

City of Victorville July 2018 Solid Waste Rate Increase

Frequently Asked Questions

What do the Solid Waste Fees pay for?

The Solid Waste Services Fees 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) Materials Recovery Facility (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 increasing Solid Waste Fees?

The rates and fees the City was charging for Solid Waste Services had not been adjusted since 2008, although the costs of providing these services had risen. For several years, the City funded solid waste operating expenses using a combination of solid waste rate revenues and Solid Waste/Recycling Fund reserves in lieu of raising customer rates. However, the reserve funds were 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.

How much are Solid Waste Fees increasing?

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 was \$20.17 per month. This is increasing to \$26.85 per month, an increase of \$6.68/month, as of July 1, 2018. The chart below shows the adopted rate changes through July 2022.

Current Rate	Residential Solid Waste Service 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 Solid Waste Fees 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 after the rate increase, 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. 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 was in 2007.
6. No separate collection. Mixed waste.
7. 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

What process did the City go through before it raised the Solid Waste Fees?

The City contracted with a consultant in late 2017 to conduct a Solid Waste Rate Study to thoroughly analyze solid waste rates. A workshop open to the public was held at a special City Council meeting on February 27, 2018 to review the initial results of the Solid Waste Rate Study and solicit feedback on the proposed rates. After feedback from the February 27 meeting, the Rate Study was further refined, and then presented to the City Council at its April 3, 2018 City Council meeting. At the April 3 meeting, the City Council voted to adopt Resolution 18-011 which 1) accepted the recommendations of the Rate Study; 2) set June 5, 2018 as the date for a Public Hearing to consider adoption of the proposed solid waste fees, and 3) authorized City staff to mail a Public Hearing Notice to property owners. In April, the City mailed a

Public Hearing Notice to all owners of properties receiving solid waste service in accordance with the requirements of California State Proposition 218. Proposition 218 requires a public hearing to be scheduled to consider adopting of any new rates or fees and notification to be sent to the property owner of record of each identified parcel upon which any new or increased fees, rates, or charges are proposed to be imposed. The Public Hearing Notices were mailed out at least 45 days in advance of the public hearing. The Public Hearing Notice contained information describing the amount of the fee or charge proposed to be implemented; the basis upon which the amount of the proposed fee or charge was calculated; the reason for the fee or charge; the date, time, and place of the public hearing; and information on how property owners could protest the proposed rate increase.

At the June 5, 2018 City Council meeting, the City Council heard public comment and considered written protests to the proposed rate increase, which were tabulated by the City Clerk. If valid written protests were submitted by a majority of the property owners of identified parcels (50% plus 1), then a “majority protest” would have existed, and the City Council could not have adopted the proposed increase. However, there was not a majority protest, and at the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the City Council adopted Resolution 18-012 which established the new Solid Waste Rates, effective July 1, 2018.

Are there any discounts on the solid waste bill?

There are two discounts available on the solid waste fees. The “Senior/Hardship” discount is for customers who meet these three criteria: 1) They own and live in their Victorville house; 2) they are 62 years of age or older, or blind, or disabled, and 3) they are receiving the C.A.R.E. rate from Southwest Gas or So. Cal Edison. To apply for the discount, call the Customer Service Division at 760-955-5001. The discount is \$5.00 per month.

The second discount is for those customers using a 35 gallon trash can. The standard trash can size is 95 gallons, so the “small can” is just about 1/3 as big as the standard. Customers who have large amounts of trash or garden trimmings will not be able to get by with the small can. The discount for the small can is \$4.52 per month. Customers can change service levels free of charge one time per year (e.g. from large to small can or from small to large), but additional changes in service levels are \$25 each, so please make certain you can get by with a small can before you request the change in size. To order a small trash can, call the Customer Service Division at 760-955-5001.

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
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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.

Who received the Public Hearing Notice?

Public Hearing Notices were mailed to the owners of record of a property within the City of Victorville that receives solid waste services. Notices were mailed to owners at the address of record, provided by the San Bernardino County Assessor's/Tax Collector's office.

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. When you recycle, you can make sure that your family only needs one trash can. This will save you \$12.21 per month by avoiding the need for an extra trash can. Recycling also saves you and all other City residents money by reducing the cost for trash disposal. During fiscal year 2016/2017, the City of Victorville 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 (Dump) on Stoddard Wells Road. The trash is dumped, compacted, and covered with dirt. The City is paying the County \$38.21 per ton as of July 1, 2018 to dispose of trash.

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 as much as possible, you will help reduce trash disposal costs and increase recycling revenues. This helps lower the costs for solid waste services for residents and businesses.

For more information:

City of Victorville Customer Service Division: 760-955-5001	Questions about bills/payments, discount program application, ordering extra cans, ordering smaller cans, starting or stopping service.
City of Victorville Environmental Programs Division: 760-955-8615	For information about recycling programs, cleanup programs, recycling centers, household hazardous waste collection center, Adopt-A-Street, Community Cleanup Days.
Victorville Disposal (Burrtec): 760-245-8607	To schedule bulky item pickup, to order an exchange or replacement of damaged/stolen containers, inquiries about service problems—e.g. missed service, late set out.