



ORDINANCE NO. 29088

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to solid waste services; amending Chapter 12.09 of
2 the Municipal Code, relating to Solid Waste, Recycling, and Hazardous
3 Waste, by amending various sections to allow for the collection and safe
4 disposal of hazardous materials from specific commercial customers and
5 residents, effective January 1, 2026.

6 WHEREAS the Tacoma Recovery and Transfer Center has a Household
7 Hazardous Waste ("HHW") facility for residents of the City and Pierce County,
8 and these HHW services are currently funded in part by residential garbage rates
9 as well as interlocal agreements with Pierce County, and

10 WHEREAS Small Quantity Generators ("SQG") are businesses which
11 produce small amounts of hazardous material, and such businesses in the City
12 face a service gap when attempting to dispose of their hazardous waste, and

13 WHEREAS the private vendors who once served these customers no
14 longer offer affordable quarterly events for SQGs to dispose of their material, and
15 the City's HHW facility does not accept hazardous waste from small businesses
16 due to operational and regulatory constraints; this leaves SQGs with limited
17 options since contracting directly with private vendors is cost prohibitive unless
18 large quantities of hazardous material are being disposed, and

19 WHEREAS the adopted 2025-2026 Biennial Budget included a pilot project
20 to provide services to SQGs focusing on a variety of business types and
21 representing all areas of the City, and

22 WHEREAS this pilot project will begin by working directly with commercial
23 customers in classifying the hazardous materials they produce before offering
24 them an avenue to properly dispose that waste, and the intention of the program
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26



1 is to prevent pollution and ensure public health by preventing improper disposal
2 of hazardous waste, and

3 WHEREAS the proposed amendments to Chapter 12.09 would enable
4 the department to collect, dispose of, and charge for hazardous waste from
5 commercial entities which currently lack access to economically feasible options
6 for safe disposal, and for specific materials from residents that are not currently
7 accepted for disposal in the City, and
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9 WHEREAS materials such as ammunition, vape pens, and marine flares,
10 are not currently accepted from residents at the HHW facility due to regulatory
11 handling requirements and prohibitive costs, and this pilot would also include
12 fee-based services to allow for residents to dispose of these specific material
13 types, and
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15 WHEREAS establishing a pilot project to collect hazardous materials from
16 SGQs would prevent environmental contamination and ensure public health by
17 providing a viable alternative to indefinite storage or improper disposal of
18 hazardous waste; Now, Therefore,
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20 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TACOMA:

21 Section 1. That the City Council hereby adopts the Recitals of this
22 Ordinance as its formal legislative findings.
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24 Section 2. That Chapter 12.09 of the Municipal Code, entitled "Solid Waste,
25 Recycling, and Hazardous Waste," is hereby amended, by amending various
26 sections, as set forth in the attached Exhibit "A," effective January 1, 2026.



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Section 3. That the City Clerk, in consultation with the City Attorney, is authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance and Exhibit "A," including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's/clerical errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers, and any references thereto.

Passed _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Deputy City Attorney

EXHIBIT “A”

CHAPTER 12.09

SOLID WASTE, RECYCLING, AND HAZARDOUS WASTE

Sections:

- 12.09.010 Purpose.
- 12.09.020 Authority.
- 12.09.030 Definitions.
- 12.09.040 General requirements.
- 12.09.050 Transportation.
- 12.09.060 Requirements for containers.
- 12.09.070 Special permits.
- 12.09.080 Assistance to elderly and/or disabled individuals.
- 12.09.090 Rate reduction for low-income senior and low-income disabled individuals.
- 12.09.092 Authority to allow residential or commercial service.
- 12.09.095 Disposal rate reduction for qualifying nonprofit materials salvage/recycling corporation(s).
- 12.09.100 Collection.
- 12.09.105 [Collection](#) Pilot Projects.
- 12.09.110 Residential automated and semi-automated services.
- 12.09.120 Commercial services.
- 12.09.130 Use of Recovery and Transfer Center Facility (disposal site) – General.
- 12.09.140 Disposal rates.
- 12.09.150 *Repealed.*
- 12.09.160 Billing periods, payments and collections.
- 12.09.170 Disposal area automated scale system cards.
- 12.09.180 State tax.
- 12.09.190 Prohibited material.

