

Jefferson County
Board of Commissioners
Agenda Request

To: Board of Commissioners
Mark McCauley, County Administrator

From: Monte Reinders, Public Works Director/County Engineer 

Agenda Date: May 13, 2024

Subject: Solid Waste Program Update

Statement of Issue: On November 2, 2023, revisions to the solid waste fee schedule became effective and a Low-Income Discount (LID) was launched. The minimum fee was set at slightly less than the Western Washington regional average with the intention to reduce congestion issues at the transfer station by encouraging fewer self-haul visits or curbside collection service by subscription. The Low-Income Discount program was started to lessen the impact of the new minimum fee on qualifying customers.

Staff now has 6 months of data to compare to the same period from the previous years and would like to review the impact of the revised minimum fee on reducing small load self-haul customer counts and the participation rate for the LID program.

Staff would also like to review the results of a recent customer survey that provides insight into who our self-haul customers are, why they visit the transfer station, their disposition toward the new minimum fee, and at what price point they would visit less frequently or subscribe for curbside service instead.

Analysis/Strategic Goals/Pro's & Con's: N/A

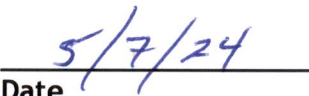
Fiscal Impact/Cost Benefit Analysis: N/A, briefing only

Recommendation: No action requested. Workshop is for information sharing only.

Department Contact: Al Cairns X213

Reviewed By:


Mark McCauley, County Administrator


Date

STATE OF WASHINGTON

County of Jefferson

A Resolution Adopting a Low-Income Minimum Fee Discount Pilot Program for the Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Division

RESOLUTION NO. 31 23

WHEREAS, Jefferson County is a political subdivision of the state of Washington as provided by Title 36 RCW and the Washington State Constitution Article 11, and may impose fees to recoup the costs of providing services to the public; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners may impose fees charged by the Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Division (“Solid Waste Division”) to implement the code and statutory duties; and,

WHEREAS, JCC 3.80.020 authorizes the Solid Waste Division to request adoption of its fee schedule by resolution; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners adopted a revised Solid Waste fee schedule by resolution on July 3rd, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the adjustment to the minimum fee may negatively impact low income residents and discourage proper solid waste disposal, and

WHEREAS, a low-income discount for qualifying residential self-haul minimum fee customers would address this impact; and

WHEREAS, the City of Port Townsend has requested that a low-income discount be applied to residential self-haul minimum fee yard debris customers; and

WHEREAS, State issued forms of identification such as Electronic Benefits Transfer, Apple Health, and Provider One cards could be used to determine low-income minimum fee discount eligibility,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY:

- 1) Upon proof of eligibility by showing a form of identification approved by the Public Works Director, a residential minimum fee self-haul customer shall be charged at the rate of 50% of the minimum fee to include disposal of municipal solid waste, yard debris and one refrigerated appliance per transaction.
- 2) Public Works shall advertise the availability of the low-income minimum fee discount to local and State agencies that provide services to low-income residents.
- 3) Public Works shall track the number of customers charged at the low-income minimum fee discount rate for a period of six (6) months and report these findings to the Board of County Commissioners.

(SIGNATURES FOLLOW ON THE NEXT PAGE)

APPROVED and ADOPTED this 7th day of August, 2023.

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

Approved Telephonically

Greg Brotherton, Chair

KD

Kate Dean, Member

Heidi Eisenhour

Heidi Eisenhour, Member

SEAL:



ATTEST:

Carolyn Gallaway 8/7/23

Carolyn Gallaway Date
Clerk of the Board

Approved as to form only:

P. C. Hunsucker

Philip C. Hunsucker Date
Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney



Jefferson County
Board of Commissioners
Agenda Request

To: Board of Commissioners
Mark McCauley, County Administrator

From: Monte Reinders, Public Works Director/County Engineer 

Agenda Date: August 7, 2023

Subject: Solid Waste Division Minimum Fee Low-Income Discount

Statement of Issue: The Board of County Commissioners adopted a new fee schedule for the Jefferson County Department of Public Works Solid Waste Division on July 3rd, 2023 which included a rate adjustment for the minimum charge for all transactions at the transfer station and a minimum charge at the Quilcene rural drop box for up to two each thirty-two (32) gallon containers. Staff were asked to consider implementing a low-income discount rate to address the potential negative effect of the minimum charge on low-income residents.

