

Public Works Department Prop. 218 Notice Proposed Rates June 2023



Resource Recovery Programs & Services

In a typical week, our City of Santa Cruz Resource Recovery Division collects 660 tons of refuse, 252 tons of recycling, and 250 tons of organic material from over 16,000 residential and 13,000 commercial customers.

All these materials are transported to the Resource Recovery Facility. There, trash is deposited in the landfill while all recyclable materials are sorted, processed, and/or packaged for their next life.

One hundred and three staff members conduct these and many other operations. They also sweep our City streets, collect public area trash cans and illegally dumped waste. They manage household hazardous waste disposal services and waste reduction education and outreach programs. They conduct capital improvements and environmental monitoring needed to design and construct new landfill cells and to maintain and upgrade recycling facilities to meet regulatory requirements.

They also manage free Christmas tree collection and bulky item/appliance pick-up, a rebate program for compost or worm bins, and free drop-off locations for fluorescent bulbs, household batteries, and unwanted medications and sharps.

The results of these services include an estimated 65% rate of waste diversion from the landfill, while the national diversion rate is about 34%. The new food scrap collection program is increasing the diversion percentage and reducing methane landfill emissions.

Our City's landfill disposal level is down about 60,000 tons a year from 120,000 tons in 1989. This is tangible progress thanks to the active recycling and waste reduction by our Santa Cruz residents and businesses.

Why Are Rate Increases Needed?

Our City of Santa Cruz Resource Recovery programs and services described at left are self-supporting operations within the Refuse Enterprise Fund. Their expenditures are covered by refuse collection fees which have not been increased since July 2018 and are projected to exceed revenues and deplete the fund balance by FY2027. There are several reasons for this.

First, personnel service costs for FY2023 have increased by 36% since FY2018. Trucks and heavy equipment are more expensive given steel prices and availability. Also, Resource Recovery is responding to the California State mandate to replace diesel vehicles with electric versions at considerable increase in cost.

Capital construction costs have substantially risen. Construction of a new landfill cell has created a deficit of about \$6 million, severely cutting into the fund balance.

The passage of California State's mandated SB 1383 has brought new costs with requirements to provide residential and commercial food waste collection and recovery programs.

Last, citywide software that runs finances and other services is aging and must soon be replaced; the Resource Recovery portion will cost \$3-4 million.

With the proposed rate increases, annual revenues are projected to equal annual expenditures by FY2025 and return a moderate unrestricted fund balance in FY2028 as a hedge against any unforeseen costs.

The proposed fees are based on the refuse container size (volume) and the frequency of collection. They offer customers a financial incentive to reduce waste and move to a smaller cart or container size. Commercial customers may also choose to have refuse picked up less frequently at lower cost. These financial incentives help our City meet our Climate Action goals of increased waste reduction, increased landfill diversion, and landfill life extension.

The proposed Resource Recovery refuse collection rates are detailed in the following pages.

Services Included with Resource Recovery Refuse Collection Rates

Recycling Collection

Residents and businesses in the City are provided unlimited recycling collection with their refuse service. Recycling reduces the amount of garbage that must be collected and may enable you to reduce cart or container size and lower monthly rates. Materials to recycle include mixed paper, junk mail, newspapers, cardboard, glass bottles and jars, metal cans, bagged and tied plastic bags, and plastic bottles, jars, jugs and tubs. Used motor oil and oil filters may be recycled curbside in City-provided jugs. Please *Recycle Right!* Don't include contaminants such as single plastic bags, garbage, polystyrene foam, or items with food residue—these can damage equipment and/or cause an entire recycling load to be landfilled.

Yard Waste Collection

Resource Recovery collection rates include weekly collection of a 64-gallon yard waste cart. Grass clippings, leaves, pine needles, prunings, branches, plants, unpainted/untreated lumber scraps, and untreated wood chips, bark, or sawdust may be put into the green cart and placed curbside on your regular collection day. City crews will collect it, grind it, and send it to a local farm for composting or use as mulch. It is critical that you only include the items listed to prevent contamination and damage to the grinder. Yard waste recycling saves landfill space and helps you reduce your refuse cart size and monthly fees.

