved an increase in the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program fees. This program is funded in large part by fees on residential and commercial solid waste accounts in King County.

Program funding also comes from a surcharge on the basic garbage fee paid by transfer station customers. Therefore, this fee increase will affect the amount you pay to dispose of garbage at King County transfer stations. Disposal fees for all other services (yard waste, appliances, etc.) remain the same.

Questions?

For more information about the **Local Hazardous Waste Management Program**, call the Household Hazards Line at 206-296-4692, toll-free: 1-888-869-4233, TTY Relay: 711, or visit their Web site at www.govlink.org/hazwaste/about/faq.html. For more information about the **Local Hazardous Waste Program's fee increase**, call Ken Armstrong, Program Administrator at 206-352-8163, TTY Relay: 711.

What is the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County?

The Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County is a regional program that works to protect and enhance public health and environmental quality in King County. The Program helps citizens, businesses, and government reduce the threat posed by the use, storage, and disposal of toxic and hazardous materials. The Program includes King County, all of the cities within King County, and the City of Seattle.

What services does the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program provide for residents and businesses?

This is a sample of the types of services funded by Local Hazardous Waste Management Program fees:

- Three household hazardous waste collection sites (North Seattle, Bellevue, and South Seattle)
- Household hazardous waste collection events at the Wastemobile, which travels throughout King County
- Household hazardous waste collection/recycling events sponsored by your city.
- Programs in schools – including classroom presentations, teacher training, and teacher support
- Community outreach to diverse groups including neighborhood groups, new home buyers, and new immigrants to help educate people about properly managing and disposing of hazardous waste
- Free on-site technical assistance visits to businesses to help them find ways to use less toxic materials and to properly store and dispose of the hazardous materials they use.
- EnviroStars Program - provides businesses incentives and recognition for reducing hazardous waste and preventing pollution.
- Financial assistance to qualified small quantity generators through the Voucher Incentive Program.

Why is this fee increase necessary?

The Program's fees need to be raised so that the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program can continue to provide the current level of service to residents and businesses throughout King County. If the rate increase had not been approved the Program would have had to reduce its operating budget by approximately \$2 million - with a corresponding cutback in services. This would have resulted in the elimination of some programs and activities, reductions in household hazardous waste collection services, fewer technical assistance visits to businesses, and other service reductions.

When was the last time program fees were raised?

The Local Hazardous Waste Management Program's last fee increase was ten years ago.