Analysis/Strategic Goals/Pro's & Con's: Staff found one other low-income discount rate in King County and has modeled a program based on discussions with staff from King County, the City of Port Townsend, Olympic Community Action Programs, and the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services. A low-income discount rate for residential self-haul minimum fee customers could be implemented as part of the new fee schedule on September 4, 2023.

Fiscal Impact/Cost Benefit Analysis:

The financial impact and cost benefit analysis will not be known until at least six months after implementation in order to draw from sufficient data.

Recommendation:

Public Works recommends adoption of the attached Resolution and scheduling a workshop with the Board of County Commissioners in February, 2024 to report on the financial impact and cost benefit analysis. Staff recommends waiting until after a six month review of the low-income discount program to consider including the low-income discount fee in a revised fee schedule.

Department Contact: Al Cairns X213

Reviewed By:


Mark McCauley, County Administrator

8/1/23
Date

JEFFERSON
COUNTY
SOLID WASTE
PROGRAM
UPDATE

2023 Solid Waste Fee Revisions

WHY DID FEES INCREASE?

To reduce congestion and cover costs



2023 Solid Waste Fee Revisions

Two types of fees at transfer stations and drop boxes across the State:

1. Minimum Fee

2. Per Ton Fee

2023 Solid Waste Fee Revisions

Minimum Fee

Used to control customer demand (number of transactions)

2023 Solid Waste Fee Revisions

Per Ton Fee

Used to generate revenue necessary for
providing services



Unincorporated Jefferson County Curbside Collection Participation

Source: Assessors Office; Waste Connections

Total Housing Units in Service Area	12,162
# of Subscribing Customers (MSW Only)	4,691
# of Subscribing Customers (MSW + Recycling)	898
% of Eligible Customers Subscribed (MSW Only)	39%
% of Eligible Customers Subscribed (MSW + Recycling)	7%





2023 Solid Waste Fee Revisions

2014 = \$10 minimum fee

2023 = \$20 minimum fee



2023 Solid Waste Fee Revisions

2019 = \$162.93 per ton fee

2023 = \$167.00 per ton fee

Solid Waste Programs

- **Transfer Station and Quilcene Rural Drop Box**
 - **Environmental Centers**
 - **Sharps Collection**
 - **Recycling**
 - **Solid Waste Education**
 - **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events**
 - **Closed Landfill Groundwater Monitoring**
-



Low-Income Discount Program

Modeled after King County program

**Jefferson County
Solid Waste**

LOW INCOME PROGRAM

Qualified low-income customers
can save 50% at Solid Waste facilities!

Show your EBT, Apple Health, or
ProviderOne card and matching
ID to the attendant when asked
for payment.



EBT Apple Health ProviderOne

BENEFIT

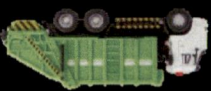
50% off the minimum fee for all
transaction types

Available at the
Transfer Station and Quilcene Drop Box.

Not available to businesses.

