

City of Victorville Proposed 2018 Solid Waste Rate Increase

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the Solid Waste Fees for?

The proposed rates for residential and commercial Solid Waste Services include the costs for: (1) collection of refuse, recyclables, and organics (commercial only); (2) disposal of refuse, materials recovery facility (MRF) residue, and greenwaste/organics processing; (3) MRF operations, maintenance, and capital costs; (4) City administration of solid waste and recycling programs; (5) damages and impact of refuse/recycling collection vehicles on City roads; and (6) a franchise fee used for illegal dump abatement programs and other City costs. Costs are allocated proportionately among residential and commercial customers based on the percentage of the waste stream each sector generates, or as required under contracts related to the provision of Solid Waste Services.

Single-family and multi-family residential premises are also charged a separate Household Hazardous Waste Fee to cover the costs of collection and disposal of household hazardous waste materials.

Why is the City proposing to increase Solid Waste Fees?

The rates and fees the City currently charges for Solid Waste Services have not been adjusted since 2008, although the costs of providing these services have risen. The City has funded solid waste operating expenses using a combination of solid waste rate revenues and reserve funds in lieu of raising customer rates. However, reserve funds are expected to be fully exhausted during fiscal year 2018/2019. The City hired an independent company to examine and project solid waste expenses and revenue needs to maintain operational and financial stability. The company's analysis resulted in a comprehensive cost of service/rate study ("Rate Study") which recommended rate increases over the next five years to recover the City's anticipated costs. Monies collected through these rates are restricted and can only be used to fund the costs of providing solid waste services.

What authority does the City have over solid waste services?

The Victorville Municipal Code Section 6.36.020 states that it is the policy of the City to provide for solid waste handling services and devise recycling/diversion programs to comply with California State laws, as noted below:

6.36.020 - Declaration of policy.

(a) In compliance with the California Integrated Waste Management Act (State Public Resources Code Section 40000, et seq.) and subsequent revisions thereto, the city shall devise programs to recover fifty percent of all solid waste generated within the city. In order to achieve this goal, it is necessary for the city to control the management of solid waste handling, processing, and disposal in the city.

(b) The city shall provide for solid waste handling services including, but not limited to, the collection, transfer and disposal of solid waste within the city. The city council finds that provision of solid waste handling services benefits all premises and persons in the city; and therefore, all owners of premises are made liable for charges adopted by the city council for solid waste handling services.

(c) The city shall also provide for recycling and solid waste processing services, which may include recycling of solid waste from any or all premises. The city council finds that provision of recycling and solid waste processing services benefits all premises and persons in the city; and therefore, all owners of premises are made liable for charges adopted by the city council for recycling and solid waste processing services.

In addition, Section 6.36.036(a) of the Municipal Code states that the City shall provide solid waste and recycling service to all occupied premises in the City and that the City shall collect fees which are adopted by resolution of the City Council for the provision of the services.

6.36.036 - Service required for all occupied premises.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, solid waste handling services and recycling and solid waste processing services (collectively referred to hereinafter as "collection services") shall be provided by the city, its agents or the city authorized waste and recycling contractors to all occupied premises. For the provision of such collection services, the city shall collect such fees as are adopted by resolution of the city council as specified by the provisions of this chapter. This section applies to all occupied premises, whether residential, commercial, industrial, or institutional.

Why did I receive this notice?

You have received this notice because you are listed as the owner of record of a property within the City of Victorville that receives solid waste services.

Proposition 218, a voter-adopted ballot initiative, added Articles XIIC and XIID to the California Constitution to create rules and limitations on the imposition of assessments, taxes, and fees. Section 6 of Article XIID requires a public hearing to be scheduled to consider adoption of any new rates or fees and requires notification to be sent to the owner of record of each identified parcel upon which any new, or increased solid waste rates or charges are proposed to be imposed. The required notification takes the form of a "Public Hearing Notice," which must be mailed at least forty-five (45) days in advance of the public hearing, and must also describe the amount of the fee or charge proposed to be imposed upon each parcel; the basis upon which the amount of the proposed fee or charge was calculated; the reason for the fee or charge; together with the date, time, and location of the public hearing on the proposed fee or charge.

How much will my bill go up if the new rates are approved?

Rates will vary, depending on the type of service location (residential vs. commercial) and the level of service. For a single-family residence with one trash and one recycle barrel, the current cost is \$20.17 per month. This would increase to \$26.85 per month, an increase of \$6.68/month, if the proposed rates are adopted. The chart below shows the proposed rate changes through July 2022.