* * *

12.09.105 [Collection](#) Pilot Projects.

The Director may alter the frequency of residential solid waste collection required under TMC 12.09.100 from time to time, in certain areas of the City, as part of a pilot project to evaluate more efficient and sustainable solid waste collection services.

* * *

12.09.140 Disposal rates.

[A.](#) All rates are based on 100-pound increments. (Any fraction of 100 pounds will be billed as 100 pounds.)

1. Solid waste generated within a private resident’s home or yard, not including material from:

Pounds per load	Within City of Tacoma		Outside City of Tacoma	
	2025	2026	2025	2026
0 - 400	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$8.50 per 100 pounds - minimum charge \$40.00	\$8.50 per 100 pounds - minimum charge 40.00
Disposals of more than 400 pounds	\$7.25 per each 100 pounds exceeding the initial 400-pound load	\$7.25 per each 100 pounds exceeding the initial 400-pound load	\$8.50 per each 100 pounds exceeding the initial 400-pound load	\$8.50 per each 100 pounds exceeding the initial 400-pound load

To qualify for these disposal rates, City residents must present proper documentation in a form that satisfies the requirements of TMC 12.09.130.

2. There shall be no charge for City residential yard waste that is properly prepared and sorted and hauled to the City's public disposal area by the homeowner. This shall apply only to loads consisting of 100 percent yard waste (vegetation). To qualify for this service at no charge, the customer must present at the time of disposal documentation that satisfies the requirements of TMC 12.09.130.B.

3. All material, except Item 1 above:

Pounds per load	
2025	2026
\$8.50 per 100 pounds; minimum charge of \$40.00	\$8.50 per 100 pounds; minimum charge of \$40.00

4. Material from nonprofit corporations qualifying under Section 12.09.140.BC:

Pounds per load	
2025	2026
\$4.25 per 100 pounds; minimum charge of \$40.00	\$4.25 per 100 pounds; minimum charge of \$40.00

5. Special handling:

a. A minimum special handling fee of \$100.00 will be charged per load, plus tonnage charges, unless otherwise specified.

b. Other special handling fees shall be applied as follows:

Material from:

	Within City of Tacoma	Outside City of Tacoma
Asbestos	\$20.00 minimum plus \$150.00 per ton	Not accepted
(Refer to Section 12.09.200, Disposal of asbestos-containing material)		
Appliances with compressors	\$20 each plus tonnage	\$40 each plus tonnage
Tires –		
Passenger Cars and light trucks	\$3.25 each plus tonnage	\$6.75 each plus tonnage
On rims	\$6.75 each plus tonnage	\$13.00 each plus tonnage
Larger than 10:00 x 20	\$16.50 each plus tonnage	\$33.00 each plus tonnage
No large tires accepted on rims		
Large furniture	\$11.00 for the first 4 pieces, plus \$11.00 for each additional, plus tonnage	\$40.00 for the first 4 pieces, plus \$11.00 for each additional, plus tonnage
Special handling fees shall not be limited to the items specified above.		

c. All of the above rates are based on one-half hour unloading time. When unloading time exceeds one-half hour, an additional fee of \$12.25 for each additional one-half hour or part thereof will be assessed. Time shall be determined by the automated scale system.

d. Any vehicle still being unloaded past closing time may be assessed an additional fee.

e. Every person with waste material that requires special handling shall pay such additional fees as will fairly compensate Solid Waste Management for any added expense of properly disposing of such materials, unless otherwise specified. Loads that are determined to be "Dusty Loads" by Solid Waste Management are subject to rejection or assessment of additional special handling fees. Appliances that have Freon compressors removed will still be charged the special handling fee.

6. Service Charge. A customer who is unable to pay for disposal at the time of disposal at the Tacoma Landfill shall be charged for that disposal along with an additional service charge of \$10.00.

AB. Disposal Area Open Accounts.

Solid Waste Management may establish open accounts for the benefit of regular customers licensed to do business in the State of Washington and utilizing the City's public disposal area for disposal of solid waste. Eligibility for open accounts will be determined based on frequency of use, amount of material requiring disposal, and evidence of a satisfactory credit history. Such open accounts will be subject to a set-up fee of \$25.00 for each disposal account card issued, said fee to be collected at the time the account is established. Solid Waste Management reserves the right to approve or disapprove the establishment and maintenance of open accounts. Solid Waste Management may restrict use of the public disposal area to any customer with a delinquent City public disposal area account until the delinquent balance is paid in full.