www.jeffersoncountysolidwaste.com
@Instagram: @JEFFCOPUBLICWORKS_WA

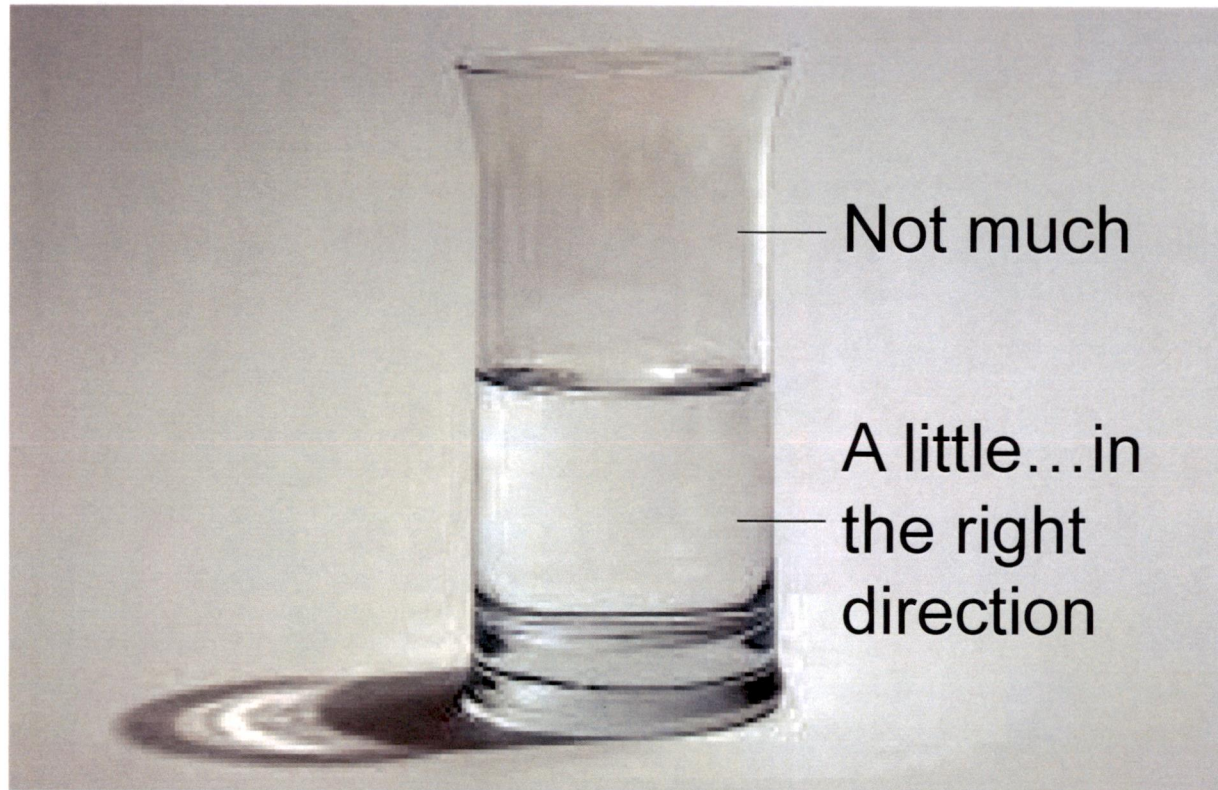
MORE



LESS



IS THE MINIMUM FEE WORKING?

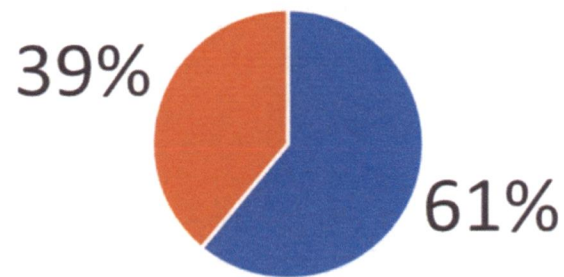


— Not much

— A little...in
the right
direction

BEFORE MINIMUM FEE INCREASE

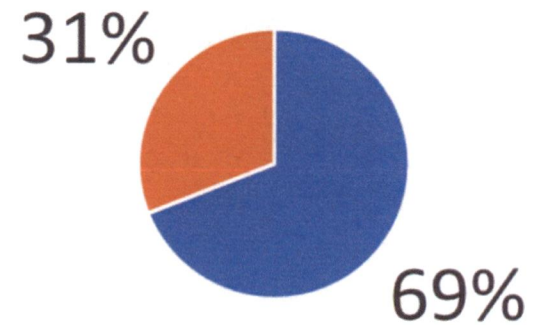
Solid Waste Transaction Types:
November 2022 - April 2023



■ More than 120 Pounds ■ Less than 120 Pounds

AFTER MINIMUM FEE INCREASE

Solid Waste Transaction Types:
November 2023 - April 2024



■ More than 120 Pounds ■ Less than 120 Pounds

Source: Paradigm Scale Software

IS THE PER TON FEE WORKING?



2024

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<https://www.vertex42.com/calendars/2024.html>

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5.8%

Profit Margin

Source: Q1 Solid Waste Budget Spending Plan



Jefferson County Solid Waste

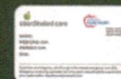
LOW INCOME PROGRAM

Qualified low-income customers
can save 50% at Solid Waste facilities!

Show your EBT, Apple Health, or
ProviderOne card and matching
ID to the attendant when asked
for payment.



EBT



Apple Health



ProviderOne

BENEFIT

50% off the minimum fee for all
transaction types

Available at the
Transfer Station and Quilcene Drop Box.