Street Sweeping

Our City Street Sweeping program is funded through Resource Recovery collection rates. Our crews attempt to sweep streets in the high-use business areas, beach areas, and bike paths at least once a week and more often during high-use seasons. They attempt to sweep residential streets twice a month on the day after collection service. Heavy on-street parking limits the ability of sweepers to access areas next to curbs. You can help by not parking on the street the morning after your refuse collection. Street sweeping helps keep pollutants out of storm drains, and ultimately, out of Monterey Bay and the ocean. Sweeping also helps clear gutters of leaves and debris that can clog storm drains and lead to street flooding. Your assistance in helping to keep storm drains near your home free of leaves during the rainy season is appreciated. If you observe a street debris problem that could cause a safety hazard, please call (831) 420-5558.

Food Scrap Collection Program

(Commercial rates now include this service!)

The new Food Scrap Collection Program serves residents and businesses in compliance with SB 1383 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It is now part of the bundled service including garbage, yard waste, and recycling. Collection for residents is curbside, and onsite for businesses. The scraps are turned into mash that is processed into a variety of products including pellets for pig feed; eventually it will be transformed into energy for onsite use at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Customers are provided containers for food scrap collection that may include vegetables, fruits, meat, dairy products, seafood, solid fats, and more. Learn more at cityofsantacruz.com/foodwaste.

Bulky Item Pickup

Contact Customer Service at (831) 420-5220 or scmu@cityofsantacruz.com to ask about our convenient “on call” bulky item pickup. If the utility bill is in your name, you are eligible to have up to four bulky items collected at one time or one item picked up four times a year, free of charge. Appliances, bags of trash and other “bulky” items qualify. Schedule a pickup any time during the year. Once you have used up your four free opportunities, the regular bulky item fee will be charged to your municipal utility account. If you are a renter and the utility bill is not in your name, bulky item collection is still available for a fee.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off

Our Resource Recovery program provides free drop-off for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) to all residents.

The Resource Recovery Facility, 605 Dimeo Lane, has a HHW facility open on Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. City residents may also use the two HHW sites at the County's Buena Vista Landfill and Ben Lomond Transfer Station. It is both dangerous and illegal to dispose of HHW in the garbage, down the drain, or on the ground. For a free brochure on safe HHW disposal, call (831) 420-5591.

Medications and Sharps Drop-Off Sites

Prescription and over-the-counter medications (pills, liquids, or creams) should never be flushed down the toilet, poured down the sink, or placed in the trash. Used needles and lancets (often called “sharps”) should never be placed in a recycling or trash cart, flushed down the toilet, or discarded individually. Properly dispose of sharps by placing them into an approved red sharps container available at pharmacies. Resource Recovery collection rates help fund a number of free drop-off locations in Santa Cruz for safe disposal of needles and meds. Find drop-off sites at med-project.org/locations.

Home Composting \$40 Rebate Program

If you are a City resident and a Resource Recovery collection customer, our Waste Reduction program will give you a \$40 rebate the first time you purchase a home compost or worm bin from participating local businesses. Home composting can help you reduce your refuse volume and will produce a soil amendment that your plants will love! Visit cityofsantacruz.com/homecomposting for the rebate form and a listing of participating merchants.

Fluorescent Bulb & Battery Drop-Off Sites

It is illegal to dispose of fluorescent bulbs and tubes, and household batteries in your trash. You may drop off these items for safe recycling at a number of local businesses or public facilities. There is no fee since your Resource Recovery collection rates include the costs of these programs. Find drop-off locations at cityofsantacruz.com.

For more information, contact:

Resource Recovery Operations Manager Bob Nelson
bnelson@santacruzca.gov or (831) 420-5548

PROPOSED RESOURCE RECOVERY REFUSE COLLECTION RATE INCREASES (cont'd)