Disposal account cards issued to customers shall remain the property of Solid Waste Management. Lost or stolen cards shall be immediately reported in writing to Solid Waste Management. Customers are liable for all charges on lost or stolen cards until written notification is received by Solid Waste Management. There will be a fee of \$25.00 charged to replace each card lost, stolen, or damaged. Cards which fail as a result of normal wear will be replaced at no expense to the customer.

B.C. A qualifying nonprofit materials salvage/recycling corporation, upon application and approval, may be granted a reduced disposal rate for material hauled in accordance with TMC 12.09.070, and under the following conditions:

1. All waste must have been generated from within the City.
2. Only those wastes generated from the operation of the corporation within the City will be eligible for the reduced disposal fee. All other wastes shall be subject to the applicable rate set forth herein.
3. The waste cannot contain any putrescible materials.
4. The waste must not contain any hazardous materials and must be in accordance with guidelines as to what is normally acceptable by Solid Waste Management.
5. The waste cannot contain any recyclable materials.

E.D. If the City Council finds that a neighborhood has a blighted condition caused by excessive refuse and/or solid waste and that such a condition is detrimental to the public health and welfare, the City Council may adjust the solid waste rates to fund appropriate programs to remediate such conditions. An example of an appropriate program is a qualifying City neighborhood group conducting a cleanup campaign approved by Solid Waste Management.

A qualifying neighborhood group may be granted disposal privileges at the Tacoma Landfill at no charge, or disposal privileges in a solid waste container supplied by Solid Waste Management at no charge, for material complying with the following conditions:

1. All waste must have been generated from within the City and collected pursuant to the cleanup campaign of the neighborhood group.
2. The waste cannot contain any putrescible materials.
3. The waste must not contain any hazardous materials and must be in accordance with the guidelines as to what is normally acceptable by Solid Waste Management.
4. The waste cannot contain any recyclable materials.
5. The aforementioned disposal privilege may be revoked at any time.

E. Cost recovery for dangerous/hazardous waste pilot projects.

1. The Director, is authorized to establish charges to recover the costs for the acceptance of dangerous/hazardous waste materials from SQGs and residents under dangerous/hazardous waste pilot projects under TMC 12.09.190.N. The Director shall establish the charges in accordance with the following:

- a. The charges shall reflect the reasonable cost of service, recognizing continual changes in the costs of disposal of dangerous/hazardous materials, evolving regulatory requirements, and changes to the types of materials and locations accepted.
- b. The charges shall include cost items related to the service including, but not limited to, labor and benefits, equipment, maintenance and operations of equipment and containers, processing fees, direct and indirect overhead charges, and other related costs.
- c. The Director may adjust the charges up to four times per year.
- d. Solid Waste Management shall make the charges publicly available for 30 days prior to their effective dates.

12.09.190 Prohibited material.

A. Solid Waste Management may inspect business premises for the purpose of evaluating waste generated and disposal practices. These inspections will be during normal working hours and will be carried out in such a manner as to minimize disruption of the businesses' activities. Environmental Services Department employees will inspect business waste generated and disposal practices for the purpose of determining compliance with this section. Failure of a business to comply with a request for inspection will be deemed a violation and may, at the discretion of the Director, result in revocation of solid waste disposal privileges at the City's public disposal area.

B. No toxic, extremely hazardous, dangerous/ hazardous, or liquid waste as defined now or hereafter amended in WAC 173-303 shall be deposited in any solid waste container, or other container intended for transportation to the City Landfill, or other disposal site operated by the City, or operated by a person under contract with the City to provide such service. Toxic, extremely hazardous, dangerous/hazardous, or liquid waste, as defined now or hereafter amended in WAC 173-303, shall not be deposited at the City Landfill unless such waste is accepted for disposal by the City's Household Hazardous Waste Facility [or pursuant to written approval under a hazardous waste pilot project](#). Additionally, no toxic, extremely hazardous, dangerous/hazardous, or liquid waste, as defined now or hereafter amended in WAC 173-303, shall be deposited at any other disposal site operated by the City, or operated by a person under contract with the City to provide such service [unless pursuant to written approval under a hazardous waste pilot project](#). Generators, small quantity generators, contractors, or other persons shall not commingle and/or deposit toxic, extremely hazardous, dangerous/hazardous, or non-petroleum liquid waste, as defined now or hereafter amended in WAC 173-303, with used oil and dispose of such waste into a City-owned used oil collection tank. Unlawful disposal of toxic, extremely hazardous, dangerous/hazardous, or liquid waste, as defined now or hereafter amended in WAC 173-303, is prohibited at the City's Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

