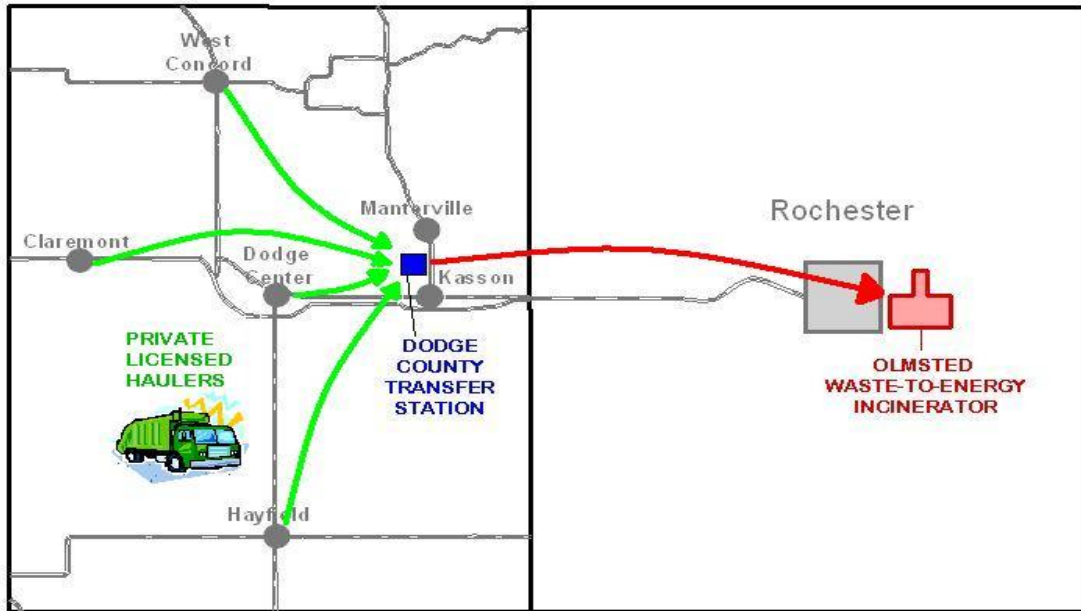


Dodge County Waste-to-Energy Service Charge

DODGE-OLMSTED JOINT WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



Dodge County Transfer Station



Olmsted Waste-to-Energy Facility (OWEF)

1. How does Dodge County dispose of my waste? Since 1986, Dodge has partnered with Olmsted County to build and operate a waste management system that uses garbage to generate renewable energy. Garbage is delivered to the Transfer Station then transported to the Olmsted Waste-to-Energy Facility (OWEF) for production of steam and electricity. All the expenses for this system are paid by user fees.

2. What change has taken place that requires the county to increase its fees?

As population grows in Olmsted and Dodge County, so does the amount of garbage. The amount of garbage in both counties is more than can be processed at the OWEF. Therefore, some of the garbage has been diverted to the Olmsted Landfill. To reduce landfilling and prepare for future growth, Olmsted County has recently doubled the size of the OWEF to provide processing capacity for Dodge and Olmsted waste for the next 20 years. The cost of the construction is about \$90 million. According to the Dodge/Olmsted Waste Management Agreement, Dodge County is responsible to pay Olmsted County for the cost of processing Dodge County waste.



Expansion of the OWEF Building

3. How much will costs go up? Within one year, the price to process garbage will go up \$34 per ton. For comparison: a typical family generates about 1 ton of waste per year.

4. How will the county pay the increased price? Dodge County plans to establish a new Waste-to-Energy Service Charge. The fee will be collected in two ways; 1) for residents and businesses hiring a licensed hauler to collect waste, the fee will be charged as a percentage of the price of their hauler's garbage services and 2) for residents and businesses hauling their own waste, the fee will be a part of the drop-off charge at the Dodge County Transfer Station.

5. If I hire a licensed hauler to collect my garbage, how will the county's fee be shown on my bill and how much of an increase should I expect? Dodge County estimates that the Waste-to-Energy Service Charge will increase the total price for hauler services by 15%. Below is a sample of how the service charge will appear on a hauler's garbage bill.

Sample Hauler's Monthly Statement to Residential Customer.

Mr. John Doe Main Street Dodge Center	
35 Gallon Weekly Refuse Service	\$15.00
Refuse Fuel Surcharge	\$ 2.00
Recycling Fee (Exempt from Waste to Energy Service Fee and State Tax)	\$ 5.00
County Waste to Energy Service Charge (18% of Refuse Service and Surcharge)	\$ 3.06
MN State Tax (9.75% on Refuse Service and Fuel Surcharge)	\$ 1.66
Total	
	\$26.72

The price of the Waste-to-Energy Service Charge will vary depending on the size of container a household or business uses for garbage. The following is an estimate of the average monthly Waste-to-Energy Service Charge for once-a-week hauler collection service:

Container Size	30 gallon	60 gallon	90 gallon	2 yard	4 yard
WTE Service Charge	\$3	\$4	\$5	\$17	\$25

6. If I haul my own trash to the Transfer Station, how will the county's fee be collected? The County's Waste-to-Energy Service Charge will be a part of the drop-off charge at the Transfer Station. The drop-off charge is based on the weight, or volume, of waste dropped-off. The total drop-off charge is expected to be 15% higher than the current fee.

7. Do other counties use a Service Charge collection method similar to the method proposed by Dodge? Yes. Martin, Faribault, Winona, Olmsted, Kandiyohi, Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington have similar fee collection systems. Other counties collect fees as a part of property tax statements to cover waste disposal costs.

8. What is the advantage of collecting a Waste-to-Energy Service Charge rather than just increasing the existing Tipping Fee at the Transfer Station? The Waste-to-Energy Service Charge is not taxed by the state while a tipping fee is. Therefore, the WTE Service Charge saves the customer about \$3 per ton for households and \$6/ton for businesses. A Tipping Fee increase of \$34/ton could raise a large businesses garbage bill by nearly 30%. A service fee also provides the customer a more detailed itemization of their costs.

9. How can Dodge County control rising costs of waste services? First, Olmsted County believes that their net cost of operation will remain stable for at least the next 4 years. Second, Olmsted is proceeding with a “Green Pipes” project that will serve the RCTC Campus with steam and, consequently, add new revenue to offset OWEF costs. Third, Dodge County may offer licensed haulers an option to bypass the Transfer Station and haul waste directly to the OWEF; reducing Dodge County’s cost to transport waste to the OWEF. Also, Dodge is permitted by the State to compost food waste and other organic garbage; more waste diverted to composting could reduce disposal costs.

10. How can I as a resident or business in Dodge County lower my garbage disposal costs? The cost of disposal is primarily based on the volume and weight of garbage and the cost to collect and transport it. Anything that a person can do to reduce the amount of their garbage, and the frequency of collection, should reduce disposal cost. These actions include waste reduction, recycling, and composting. License garbage haulers and county staff can assist you in developing waste reduction, recycling, and composting practices.

<u>Standard Curbside and Drop-Box Recycling</u>	<u>Special Recycling via Separate Collection or Drop-off</u>	<u>Composting</u>
Newsprint, Junk Mail, Magazines, Office Paper, Cardboard, Folding Cartons (<i>cereal type boxes</i>), Steel Cans, Aluminum Cans, Plastic Bottles, Glass Bottles and Jars.	Electronics, Tires, Appliances, Carpet, Textiles, Wood, Hazardous Waste, Plastic Bags, Plastic Film, Fluorescent Lamps, Scrap Metal	Leaves, Grass Clippings, Garden Waste, Food Waste.

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