

Here are the facts on the BQCC Closing, etc.:

To set their 2009 budgets, the commissioners decided to cut hours at all convenience centers and close BQCC. The decision was based solely on information from the county's solid waste department which we now know was incomplete and misleading. BQCC serves 1,500 remote rural households that have no access to private vendor services. On a 2-3 day a week schedule, it will cost \$15-\$25 per household to keep BQCC open. Every BQCC user pays taxes for solid waste and the basic \$37 3R fee.

At the direction of the BoCC, the community provided a budget-sensitive proposal to keep BQCC open and limit hours and services. The county said a response is forthcoming, but none has been provided. The subject is not on Tuesday's agenda - suggesting that the BoCC and the county is ignoring the proposal and proceeding with their plans.

The county wants to extend curbside recycling pickup to BQCC users, and in 2010, add a \$38 3R fee to their taxes. The fee is in addition to the \$37 3R fee that every household already pays (\$75 total). The additional fee will be paid whether or not curbside service is used. Today only 40% of 13,500 households that are eligible for rural recycling actually use it. The county has not offered to keep BQCC open for a fee. [Click here for county report to BoCC](#)

The county's action is part of a larger plan to extend curbside and other services throughout the county. The decision to close BQCC and extend curbside recycling is part of a broader solid waste plan that's still under development. The plan attempts to apply urban service models such as curbside collection and vendor franchises to the remote rural areas (yes - rural residents would be expected to drag roll carts filled with trash and recycling bins to the end of long gravel driveways and roads). Convenience centers would be modernized for millions of dollars.

The Solid Waste Advisory Board (SWAB) immediately recognized the county's plan doesn't fit rural needs and wants rural residents to have a say. Hopefully SWAB will slow down the larger plan, but BQCC is closing and instituting rural curbside recycling for a fee appears imminent.