

RECYCLING RATES REQUEST



December 18, 2018

Clark County Public Health – SWEO

Proposal

- Waste Connections has requested implementation of an additional charge for residential curbside recycling to address the increased cost to sort and market materials. Clark County Solid Waste is requesting approval to negotiate this increase with Waste Connections.
- The additional charge will vary across Clark County for residents

Recycling challenges

Started with China's restrictions...

- ❑ Campaigns to reduce amount of incoming contaminated recyclables
- ❑ Push to clean up environment and focus on domestic materials
- ❑ Domestic and other international recycling markets have been overwhelmed with an increase in demand
- ❑ Recycling markets still stabilizing

...combined with public awareness.

- ❑ When in doubt, people tend to use the recycling bin
- ❑ Recycling program has not changed, but materials coming into homes have
- ❑ Recycling has historically cost less than garbage

Impacts

Higher costs to process/sort materials

- ❑ Slower sort lines – fewer tons per hour
- ❑ Increased staffing – higher costs per ton
- ❑ Increased transportation costs to markets
- ❑ New markets more strict, pay less

Short term focus

- ❑ Maintain program consistency
- ❑ Sort out as much contamination as possible

Long term

- ❑ Revise and rethink system and find improvements
- ❑ Find new ways to connect with residents

Statewide recycling cost adjustments

County	Increase Per home/month
Spokane	\$2.06 – 2.65
Thurston	\$2.56 – 3.64
Snohomish	\$2.47 – 5.26
Pierce	\$3.30 – 4.34
Whitman	\$1.59
King	\$0.62 – 2.49



Next steps

- Regional System Study
 - Deeper financial analysis
 - Identifying improvements and efficiencies
- Outreach and education
 - Recyclersonly.com and Green Neighbors blog
 - Curbside education
 - Additional data collection
- Contracts
 - Residential Recycling
 - Transportation and Disposal



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