Not available to businesses.



www.jeffersoncountysolidwaste.com

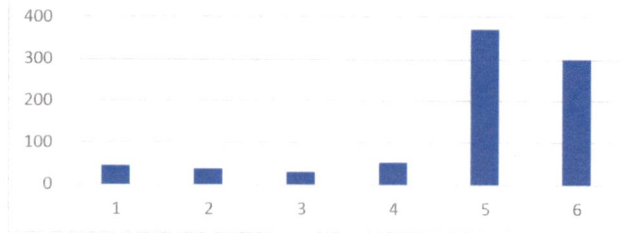
@Instagram @JEFFCOPUBLICWORKS_WA

6 MONTH LOW INCOME DISCOUNT PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

SOLID WASTE CUSTOMERS

Month/Year	Customer Count	LID Fee	Non-LID Fee	Total Discount
November, 2023	45	\$10	\$20	\$ 450
December, 2023	38	\$10	\$20	\$ 380
January, 2024	31	\$10	\$20	\$ 310
February, 2024	55	\$10	\$20	\$ 550
March, 2024	372	\$10	\$20	\$ 3,720
April, 2024	300	\$10	\$20	\$ 3,000
Totals	841			\$ 8,410

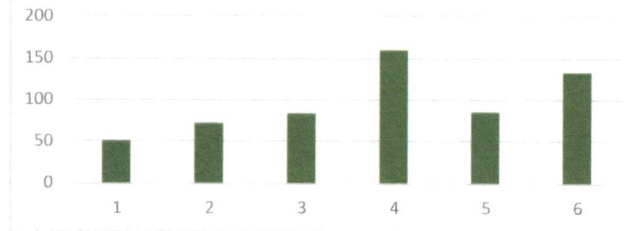
SOLID WASTE LID CUSTOMER USE



YARD DEBRIS CUSTOMERS

Month/Year	Customer Count	LID Fee	Non-LID Fee	Total Discount
November, 2023	51	\$10	\$20	\$ 510
December, 2023	72	\$10	\$20	\$ 720
January, 2024	83	\$10	\$20	\$ 830
February, 2024	160	\$10	\$20	\$ 1,600
March, 2024	86	\$10	\$20	\$ 860
April, 2024	133	\$10	\$20	\$ 1,330
Totals	585			\$ 5,850

YARD DEBRIS LID CUSTOMER USE



Source: Paradigm Scale Software

LOW-INCOME DISCOUNT PROGRAM FORECASTED ANNUAL COST

November - March Monthly Average

Customer Type	Count		Discount
Solid Waste	140	\$	1,402
Yard Debris	98	\$	975
Totals	238	\$	2,377

Annual Forecast Based on 6 Month Average

Customer Type	Count		Discount
Solid Waste	1682	\$	16,820
Yard Debris	1,170	\$	11,700
Totals	2,852	\$	28,520.00

