

2009 Tipping Fee Increase - FAQ's

On April 24, 2009 at the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Board Meeting, "Bylaw No. 249, 2009, Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw" was adopted. The bylaw formalizes existing disposal rates and restrictions on various materials delivered to Metro Vancouver solid waste disposal facilities. These rates and restrictions have previously been set from time to time by separate Board resolutions. The only new provisions are an increase in the minimum disposal fee for small loads which was implemented for cost recovery, to encourage recycling and to encourage fewer trips to disposal facilities and additional restrictions on receiving loads which are not adequately secured.

What are the disposal fee increases?

1) The minimum fee for waste disposed at transfer stations is increasing from \$3 per load to \$10 for loads less than 140 kilograms.

Cost of handling waste has increased and this increase is needed to maintain a cost recovery system. The minimum fee has not increased for 10 years.

2) Minimum fee for waste disposed at Coquitlam, North Shore and Surrey transfer stations on weekdays between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm is increased to \$20 per load for loads less than 140 kilograms.

This increased cost is to encourage small loads to be delivered in non-peak times thereby reducing traffic congestion and improving safety at the large transfer stations.

3) A minimum surcharge of \$50 for loads containing prohibited material.

The surcharge will be used to cover cost of removal and proper disposal. Please visit www.metrovancouverrecycles.org for information on where to safely recycle or dispose of these materials.

4) A surcharge of 50% of the applicable tipping fee is applied to loads containing 5% or more of Banned Recyclable Materials.

This surcharge is to encourage recycling of these materials.

5) The tipping fee of \$71 per tonne is not changing at this time.

How was the decision made?

Metro Vancouver's solid waste function runs on a cost recovery basis meaning that fees collected should cover the costs of operating the facilities and disposing of the waste received. The average cost of handling any load of waste received at any of the six transfer stations and disposal facilities is approximately \$20 regardless of the size of the load. The old minimum fee of \$3 per load did not cover these handling costs. Staff from Metro Vancouver and municipalities discussed this issue and developed a schedule of fees to bring the revenues closer to the costs. This schedule was reviewed by Metro's Waste Management Committee who recommended that it be adopted by the GVS&DD Board.

Why did the Board agree to the increase? What will be gained?

The fee increases mean that operating costs to handle a small load of waste will be recovered. The handling costs include scale operation and maintenance, traffic control, load inspections, building maintenance, equipment operation and maintenance, and transfer of waste to disposal facilities. Increased cost for small loads should encourage additional recycling and backyard composting and should also encourage fewer trips to the transfer stations.

What do I do with my garbage while it accumulates?

- Separate discarded food items which may attract animals (meats, etc.) and keep it in a freezer until enough garbage is accumulated to justify a trip to the transfer station.
- Double up with neighbours to reduce trips.
- Compost fruit and vegetable waste and food contaminated paper.