C. No extremely hazardous, dangerous/hazardous, or liquid waste as defined now or hereafter amended in WAC 173-303 and normally found in the home (household hazardous waste) shall be deposited in any solid waste container intended for transport to a public disposal area.

1. Empty pesticide containers will be accepted, provided they are prepared for disposal in accordance with the Washington State Department of Agriculture's guidelines. Empty oil-base and latex paint containers will be accepted, provided the residue is thoroughly dried.

D. No container used to store a liquid, dangerous/hazardous waste, or toxic material will be accepted for disposal unless emptied and prepared in accordance with Solid Waste Management's guidelines. Only open-top drums or containers will be accepted for disposal. Fuel tanks must be cleaned and perforated before they will be accepted. No compressed gas or air tanks will be accepted for disposal, with the exception of propane tanks which are five gallons or less in capacity. Persons disposing of propane tanks which are five gallons or less in capacity shall notify the City's public disposal area personnel prior to disposing of such tanks.

E. Unusual Quantities.

Solid Waste Management reserves the right to reject large quantities of material at the public disposal area not normally generated as a waste of a household or business. Such material includes, but is not limited to, demolition waste, dirt, rocks, concrete, etc.

F. No infectious waste shall be placed in any container or any public disposal area, unless said wastes are handled and treated in accordance with Chapter 5.04 of the Tacoma Municipal Code and an applicable special permit has been obtained from the Director.

G. No rocks, dirt, or tires are to be placed in containers for disposal.

H. Yard waste shall be separated from solid waste and placed in a separate container for disposal at the City's public disposal area.

I. No hot ashes and/or material capable of causing ignition or spontaneous combustion shall be placed in any solid waste container, vehicle, or the City's public disposal area.

J. No bulk wastes shall be placed in automated collection containers other than drop-off boxes and front-load containers.

K. No used motor oil or other automotive fluids shall be placed, drained, spilled, and/or released in any solid waste container. Used motor oil will be accepted at the City's public disposal area only for the purposes of recycling.

L. Solid Waste Management reserves the right to prohibit or to place disposal restrictions upon any waste that may adversely affect landfill, resource recovery, or transfer facility operations. This shall also extend to any item that may pose a risk to the health or safety of landfill employees or customers.

1. Disposal restrictions that may be implemented shall include, but are not limited to, item size restrictions, quantity restrictions, recyclability, special preparation requirements, and solid waste source documentation requirements.

M. In the event that prohibited material is deposited in a Solid Waste Management container or other container at the disposal site, the person or persons responsible for such disposal activity shall, at their own cost, be responsible for properly cleaning up, decontaminating, remediating, and properly disposing of such prohibited waste. For the purpose of this paragraph, the phrase “properly cleaning up, decontaminating, remediating, and properly disposing of such prohibited waste” means conducting such work in accordance with all applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations governing such work. If the party responsible for disposing of prohibited waste refuses to comply with this section, and the Solid Waste Management Division cleans up, decontaminates, or remediates, and properly disposes of such prohibited waste, then the Solid Waste Management Division shall charge the responsible party for the direct and indirect costs of such action.

N. Dangerous/Hazardous Waste Pilot Projects.

The Director may implement pilot projects from time to time to evaluate more efficient and safe acceptance or collection methods for dangerous/hazardous waste from SQGs and residents at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility or other designated facilities, to best address pollution prevention and public health threats. Consistent with TMC 12.09.020.B, the Director will establish pilot project requirements including, but not limited to: determining what dangerous/hazardous waste will be accepted or prohibited in the pilot project, where the materials will be accepted, the charges to recover the costs consistent with TMC 12.09.140.E, and payment procedures.

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