

## How are solid waste services and programs funded?

No money from your property tax or sales tax pays for garbage or recycling services.

The Snohomish County Public Works Solid Waste Division gets most of its revenue from the tip fee on all garbage that is "tipped" (dropped off) at a County facility. This garbage comes from haulers (who bring in your garbage), individual companies, or residents who self-haul their trash.

You pay the tip fee indirectly when you pay your hauler's garbage bill, or you pay it directly to the County when you haul your own garbage. All of the revenue from this tip fee is spent on garbage disposal or related county programs.

For the first time since 1992, Snohomish County solid waste disposal rates are increasing. The Division was able to avoid a rate increase over the past 17 years by using its reserve fund balance, created by the sale of property, to subsidize operating costs.

The Solid Waste Division underwent an extensive cost of service study in 2008 to determine whether or not daily operating costs could continue at the current tip fee of \$89 per ton while being subsidized by the Division's cash reserves. The study showed that the fund would have been fully expended in 2009 and the Division was faced with an unavoidable rate increase. The service study also indicated that the cost of yard debris and clean wood recycling could be lowered to reflect the current cost of handling these materials.

## What am I charged when I haul my own garbage?

If you haul your own garbage to a transfer station or neighborhood recycling & disposal center (NRDC), you are charged the following amounts:

### **Transfer Stations**

#### Garbage rate:

\$20.....minimum fee (includes tax)  
360 pounds or less  
\$105....price per ton (plus tax)  
over 360 pounds  
(for example: 500 pounds = \$26.25;  
1,000 pounds = \$52.50)

#### Yard/wood debris rate:

\$11.....minimum fee  
500 pounds or less  
\$45.....price per ton  
over 500 lbs.

### **NRDCs**

#### Garbage rate:

(maximum 5 cubic yards)  
\$20.....minimum fee (includes tax)  
up to 1 cubic yard; 1-6 cans (32-gal.)  
\$20.....price per cubic yard (includes tax)  
1.1-5.0 cubic yards



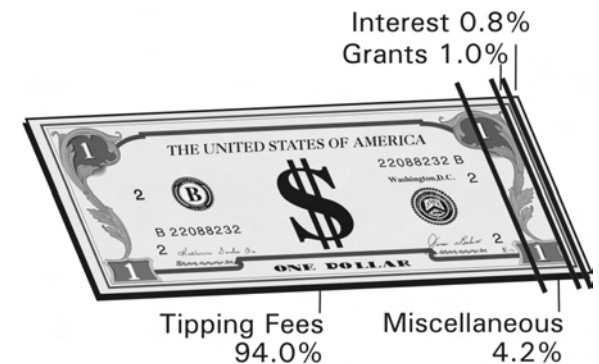
## Why am I charged a minimum fee?

To reduce congestion and to be as efficient as possible, minimum fees are set to approximate the amount of garbage that typically is carried in a smaller vehicle—car, van or truck—without having to weigh each vehicle. Only larger loads (over 360 lbs. for garbage; 500 lbs. for yard/wood debris) are weighed in and out.

We encourage self-haul residents and businesses to save up a reasonable amount of garbage before making a trip to a facility. We also encourage customers to use hauler curbside collection instead of regularly hauling their own garbage. The haulers offer a variety of service levels (including mini-can), some of which can cost less than self-hauling.

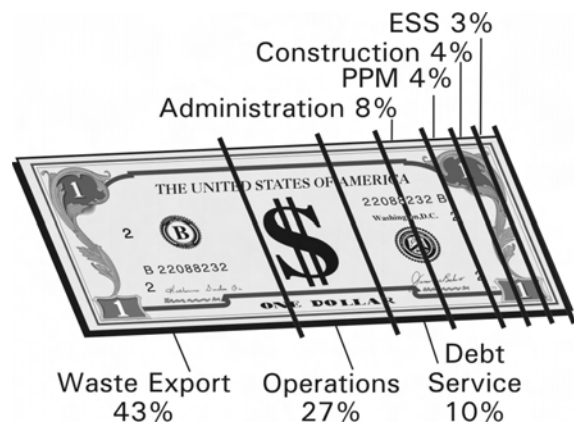
## Are there other revenue sources?

In addition to tip fees, the Solid Waste Division borrows money for capital projects (with the debt to be repaid by tip fees). It receives state grants for some moderate risk waste programs. It also receives interest on reserves. The following chart shows where the County got its solid waste revenue in 2008.



## How is the money spent?

The following chart shows the Solid Waste Division's expenditures for 2008 by different categories.



- **Waste Export (43%)** is the largest percentage of the solid waste budget. The Division pays a private company to transport garbage by rail and dispose of it at the Roosevelt Regional Landfill in Klickitat County.
- **Operations (27%)** covers a variety of services, including operating the County's three transfer stations and five rural Neighborhood Recycling & Disposal Centers (NRDCs) from the transfer stations to the train.
- **Debt Service (10%)** is principal and interest paid on money borrowed for designing and constructing facilities.
- **Administration (8%)** is for secretarial staff, indirect costs, and overhead such as insurance, rent, phones, lights, B&O tax, etc.

- **Planning & Program Management (PPM) (4%):**

- **Planning** provides long range planning for the division and solid waste system.

- **Waste Prevention and Recycling program** provides recycling education and technical assistance, runs the drop-off programs, and coordinates with the private sector.

- **Moderate Risk Waste program** offers a year-round hazardous waste drop-off station for households and businesses, and provides technical assistance to small quantity generators of hazardous waste.

- **Construction (4%)** includes repair and replacement projects needed to maintain the system, as well as some new construction projects.
- **Environmental Services (ESS) (3%)** monitors closed landfills, runs the leachate collection and treatment system at the closed Cathcart Landfill, and operates gas flare facilities.



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## Garbage Dollars



### Who handles the garbage?

Government and private companies both play important roles in garbage, recycling, and hazardous waste programs in Snohomish County.

Generally a private hauler collects garbage from your curb and takes it to a County owned and operated transfer station. Or you might self-haul your garbage to a transfer station. There, the waste is compacted into shipping containers and delivered to the rail yard. A private company, under contract to the County, then transports the containers by train to a privately owned landfill in Klickitat County.

Ultimately, it is the County's goal to make certain that your garbage is disposed of safely and in an environmentally responsible way. It's also the County's intent to assure the availability of recycling to all county citizens (urban, rural, residential, commercial, etc.)



**Snohomish County Public Works**

Solid Waste

425-388-3425, press "0"

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