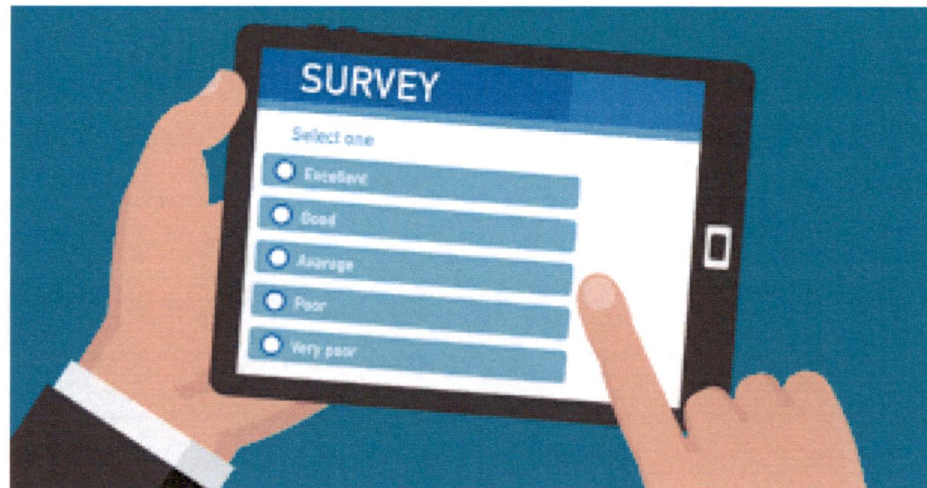


LOW-INCOME DISCOUNT: A-

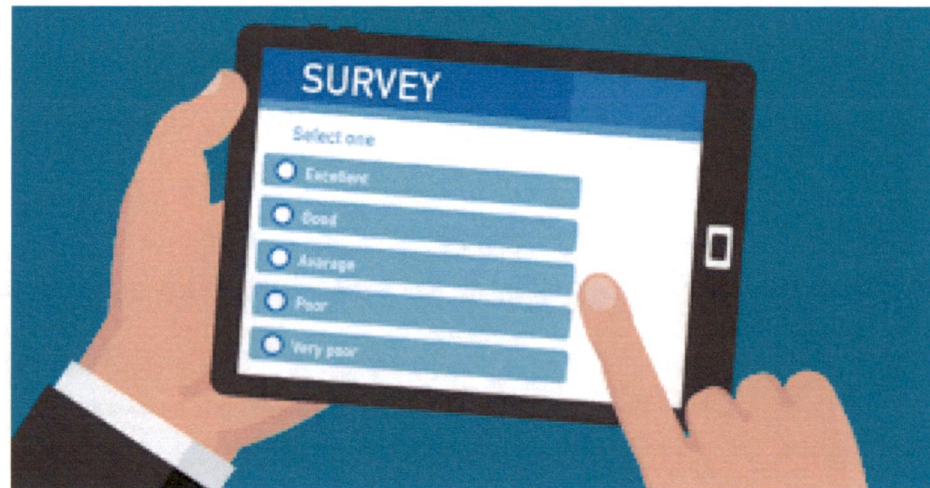
PER TON FEE: B-

MINIMUM FEE: C-

WHY IS THE MINIMUM FEE HAVING LIMITED EFFECT?



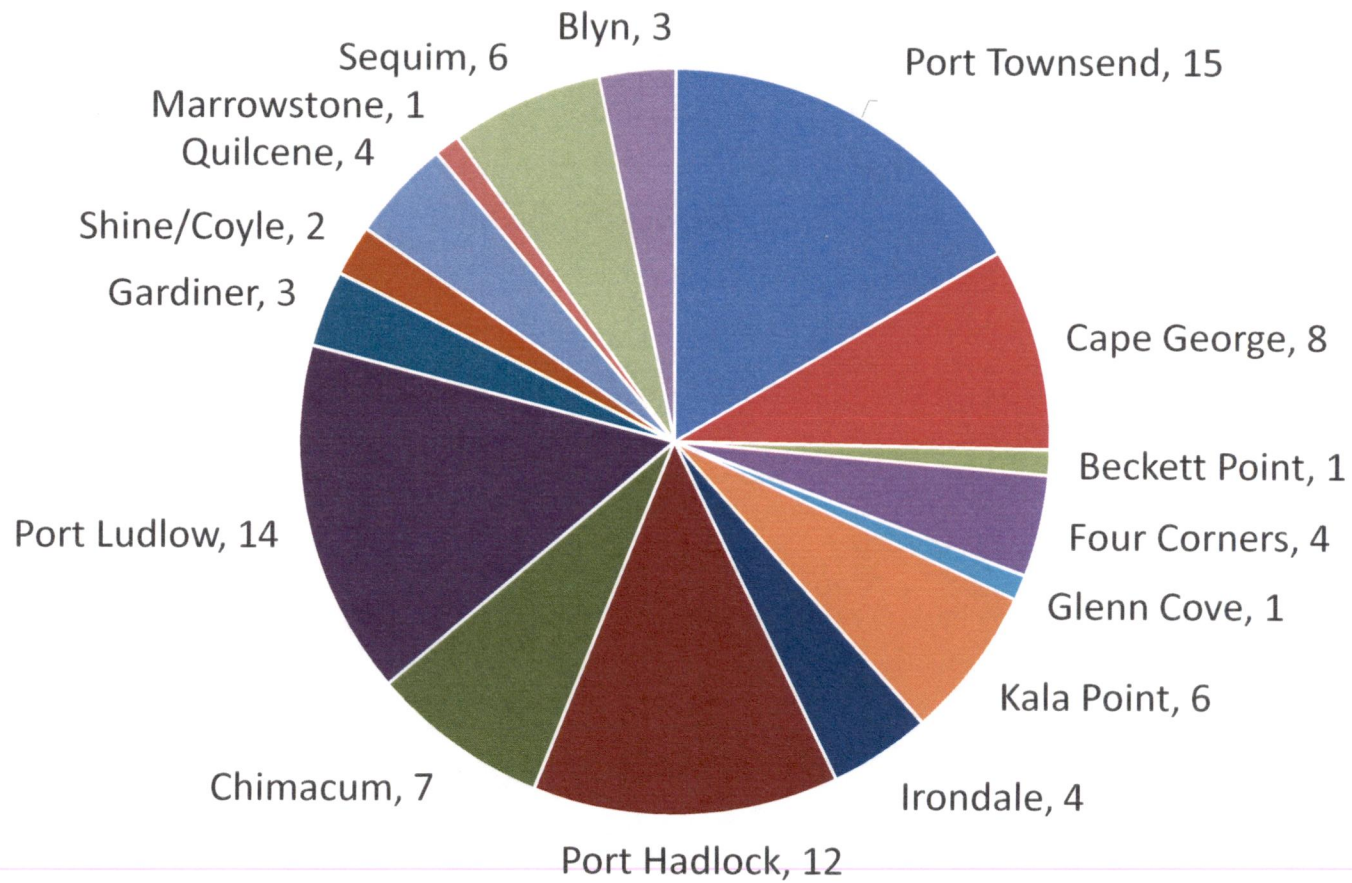
6 Days
March 12, 13, 19, 21, 22, 23
91 Customers



