



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Public Works
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3800
www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

MEMORANDUM

To: David Ramsay, City Manager

From: Elaine Borjeson, Solid Waste Coordinator
Daryl Grigsby, Public Works Director

Date: May 16, 2006

Subject: INFORMATION ON KIRKLAND CLEAN UP DAY

This report provides preliminary information for a Kirkland Clean Up Day wherein single family residents will be able to place bulky materials at the curb for collection instead of hauling the items directly to a recycling event or transfer station. The purpose of the project is to provide this service for those unable to haul the materials to a transfer station and to encourage the clean up of Kirkland neighborhoods.

Similar Events in Other Cities: The neighboring cities of Renton and Auburn provide this service to single family residents through Waste Management which is the same solid waste hauler contracted by the City of Kirkland. The collection method and cost for the bulky waste event in these two cities vary significantly.

Renton hosted their first bulky waste collection event last year for all single family residents in the city service area. "Clean Sweep Renton" was a one-day-only event and cost approximately \$106,000. Auburn has held similar programs for more than twelve years with each event lasting two weeks and costing the city approximately \$25,000. The considerable difference in the price of the two events is because Auburn's solid waste collection contract with Waste Management designates that bulky waste shall be collected from all single family residential customers within the city service area at no additional charge once each year. The City of Auburn pays the garbage disposal fees for the increased tonnage taken to the transfer station during the event but does not pay the cost of collecting the materials. Table 1 provides a comparison of the tonnage and duration of the events in Auburn and Renton:

Table 1: Comparison of Bulky Waste Collection Tonnage/Duration -Cities of Auburn & Renton

Bulky Waste Collection Event	Cost	Population	Event Duration	Tonnage Collected	Event included in Solid Waste Collection Contract
Auburn	\$ 25,000	45,010	2 weeks	189	Yes
Renton	\$106,000	53,840	1 day	265	No

Renton's bulky waste collection event was timed to follow several spring recycling programs to ensure that residents had ample opportunities to recycle appropriate items first rather than dispose of them at the

curb. Renton concluded that the expense would be too great to try to sort and capture recyclable materials at the curb during the day of the event. The only exception to collecting recyclables was for large appliances which were picked up by appointment only using a separate vehicle. A brochure was mailed to all single family residents in advance describing the “Clean Sweep Renton” program and listing both items that would be accepted and *not* accepted. The event was popular, and Renton will hold a similar event again this summer.

The City of Auburn promotes their “Spring Clean Up” through a newsletter mailed directly to residents’ homes and the City website. The event takes two weeks in Auburn during which they divide the City in half and collect extra materials on a customer’s regular collection day during the appropriate week. Only non-recyclable, non-reusable, non-hazardous household items are accepted. All informational material directs customers to appropriate recyclers for items that should not be left at the curb. Like Renton’s program, large appliances are collected and recycled during the event (about 400 in an average year). Spring Clean Up is very popular in Auburn, and the ongoing event is a regularly budgeted item. Table 2 lists the items that are accepted and not accepted in Auburn and Renton during the curbside programs.

Table 2: Items Accepted and Not Accepted at Bulky Waste Event in Auburn and Renton

Items Collected at Curb During Bulky Waste Event	Auburn	Renton
Furniture	Yes	Yes
Carpet	Yes	Yes
Toys, bikes, skateboards	Yes	Yes
Styrofoam packaging blocks	Yes	Yes
Dishes, pots, pans, small appliances	Yes	Yes
Remodeling waste (wood, drywall, flooring, window frames)	No	Yes
Concrete	No	No
Tools, garden equipment, flower pots	Yes	Yes
Scrap metal (less than 65 lbs)	No	Yes
Toilets	Yes	No
Cameras and equipment	Yes	No
Lawn mowers, BBQs	Yes	No
Electronics (computers, monitors, TVs, etc.)	No	No
Automotive parts, engines, batteries	No	No
Household garbage	No	No
Yard waste	No	No
Tires	No	No
Household Hazardous Waste	No	No

Preliminary Cost Estimate for Kirkland Event: Kirkland does not have language in the City’s solid waste contract requiring a bulky waste event at no additional charge, therefore the cost of such an event would be based on Waste Management’s collection rates. The rates for the one-day program are as follows (subject to a Consumer Price Index adjustment if the event occurs later than 2006):

- \$145.00 per truck hour (includes truck, two drivers to handle bulky waste, support staff)

- \$ 64.60 per labor hour if needed to meet a contractual minimum eight hour guarantee to drivers
- \$ 97.00 per hour for a separate vehicle for appliance collection

These fees do not include the following costs:

- \$82.50 per ton disposal fee at the transfer station
- Costs of publicizing the event (direct mail brochure, newspaper notice, etc.)

Waste Management estimates it will take approximately 50 trucks to complete a one-day collection event in Kirkland (60 trucks were used for Renton's event). Preliminary cost estimates are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Preliminary Cost Estimate for One Day Bulky Waste Collection Event in Kirkland

50 Trucks	220 tons of waste*	11,000 Brochures	Appliance Truck	Total
\$145/hr for 8 hrs	\$82.50/ton	Printed/mailed	\$97/hr for 83 hrs**	
\$58,000	\$18,150	\$5,500	\$8,051	\$89,701

*Estimate based on tonnage collected in Renton (83% of Renton tonnage)

**Estimate based on hours of appliance collection during Renton event

These cost estimates **do not** include fees for the minimum hours guarantee to drivers working less than eight hours, charges for returning for missed pick-ups and taxes. The total for these additional charges for Renton's event was more than \$11,000.

Other considerations: In order to conform to the policy goals of King County's Final 2001 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (approved and adopted by the City of Kirkland), the program must be organized in a manner that discourages the disposal of recyclable materials. This can be accomplished by timing the event to follow recycling collection events and publishing lists of appropriate recyclers in the notification brochure.

Bulky waste collection events can be potential opportunities for scavenging and illegal dumping. There is evidence from other jurisdictions that these activities occur but not to the extent that either city plans to curtail the program.

Conclusion: Bulky waste collection events are popular with the public, and a high volume of waste is collected in a short amount of time. The events are expensive and the preliminary cost estimate for a Kirkland event represents 3.2% of the yearly revenue of single family collection fees in the solid waste utility fund.