Current Rate	Residential Service Proposed Monthly Rate				
	July 1, 2018	July 1, 2019	July 1, 2020	July 1, 2021	July 1, 2022
\$20.17	\$26.85	\$27.95	\$28.86	\$29.80	\$30.77

For a commercial customer with a three (3) cubic yard trash bin picked up once per week:

Current Rate	Commercial Trash Proposed Monthly Rate				
	July 1, 2018	July 1, 2019	July 1, 2020	July 1, 2021	July 1, 2022
\$91.91	\$117.80	\$122.15	\$125.99	\$129.96	\$134.05

How do Victorville Solid Waste Rates compare to rates in other communities?

Even under the proposed rates, Victorville's residential and commercial solid waste rates will continue to be among the lowest rates when compared to rates for other local jurisdictions (see tables below).

Comparison of Residential Rates from Local Jurisdictions						
Monthly Cost						
Size	Victorville ^{1,2}	Adelanto ^{2,3}	Apple Valley ^{2,4}	Barstow ^{2,5}	Hesperia ⁶	Rialto ⁷
35/40 Gallon	\$22.31	\$25.00	\$23.71			\$27.50
65 Gallon		\$26.28	\$24.99			\$28.82
95 Gallon	\$26.85	\$28.51	\$27.52	\$18.80	\$27.33	N/A

1. Proposed rate effective July 1, 2018.
2. Includes Trash and Recycle Barrel collection.
3. Service billed yearly through property taxes.
4. Billed bi-monthly
5. Rates are below cost. Last increase in 2007.
6. Includes Trash, Recycle, and Greenwaste collection.

Comparison of Commercial Trash Bin Rates				
Monthly Cost				
3 cubic yard bin, serviced once/week				
Victorville Proposed Rate	Adelanto	Apple Valley	Hesperia	Unincorporated Victor Valley
\$117.80	\$138.28	\$127.99	\$173.79	\$165.76

If I don't agree with the proposed increase, how do I protest?

Any property owner of record (per the San Bernardino County Tax Roll) of a parcel identified as subject to the Proposed Rates for Solid Waste Services may submit a written protest against the Proposed Rates. In order to be valid, each written protest must: (1) state that the protest is being submitted in opposition to the Proposed Rates for Solid Waste Services; (2) provide the identified assessor's parcel number (APN) for which the protest is being submitted; and (3) include the printed name and original signature of the property owner of record submitting the protest. Only one written protest per identified parcel will be counted.

Written protests may be submitted by mail or personal delivery to: Victorville City Clerk, 14343 Civic Drive, Victorville, CA 92392. On the front of each envelope in which a protest is submitted, please write or type "Solid Waste Rate Protest" and the APN to which the enclosed protest relates. Written protests may also be submitted at the June 5, 2018 public hearing; however, in order to be counted, all written protests (whether mailed or submitted in person) must be received by the City Clerk prior to the close of the public testimony portion of the public hearing.

Protests submitted by email or other electronic means will not be accepted.

How can my family and I help keep solid waste costs down for all residents?

The most important thing you can do is to RECYCLE. During fiscal year 2016/2017, the City spent approximately \$2.9 million to dispose of TRASH from residential and commercial customers. This expense is paid by residents and businesses through their monthly solid waste bill. All items placed in TRASH containers are hauled directly to the San Bernardino County Landfill on Stoddard Wells Road. The trash is dumped, compacted, and covered with dirt. The City is currently paying the County \$37.13 per ton to dispose of trash. This will increase to \$38.21 per ton as of July 1, 2018.

On the other hand, all recyclable items that are placed in the BLUE (residential) RECYCLE bins or the WHITE (commercial) RECYCLE dumpsters are taken to the City-owned Victor Valley Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) on Abbey Lane in Victorville. There, the recyclables are sorted into different categories (newspaper, cardboard, tin cans, aluminum, plastics, etc.). Once the materials have been sorted, they are compacted into bales (except glass), loaded onto semi-trucks and shipped off/sold to recycling companies that use the materials to make new products. The City receives average revenue of \$40 per ton from the sale of these recyclables, and all revenues from the sale of recyclable materials go back into the solid waste fund to help stabilize rates. Recycling saves \$38.12/ton in disposal fees and makes \$40/ton in revenues, which means that every ton of recyclable material is worth \$78.12 per ton. It doesn't make sense to pay to dispose of items that are valuable and could generate revenue to help keep solid waste rates as low as possible. In fiscal year 2016/2017, City residents and businesses recycled 8,218 tons of materials. This saved over \$304,000 in landfill disposal costs. By recycling more, you will help reduce trash disposal costs and increase recycling revenues. This helps lower the costs for solid waste services for residents and businesses.