SOLID WASTE CUSTOMER SURVEY				
Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Time:				
Minimum Weight Customer?		Yes No		
Did you haul your own residential waste or business waste?	Residential	Business		
Do you live inside the Port Townsend city limits?	Yes	No		
If "no": Where do you live?	Cape George/Beckett Point	Four Corners		
	Kala Point	Irondale		
	Port Hadlock	Chimacum		
	Port Ludlow	Shine/Coyle		
	Gardiner	Discovery		
	Quilcene	Brinnon		
	Marrowstone			
	Not Given			
	Out of County			
Did you know that curbside garbage and recycling collection is available to all county residents?	Yes	No		
Would you subscribe for curbside collection if it cost less than \$30 a month?	Yes	No		
Is the current minimum fee at this facility too high?	Yes	No		
What would the minimum fee need to be for you to make fewer trips here or use curbside collection service?	\$25 \$50	\$30 \$75	\$35 \$100	\$40
COMMENTS:				

- How many were minimum weight customers
- Split between residential or business
- Where the material is coming from
- Awareness of curbside service option
- Interest in curbside service
- Disposition toward new minimum fee
- Price point for service type choice making
- Comments

CUSTOMER DISTRIBUTION



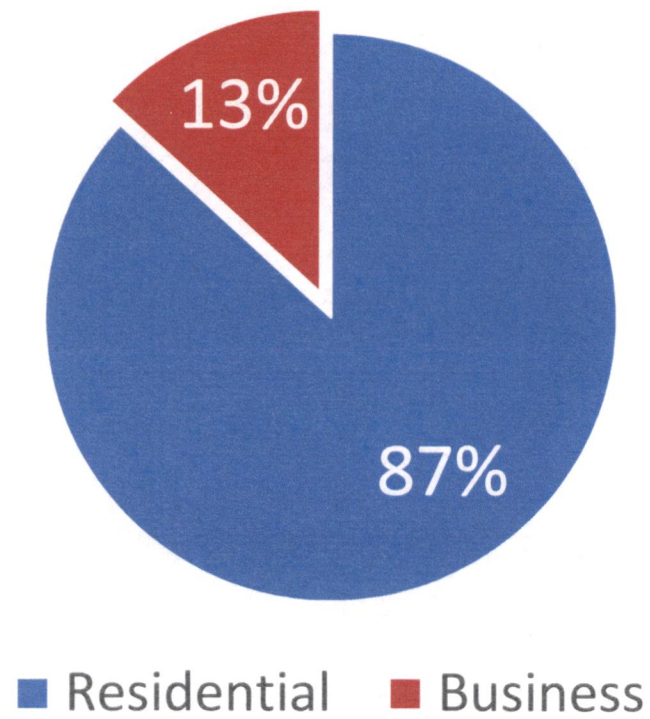


Minimum Weight
Customers
(less than 240 lbs.)

