



Skamania County

Department of Public Works

Post Office Box 790
Stevenson, Washington 98648
Central (509) 427-3910
West (360)837-2888 - East (509-538-2888
FAX: (866)-267-1318

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We are hopeful this letter will answer your concerns in regards to the recent implementation of the user fees at our Transfer Stations.

As many of you may, or may not know, Skamania County was recently notified of a severe revenue reduction from the Federal government. This reduction will be felt in all operations of County government. This notice will attempt to describe the Solid Waste Departments revenue shortfalls being felt immediately.

In past years, the County Commissioners have provided funds to the Solid Waste Department from Federal payments. This accounted for about 35% of the revenue required to operate the Transfer Facilities. This loss of revenue required the Public Works Department to find alternate funding to keep these sites open.

The options considered by Public Works staff consisted of the following scenarios:

- 1) Set a user fee based on the average number of site visits per year to establish revenue that would replace the subsidy from general government. To make up this revenue shortfall requires \$5.00 per visit whether it is garbage or recycling. Since we recover about 50% in recycled product sales, we established the \$2.50 fee for recycling.
- 2) Increasing our charges per ton to account for this reduction of revenue would have required the rates to be doubled to make up the difference in revenue. The vehicle that brings in the minimum would pay \$5.00 and the full size pickup could be charged well over \$150.00 dependent on the weight of the load.
- 3) Reduction in service would close the Underwood site and keep the Stevenson and Mt. Pleasant sites open just 2 days a week (each) for garbage collection only with no services for recycling.
- 4) Complete closure of all operations. This would require all residences to haul to Hood River, BZ Corners or Washougal to dispose of their garbage.

Public Works staff recommended scenario # 1 to the Board of County Commissioners as being the best choice for all users. We want to encourage all users to continue to recycle but combine your loads with garbage and recycled products. In doing this, you will only pay the maximum user fee of \$5.00.

Please do not take your frustrations out on the employees at the facilities. They are following guidelines set by Public Works in an attempt to keep our transfer stations alive.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Public Works Office at any of the following phone numbers:

West (360) 837- 2888

Central (509) 427-3910

East (509) 538-2888