



FACT SHEET

June 15, 2010

Changes to the County's Policies & Fees for the Disposal of Solid Waste

- The County's solid waste disposal system is operated as an Enterprise Fund. That means that solid waste disposal is funded solely thru the collection of user fees. No County tax dollars are used.
- The landfill tipping fee has been \$52/ton since 2002. If it had increased at the rate of inflation, it would be \$63.62/ton in 2010.
- Landfill Enterprise Fund revenues are no longer sufficient to cover operating and capital costs. Fees must be increased and policies changed in order to avoid depleting the Fund's reserves, ensure it remains on solid financial footing, provide the desired level of service, and meet increasingly stringent regulatory requirements.
- The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has decided to increase landfill tipping fees to \$57.20/ton effective August 1, 2010.
- The BOCC has also decided to begin charging fees for residents (known as "self-haulers") who bring their own trash, recyclables and yard waste to the landfill or transfer stations in order to help cover the cost of transporting and disposing of that waste. Due to the need to transport that waste from the transfer stations or homeowners area at the landfill to the landfill cell for disposal, the self-haulers' waste is among the most expensive waste that the County must dispose. Processing and disposal of recyclables and yard waste also cost the County money, although the cost is partially offset thru revenues from the sale of mulch and some recyclable materials.
- Up until now, the cost of disposing of the self-haulers' waste has been subsidized by others, mostly those who have their trash picked up at their residence by a subscription commercial service or thru their municipality. They have had to pay more than they otherwise would to offset the fact that the self-haulers were not being charged a fee even though the self-haulers' trash costs the County the most to process and dispose.
- The BOCC decided that it was a matter of equity that residents should pay to dispose of their own trash rather than have that cost be subsidized by others.
- Beginning August 1, 2010:
 - Self-haulers with less than 200 pounds of trash and who separate out 100% of their recyclables will be charged a flat fee of \$5 per visit. The fee is \$10 if they do NOT separate out 100% of their recyclables.
 - Self-haulers with less than 200 pounds of recyclables will pay a \$2 fee per visit.
 - Self-haulers with less than 400 pounds of yard waste will pay a flat fee of \$3 per visit.