41%



Business to Residential Split

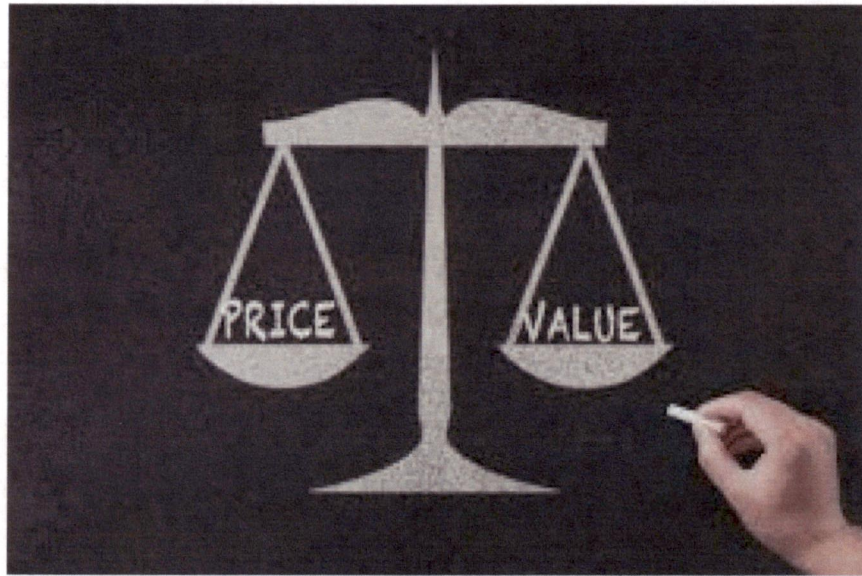




53% of
customers
knew about
curbside
options



32% of
customers
would choose
curbside if it
cost less than
\$30 per month



34% of
customers said
the new
minimum fee
is too high

“What would the minimum fee need to be before you came here less frequently or ordered curbside service instead?”





\$31.07

Customer Comments



COMMENTS

On why they are there...

Easier to come to transfer station with remodel jobs (as opposed to ordering a dumpster)

Only come once a month with more than 240 lbs. (Manager's note: it was less)

Way cheaper than Blue Mountain or Port Angeles and nicer place and people

Curbside requires scheduling - the more adult me could do that

I'm bored so I like coming here; wife likes that I have something to do

COMMENTS

On the fees...

\$20 min. is perfect; hates coming here because of long lines

Should be \$10 min. fee like it was

\$40 is still cheaper than Port Angeles

Fee can't go higher or people will just dump in the woods

It should be free - it's a human right



COMMENTS

Business advice...

Didn't know curbside was that cheap. Raise the fee and I'll get it.

Min. fee should be whatever curbside costs

Min. fee has to be way more than the convenience of coming whenever

Will go back to curbside service when the min. fee is the same

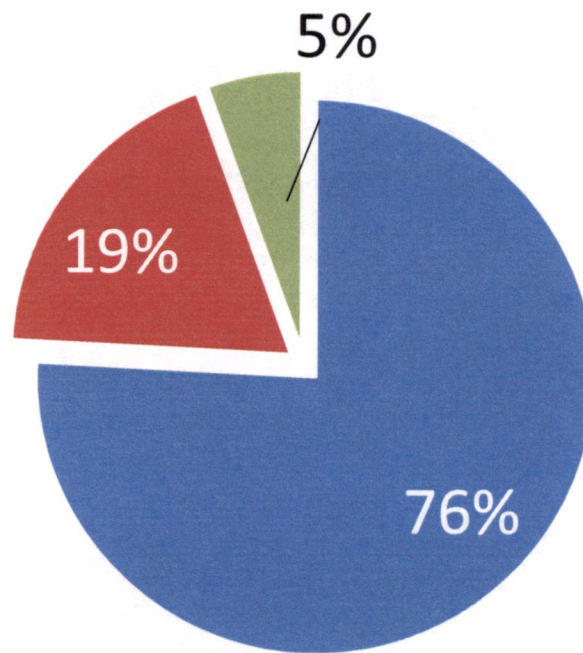
You should be open 7 days per week so that you don't need as many workers



QUESTIONS

?

Generational Distribution



■ Baby Boomer +

■ Gen X

■ Gen Y