



**PRESS RELEASE
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**ALL TETON COUNTY PARCELS TO BE ASSESSED A \$60.00 SOLID WASTE FEE
TRANSFER STATION TIPPING FEES REDUCED FROM \$10 - \$5**

A Solid Waste Fee has been collected with property taxes for many years to help pay the cost of the county's solid waste management system. Teton County Commissioners recently reexamined this fee and approved its application to all real property parcels in the amount of sixty dollars per year. This is a significant reduction for homeowners and owners of commercial buildings. It is an increase for vacant lots and parcels in agricultural production that have not previously been assessed a solid waste fee. Because this is a fee and not a tax, property tax exemptions do not apply.

Spreading the cost between all property owners will allow the yearly fee to be as low as possible. "Every parcel owner in Teton County will now share the responsibility of ensuring that the county's solid waste facilities operate safely and efficiently now and into the future", said Commissioner Riegel. Waste producers are assessed an additional tipping fee when their trash arrives at the transfer station, which covers the cost of processing that waste. County Commissioners also reduced this fee from \$10 to \$5 for up to 130 pounds of household material to better reflect current processing costs.

Owners of two or more contiguous parcels may be able to combine those parcels to reduce the number of solid waste fees they pay for 2016. The parcel-combination process differs according to how the parcel was originally created. Complete details are available from the County's Planning Department at 208-354-2593.

The solid waste fees support ongoing clean-up and monitoring efforts at the old landfill as well as the equipment and operational costs of the transfer station, recycling center, and animal carcass/yard waste compost area. Teton County does not currently accept household hazardous waste but has a reimbursement program for residents that dispose of those materials at other facilities.

The Board of County Commissioners will be holding a public forum on Wednesday December 2nd at 6:00 pm at 150 Courthouse Drive in Driggs to answer any questions regarding the Solid Waste and Tipping Fees. For further details on this and all other Teton County business please visit:

www.tetoncountyidaho.gov.

Idaho Code 31-870(2): The board of county commissioners may establish and provide for the collection of a solid waste fee in accordance with a request made pursuant to this section, and such fee shall be certified and collected in the same manner provided by law for the collection of real or personal property taxes. Idaho Code 31-4404(2): The County is authorized to "collect fees from the users of the solid waste disposal facilities."