

Rate Adjustment Frequently Asked Questions

Answers to frequently asked questions are provided below. If you have additional questions about the rate adjustment that is not provided, contact customer service at: 206-206-296-4692* or 1-888-869-4233 for more information.

1. What is the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program?

The Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County (LHWMP) is a regional partnership established to protect public health and the environment. The Program focus is to reduce exposure risks to hazardous materials, products and wastes, at home and at work. The Program is implemented through a multi-jurisdictional Management Coordination Committee (MCC) and is recognized as the Program governing entity by the Washington State Department of Ecology.

2. How is the program funded?

The Program is funded by Local Hazardous Waste (LHW) fees on solid waste and sewer services in King County. Residents and businesses pay fees based on their garbage and sewer use. LHW fees are also charged for each trip to a solid waste transfer station or landfill.

LHW fees are set by the King County Board of Health (BOH) and are used to pay for Program services to reduce the use of and exposure to hazardous products, materials, chemicals and wastes.

In June, 2018 the King County Board of Health (BOH) adopted new four year rates for the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program.

3. What services does LHWMP provide?

We provide services to 2.1 million residents and over 60,000 business in King County focused on prevention, policy and collection.

Prevention. Reduced exposures to toxic materials, at home and at work, through awareness of using less toxic products and proper management and disposal of hazardous materials.

Policy. Creating systems change in the production, use and disposal of hazardous materials to help ensure chemicals and products that are safe for people and for our environment.

Rate Adjustment Frequently Asked Questions

Collection. Safe and convenient disposal of hazardous materials through ongoing disposal services, mobile collection events and in-home collection services for residents age 65+ and for residents with a disability.

4. What programs and services are provided to residents?

Reduced exposure risk. The Program provides information to increase awareness of hazardous materials and ways to prevent exposure to hazardous materials in your home and yard, such as using less toxic products, proper storage and proper disposal.

Customer service. Residents can call or e-mail the Household Hazardous Line and the Garden Hotline with your questions about hazardous materials, how to dispose of what is no longer needed and information about using less hazardous alternatives.

Collection and disposal. Regardless of where you live in King County you can bring your household hazardous waste to one of our household hazardous waste collection facilities (in Auburn, Factoria, North Seattle and South Seattle) or our traveling Wastemobile. Residents age 65 and older and residents with a disability can call the Home Collection Team for in-home collection and disposal of hazardous materials.

Policy change. Creating change through product stewardship, such as the Secure Medicine Return. The program provides safe collection and disposal of unwanted medicines, keeping them out of the environment and reducing access for misuse and preventable poisonings.

Education and collection programs. Provided by grants to cities and tribes.

5. What programs and services are provided to businesses?

Technical assistance. On-site consultations to help improve business practices and regulatory compliance that are available upon request to businesses throughout King County.

Cost share for small business improvements. The Financial Incentives Program offers qualified small businesses matching funds, up to \$599, for business improvements that protect the environment and public health. Through this program businesses have purchased or repaired equipment, purchased spill control and containment and disposed of hazardous waste.

EnviroStars green business recognition program. EnviroStars certified businesses are recognized for taking action to protect the environment and employee health and

Rate Adjustment Frequently Asked Questions

safety. EnviroStars businesses use less toxic chemicals and follow business practices that reduce environmental impacts.

Customer call center. Businesses can call or e-mail the Business Waste Line with questions about hazardous materials, how to dispose of what is no longer needed and information about technical assistance, financial assistance and using less hazardous alternatives.

Collection services. Businesses that generate small quantities of hazardous waste can use LHWMP's collection facilities and the traveling Wastemobile. Businesses with larger quantities of hazardous waste are referred to commercial disposal companies.

6. Why is there a need to increase the current rates?

A rate increase is needed to keep up with increased costs of providing local hazardous waste services. Overall rates were last adjusted in 2012.

The number of people living in King County continues to grow in number and diversity. This places more demand on Program services.

The cost of providing services continues increases due to grow with inflation, labor-related costs and moderate risk waste operational costs. Collection costs also are increasing with additional demand for services.

7. Who will be affected by the rate change?

This rate change will affect all King County residents and businesses with garbage and sewer accounts. It also affects those who self-haul garbage to a transfer station, and the billing entities that collect the fees that they pay into the Local Hazardous Waste fund.

8. When will rates change?

The new rates will take effect beginning January 1, 2019. The rates will change each year through 2022.

Rate Adjustment Frequently Asked Questions

9. What are the new rates residents and businesses will pay?

Table showing new rates starting January 1, 2019.

LOCAL HAZARDOUS WASTE RATES 2019 - 2022						
RATE CATEGORY		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
		<i>(past rate)</i>				
WASTEWATER FEE	(per 1 million gallons)	\$45.79	\$48.26	\$50.87	\$53.62	\$56.51
TRANSFER STATION FEE						
Private Vehicle	(per trip)	\$ 1.81	\$ 1.91	\$ 2.01	\$ 2.12	\$ 2.23
Commercial Vehicle	(per ton)	\$ 4.73	\$ 4.99	\$ 5.25	\$ 5.54	\$ 5.84
SOLID WASTE FEE						
Single-Family Residential	(curbside/mo)	\$ 0.84	\$ 0.89	\$ 0.93	\$ 0.98	\$ 1.04
Commercial Cart	(<0.48 cu. yds./mo)	\$ 1.46	\$ 1.54	\$ 1.62	\$ 1.71	\$ 1.80
Commercial Dumpster	(>0.48 to <10 cu. yds./mo)	\$12.01	\$12.66	\$13.34	\$14.06	\$14.82
Commercial Roll-Off	(>10 cu. yds/mo)	\$46.15	\$48.64	\$51.27	\$54.04	\$56.96

10. Will fees change for recycling, composting, or yard waste services?

No, the Local Hazardous Waste fee is not charged for recycling, composting or yard waste services.

*Interpreters available. Please be patient while we locate an interpreter.