	Current Rates	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28
Compactor Containers (Customer Owned)						
Roll-off truck service (based on 12 CY)	\$67.35	\$77.45	\$80.55	\$83.77	\$87.12	\$90.61
Front-loader truck service	\$29.08	\$33.44	\$34.78	\$36.17	\$37.62	\$39.12
Municipal Wharf Rates						
Muni Wharf - Summer 32 gal Cart	\$36.04	\$41.45	\$43.10	\$44.83	\$46.62	\$48.49
Muni Wharf - Winter 32 gal Cart	\$36.04	\$41.45	\$43.10	\$44.83	\$46.62	\$48.49
Muni Wharf - Summer Level 0	\$97.47	\$112.09	\$116.57	\$121.24	\$126.09	\$131.13
Muni Wharf - Winter Level 0	\$97.47	\$112.09	\$116.57	\$121.24	\$126.09	\$131.13
Muni Wharf - Summer Level 1	\$234.64	\$269.84	\$280.63	\$291.85	\$303.53	\$315.67
Muni Wharf - Winter Level 1	\$189.72	\$218.18	\$226.91	\$235.98	\$245.42	\$255.24
Muni Wharf - Summer Level 2	\$410.70	\$472.31	\$491.20	\$510.85	\$531.28	\$552.53
Muni Wharf - Winter Level 2	\$300.89	\$346.02	\$359.86	\$374.26	\$389.23	\$404.80
Muni Wharf - Summer Level 3	\$693.12	\$797.09	\$828.97	\$862.13	\$896.62	\$932.48
Muni Wharf - Winter Level 3	\$466.18	\$536.11	\$557.55	\$579.85	\$603.05	\$627.17
Muni Wharf - Summer Level 4	\$1,125.26	\$1,294.05	\$1,345.81	\$1,399.64	\$1,455.63	\$1,513.85
Muni Wharf - Winter Level 4	\$803.96	\$924.55	\$961.54	\$1,000.00	\$1,040.00	\$1,081.60
Muni Wharf - Summer Level 5	\$1,988.60	\$2,286.89	\$2,378.37	\$2,473.50	\$2,572.44	\$2,675.34
Muni Wharf - Winter Level 5	\$1,363.68	\$1,568.23	\$1,630.96	\$1,696.20	\$1,764.05	\$1,834.61
Special Containers (Downtown MW and Rec Enclosures)						
Rate for common use of a refuse container	Regular container rate / proportional volume generated by the business or property = monthly refuse rate charged to business or property.					
Maintenance fee for downtown enclosures	Proportional share of actual maintenance costs based on average volume of refuse collected.					
Customer Services						
Cart locks installation	\$15.23	\$17.51	\$18.22	\$18.94	\$19.70	\$20.49
Container locks installation	\$52.74	\$60.65	\$63.08	\$65.60	\$68.22	\$70.95
Cart cleaning (special request)	\$15.23	\$17.51	\$18.22	\$18.94	\$19.70	\$20.49
Container renewal (clean/paint)	\$35.16	\$40.43	\$42.05	\$43.73	\$45.48	\$47.30
Compactor cleaning (per time)	\$179.25	\$206.14	\$214.38	\$222.96	\$231.88	\$241.15
Bulky item pickup (Resi pick up, scheduled)	\$24.31	\$26.74	\$27.81	\$28.92	\$30.08	\$31.28
Private enclosed cleaning fee	\$179.25	\$206.14	\$214.38	\$222.96	\$231.88	\$241.15
Special service fee (requested by customer)	\$15.23	\$17.51	\$18.22	\$18.94	\$19.70	\$20.49
Difficult to service fee	\$30.47	\$33.52	\$34.86	\$36.25	\$37.70	\$39.21
Additional Rec or GW cart fee	\$4.25	\$4.68	\$4.86	\$5.06	\$5.26	\$5.47
Special haul rate (per hour)	\$564.15	\$648.77	\$674.72	\$701.71	\$729.78	\$758.97
Special haul rate (minimum charge)	\$179.25	\$206.14	\$214.38	\$222.96	\$231.88	\$241.15
Weekend Collection Surcharge	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%
Change of service fee	\$11.72	\$13.48	\$14.02	\$14.58	\$15.16	\$15.77




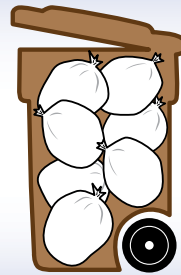
Santa Cruz City School District - Proposed Resource Recovery Collection Rates

