



**Snohomish County**

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**Public Works**

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## **Long-term Snohomish County Employee David Schonhard Chosen as New Solid Waste Director**

*Schonhard is focused on employee advancement, long-range planning, and customer service*

**EVERETT, Wash., April 22, 2022** – For more than three decades David Schonhard has been an example of working hard and taking advantage of educational opportunities. That work ethic and drive is a big part of why he has been chosen as the new Snohomish County Solid Waste director.

“David has been with the county for 33 years and started as an environmental maintenance technician,” Snohomish County Public Works Director Kelly Snyder said. “He has held many different positions within Solid Waste and gained a lot of invaluable operational and institutional knowledge. He is undoubtedly the best person to lead this division for years to come.”

Schonhard has spent the past 14 years as Solid Waste operations manager. He credits his advancement to hands-on experience and educational opportunities afforded him by the county. As new Solid Waste director, he wants to make sure all employees and perspective employees know what professional opportunities are available.

“I was always building on my knowledge and experience throughout my career at the County. I wanted to be challenged to do harder things and learn more,” Schonhard said. “We have really good people in Solid Waste and I want to make sure those same opportunities are available for all of them.”

One focus for Schonhard is the Solid Waste team’s current effort to hire entry-level employees.

“If you have your GED or above, we have good training opportunities so you can learn new skills and knowledge,” Schonhard said. “These are great jobs that build skills and support our community.”

Schonhard, who worked as a house painter and a commercial fisherman early in his career, graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in Geological Oceanography. However, his first job out

of college was as a residential and commercial construction cost estimator, so he has a background in finance.

Another focus for Schonhard is for Solid Waste to continue being good stewards of its funding. That starts with focusing on long-range planning, especially for recycling.

“We need to expand our mindset when it comes to recycling,” Schonhard said.

Good customer service is also important to Schonhard, who has learned a lot about his staff during the pandemic.

“Being a frontline worker during the past few years has been really difficult,” Schonhard said. “But we have a good workforce. We have dedicated people who will show up and get the job done regardless of circumstances.”

Snohomish County is important to Schonhard as he has lived in Clearview, near Snohomish, for 35 years and is married with three children.

He takes over a division of Public Works that processes more than 550,000 tons of refuse, while serving 760,000 customers a year. The division is also responsible for decommissioning boats and RVs, overseeing the disposal of household hazardous waste and managing popular programs such as the Litter Wranglers.

### **About Snohomish County Public Works**

Snohomish County Public Works is responsible for approximately 1,600 miles of county roads, more than 200 bridges and manages about 200 traffic control signals. The department also processes nearly 600,000 tons of garbage per year. Its mission is to focus on safety and mobility while practicing fiscal responsibility and preserving the environment. Public Works has won numerous state and national honors for its work and is the largest department within Snohomish County government with approximately 500 employees plus seasonal staff. Its main office is located at 3000 Rockefeller Ave, Everett, WA 98201. Visit [www.snohomishcountywa.gov/PublicWorks](http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/PublicWorks) or follow the department on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for more information about Snohomish County Public Works.

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