



Waste and Recycling Collection Rate Increase Frequently Asked Questions

July 2022

What are the new waste rates?

Effective January 1, 2023, Waste and Recycling Rates will go from \$18 to \$24 per month. Special Waste Pick-Ups will increase from \$35 to \$50 per pick up.

Why are waste and recycling rates increasing if my tax money goes towards the program?

The Waste Collection fund pays for the City's waste and recycling collection efforts and is an enterprise fund. This means residents' taxes do not fund this program. In an enterprise fund, waste fee revenue should fully cover the cost of the waste program, including labor costs and the reinvestment in waste and recycling fleet and containers.

Why are waste rates increasing?

Rates have not increased since 2006, over 16 years ago. A recent Cost-of-Service Study indicated revenue from the Waste Collection fund is no longer covering expenses. Without a fee increase, the Waste Collection fund balance would drop below its requirement. Per the City's official Fund Balance Policy, staff has a responsibility to address any fund balance shortfalls. This increase will stabilize the Waste Collection Fund and allow crews to continue providing the high level of service the community expects and deserves.

One example of where expenses are not being covered is with the amount of money being set aside for Waste Fleet Reinvestment. To maintain a high-quality waste fleet in the eight year average age range more revenue is needed to support that reinvestment.

Where can I find the City's official Fund Balance Policy?

[City Ordinance 20-20](#)

How has the City's Waste Collection fund balance sustained itself until now?

For many years the City deferred reinvestment in its waste fleet and container replacement. The City also subsidized the Waste Fund by paying for some operating and capital expenses with General Fund. A Cost-of-Service Study clearly showed an increase is necessary for the Waste Fund to function as an Enterprise fund.

Which services are included in my waste fee?

The services provided will not change and will continue to include:

- Weekly waste and recycling pick up
- Clean Sweep, the City's annual bulk pick up
- A minimum of four scheduled leaf collections
- Christmas tree pick up
- Free designated brush drop off at the Public Works Department
- Houeline collection for residents with mobility challenges
- Hardship rate exemption for residents with low incomes
- Vacation credits
- No-cost container replacement once it reaches the end of its life
- Quarterly billing
- 5% rate discount if pre-paid annually
- Recycling education through the City's Recycle Right Campaigns, social media and newsletters
- Exceptional customer service

What if I cannot afford waste collection?

If you cannot afford waste collection, we encourage you to apply for a hardship exemption; eligibility is considered based on the current poverty levels set by the Federal government, contact Waste Billing for more information.

How can I learn more?

Visit <https://www.centervilleohio.gov/government/waste-recycling-collection>
Contact the Waste Billing at 937-428-4746 or wastebilling@centervilleohio.gov