

Media Advisory – Feb. 18, 2009

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County’s solid-waste fees to change March 1

For the first time since 1992, Snohomish County solid-waste rates for the disposal of garbage at transfer stations will increase. To offset this increase, rates on other solid-waste services have been reduced or made free.

The county has been able to avoid a rate increase during the past 17 years by using proceeds from land sales to subsidize its operating costs. A 2008 service study, however, determined that the county’s Solid Waste Division could no longer rely on reserves to fund operations.

Beginning March 1, the minimum garbage fee at solid-waste transfer stations will increase from \$17 to \$20 for disposal of up to 360 pounds of garbage. The per-ton rate will rise from \$89 to \$105.

The minimum cost to dispose of and recycle yard debris and clean wood has been lowered from \$17 to \$11 for up to 500 pounds, or from \$89 per ton to \$45 per ton.

Customers also may now dispose freely of electronics through a new electronics-recycling program. Residents, small businesses and charities are allowed to recycle computers, monitors and TVs for free due to a statewide manufacturer sponsored program.

Even with the increase in garbage rates, Snohomish County's fees are comparable to other jurisdictions in the region.

Snohomish County operates three transfer stations and five neighborhood recycling and disposal centers also known as “drop boxes.” For more information on facilities, rates or recycling, go to www.snoco.org and search for “solid waste” or call 425-388-3425.

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