

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE

Department:	Dept. Contact:	CBO Contact:
Seattle Public Utilities	Spencer Huang	Akshay Iyengar

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE relating to the solid waste system of Seattle Public Utilities; revising rates and charges for solid waste services; revising credits to low-income customers for solid waste services; and amending Sections 21.36.010, 21.36.012, 21.36.016, 21.40.050, 21.40.060, 21.40.070, 21.40.080, 21.40.085, and 21.76.040 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

Summary and Background of the Legislation: The ordinance would adjust Seattle Public Utilities' solid waste rates on April 1st of 2026, 2027, and 2028. Rate adjustments were last approved in 2022 for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025. The ordinance proposes the following increases to most residential and commercial solid waste rates on April 1st of each year: 3.3% in 2026, 3.3% in 2027, and 3.3% in 2028. Transfer station rates will be increased on April 1st of each year: 5.2% in 2026, 5.2% in 2027, and 5.2% in 2028.

The proposed rate increases would fund operating expenses, completion of planned capital projects, and account for uncertainty during the rate period. The proposed rate adjustments are consistent with the average overall rate path of 4.7% per year as approved by the City Council through the Seattle Public Utilities Strategic Business Plan in 2024. This legislation also adjusts credits for low-income customers through the Utility Discount Program (UDP).

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation have financial impacts to the City? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Revenue Change (\$);	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.
General Fund	\$0	\$903,586	\$929,520	\$956,219
Revenue Change (\$);	2025	2026 est.	2027 est.	2028 est.
Other Funds	\$0	\$6,903,893	\$12,273,508	\$10,391,385

3.a. Appropriations

☐ This legislation adds, changes, or deletes appropriations.

3.b. Revenues/Reimbursements

☒ This legislation adds, changes, or deletes revenues or reimbursements.

Anticipated Revenue/Reimbursement Resulting from This Legislation:

Fund Name and Number	Dept	Revenue Source	2025 Revenue	2026 Estimated Revenue
General Fund			No Change	\$903,586
SWF – 45010	SPU	Rates	No Change	\$6,903,893
TOTAL				\$7,807,479

Revenue/Reimbursement Notes: 2026 revenues are estimates.

3.c. Positions

☐ This legislation adds, changes, or deletes positions.

3.d. Other Impacts

Does the legislation have other financial impacts to The City of Seattle, including direct or indirect, one-time or ongoing costs, that are not included in Sections 3.a through 3.c? If so, please describe these financial impacts.

Several City departments incur solid waste costs. These costs will change commensurate with the rate changes proposed in this legislation.

If the legislation has costs, but they can be absorbed within existing operations, please describe how those costs can be absorbed. The description should clearly describe if the absorbed costs are achievable because the department had excess resources within their existing budget or if by absorbing these costs the department is deprioritizing other work that would have used these resources.

N/A.

Please describe any financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation.

The Solid Waste Fund would not fully recover the cost of its business operations and meet its financial policy targets.

Please describe how this legislation may affect any City departments other than the originating department.

Several City departments incur solid waste costs. These costs will change commensurate with the rate changes proposed in this legislation. Utility Tax payments to the general fund will increase.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- a. **Is a public hearing required for this legislation?** No
- b. **Is publication of notice with The Daily Journal of Commerce and/or The Seattle Times required for this legislation?** Yes. RCW 35.21.157 requires cities that contract for the collection of solid waste, or provide for the collection of solid waste directly, notify the public of proposed rate increases.
- c. **Does this legislation affect a piece of property?** No.
- d. **Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative.**
- i. **How does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? How did you arrive at this conclusion? In your response please consider impacts within City government (employees, internal programs) as well as in the broader community.**
This legislation includes increased funding to the Utility Discount Program that provides rate relief to low-income customers.
 - ii. **Please attach any Racial Equity Toolkits or other racial equity analyses in the development and/or assessment of the legislation.**
 - iii. **What is the Language Access Plan for any communications to the public?**
SPU does extensive outreach for the Strategic Business Plan. The rate path in this legislation is consistent with the rate path outlined in the SBP. SBP outreach includes a significant Ethnic Media component with in-language advertising targeting Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Somali speakers.
- e. **Climate Change Implications**
- i. **Emissions: How is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way? Please attach any studies or other materials that were used to inform this response.**
N/A.
 - ii. **Resiliency: Will the action(s) proposed by this legislation increase or decrease Seattle's resiliency (or ability to adapt) to climate change in a material way? If so, explain. If it is likely to decrease resiliency in a material way, describe what will or could be done to mitigate the effects.**
N/A.

- f. If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s)? What mechanisms will be used to measure progress towards meeting those goals?**

N/A.

- g. Does this legislation create a non-utility CIP project that involves a shared financial commitment with a non-City partner agency or organization?**

N/A.

5. ATTACHMENTS

Summary Attachments:

Summary Exhibit A – 2026-2028 Solid Waste Rate Study