School Name	Refuse Container Size	Refuse Pickups/Week	Current Rates	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28
Bay View Elementary	6 yd	2	\$991.48	\$1,140.21	\$1,185.81	\$1,233.25	\$1,282.58	\$1,333.88
Branciforte Elementary	4 yd	2	\$746.03	\$857.93	\$892.25	\$927.94	\$965.06	\$1,003.66
Branciforte Middle School	4 yd	2	\$746.03	\$857.93	\$892.25	\$927.94	\$965.06	\$1,003.66
DeLaveaga Elementary	4 yd	3	\$1,071.80	\$1,232.57	\$1,281.88	\$1,333.15	\$1,386.48	\$1,441.94
Gault Elementary	4 yd	2	\$746.03	\$857.93	\$892.25	\$927.94	\$965.06	\$1,003.66
Harbor High	4 yd	2	\$746.03	\$857.93	\$892.25	\$927.94	\$965.06	\$1,003.66
	4 yd	3	\$1,071.80	\$1,232.57	\$1,281.88	\$1,333.15	\$1,386.48	\$1,441.94
	4 yd	1	\$420.25	\$483.29	\$502.62	\$522.73	\$543.64	\$565.38
Adult School - La Fonda	4 yd	1	\$420.25	\$483.29	\$502.62	\$522.73	\$543.64	\$565.38
Mission Hill Middle School	4 yd	3	\$1,071.80	\$1,232.57	\$1,281.88	\$1,333.15	\$1,386.48	\$1,441.94
Santa Cruz High	6 yd	3	\$1,425.35	\$1,639.15	\$1,704.72	\$1,772.91	\$1,843.83	\$1,917.58
Football Field	4 yd	1	\$420.25	\$483.29	\$502.62	\$522.73	\$543.64	\$565.38
229 Weeks - Adult Ed	2 -32 gal	1	\$48.19	\$55.42	\$57.64	\$59.94	\$62.34	\$64.84
Warehouse (536 Palm)	2 yd	1	\$254.98	\$293.23	\$304.96	\$317.16	\$329.85	\$343.04
Westlake Elementary	2 yd	1	\$254.98	\$293.23	\$304.96	\$317.16	\$329.85	\$343.04
	4 yd	1	\$420.25	\$483.29	\$502.62	\$522.73	\$543.64	\$565.38
	4 yd	1	\$420.25	\$483.29	\$502.62	\$522.73	\$543.64	\$565.38



Right Size Your Trash Cart

Choose the right size trash cart based on the number of people in your household & your consumption habits.

20 Gallon Trash Cart	32 Gallon Trash Cart	64 Gallon Trash Cart	96 Gallon Trash Cart
			
Holds Approximately 2 Tall Kitchen Bags per Week 1 - 2 People	Holds Approximately 3 Tall Kitchen Bags per Week 2 - 3 People	Holds Approximately 5 Tall Kitchen Bags per Week 3 - 4 People	Holds Approximately 7 Tall Kitchen Bags per Week 5+ People
Avoid extra fees from overloading and recycle cart contamination. 420-5220			

Careful Choices Will Save You Money

Resource Recovery refuse collection rates include weekly service for recycling, yard waste, and food scrap collection. By reducing waste, *Recycling Right!* and properly sorting and diverting organics, most customers can reduce the size of their refuse container.

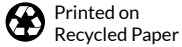
Careful waste management will save you money and increase the lifespan of our City landfill.





Public Works Department
809 Center Street, Room 201
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
cityofsantacruz.com

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Notice of Public Hearing

The Santa Cruz City Council will hold a public hearing on

Proposed Resource Recovery Refuse Collection Rate Increases

Tuesday, August 8, 2023 - after 11 a.m.
City Council Chambers, 809 Center St.

The City Council will consider adoption of proposed Resource Recovery refuse collection rate increases affecting all residential and commercial customers. Interested persons are encouraged to attend and comment on the issues being discussed.

Written protests: Any property owner or a tenant who is a customer of the City Resource Recovery collection program may protest the proposed Resource Recovery collection rates. Only one written protest per parcel, filed by an owner or a tenant who is a customer, will be counted. Only written and signed protests that include the writer's address and/or assessor parcel number will be counted to determine whether a majority protest to the proposed Resource Recovery collection rate increase exists. Written protests may

be mailed or hand delivered to the Santa Cruz Mayor and City Council at 809 Center St, Rm. 10, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

If you oppose the proposed rate increases, your protest must be submitted in writing to be counted, even if you plan to attend the public hearing. To be counted, the protest must:

- 1) be in writing;
- 2) state opposition to the proposed rate increase;
- 3) identify the parcel by assessor's parcel number or street address;
- 4) include the original signature of the owner of record or a tenant who is a customer of the City Resource Recovery collection service submitting the protest;
- 5) be received before the conclusion of the public hearing on August 8, 2023 which will be held in City Council Chambers at 809 Center St.

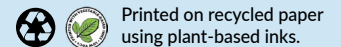
Notice: Pursuant to Calif. Govt. Code § 53759 (d), there is a 120-day statute of limitations for challenging any new, increased or extended fee or charge.

For more information, contact:

Resource Recovery Operations
Manager Bob Nelson
bnelson@santacruzca.gov or (831) 420-5548

Hay tres opciones para la traducción al español de este boletín de tarifas:

- Para leer y/o descargar nuestra versión, visite cityofsantacruz.com/recourcerecoveryrates.
- Recoja una copia impresa: Departamento de Obras Públicas, 809 Center St. Rm. 201, Santa Cruz, 95060
- Llame a Resource Recovery (831) 420-5575 para recibir una copia.



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