

**WACSWM**

Washington Association of  
County Solid Waste Managers

**WSALPHO**

WASHINGTON STATE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS

# Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance (LSWFA)

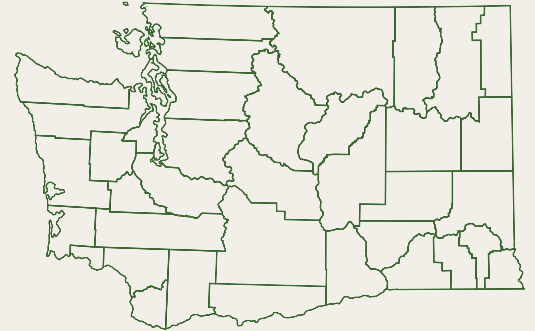
*Protecting Public Health and Safety  
Through Solid Waste Management*

## Counties Prefer the Funding Proposal in the Senate Operating Budget for Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance.

Counties use this funding to develop and implement comprehensive solid waste management plans, including recycling and hazardous waste reduction programs. It is also used to identify and enforce clean-ups of unlawful and hazardous dump sites, like tire dumps and trash piles.

\$28.4 million is proposed in the Senate Operating Budget (SSB 5153) for LWSFA. The funding is provided by the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) and the Hazardous Substance Tax.

**Counties and the state share the responsibility for managing waste, including recycling.**



**80%** of the funding is used for direct program implementation by solid waste divisions.

**20%** is allocated to local health districts for enforcement.

## The Problem

Funding for county solid waste management programs has declined to **less than 62%** of 2011-2013 levels

Prior to great recession cuts, \$28.6 million was provided. Since then, funding has decreased to \$10 million during the last biennium.

In the last eight years, \$75 million in state programs that were previously funded by the state General Fund were funded by MTCA instead. At the same time, MTCA revenues declined. MTCA is funded in large part from taxes on oil. As gas prices fell, so did the tax revenues. As a result, MTCA could no longer sustain funding for the new programs as well as for solid waste.

**Solid waste funding was cut as a result.**

## Approve 2019 - 2021 State Budget funding of \$28.4 million to support the LSWFA program

### The Solution

## Restoring the LSWFA to the pre-recession level of \$28.4 million

Restoring LSWFA to \$28.4 million in the 19-21 state budget will help local solid waste programs recover and rebuild critical programs to protect public health and safety. The need for effective solid waste management and enforcement is increasing with a growing population. These programs protect our people and our environment.

### WHAT WE LOSE WITHOUT FULL FUNDING:



#### Disposal costs increase

= more illegal dumping in natural areas like forests and along river corridors.



#### Staffing cuts

= less programs and little to no enforcement of illegal dumping and clean ups.



#### Hazardous waste facilities closed/no collection events

= stockpiling in households or illegal dumping of harmful substances like used oil, antifreeze and household chemicals.



#### Investments in new or innovative solutions stop

= no new food waste reduction programs, no new recycling programs, no new waste to energy programs, no new composting.



#### Recycling services are reduced or eliminated

= less education, more contamination, more to landfills.



#### Dangerous public health risks go undetected

= groundwater contamination, vector-borne diseases, illegal manufacturing drug sites, etc.