

Will my rates change?

- Yes, customer rates will increase with this new contract.

What are the costs that drive the rate increase?

- The primary reason for an increase in rates is the increase in the collection and disposal costs that Waste Management charges the City of Renton. Collection and disposal make up a large portion of the city's expenses and the rates and service of the existing contract, which has been in place since 2000, are based on the terms and conditions that were negotiated based on the economic conditions of almost a decade ago.
- Other factors that drive the rate increase:
 - 15% increase in the King County Disposal Rate in 2008
 - Increase in Local Hazardous Waste Fee
 - Fuel costs have more than doubled since the last contract was negotiated
 - Increased labor and benefits
 - Increased capital equipment costs

What do my new rates pay for?

- The rates the city charges Renton customers reflect the amount Waste Management charges the city for the service.

How do Renton's solid waste rates compare with other cities?

- Even with the new proposed rates, Renton's fees will continue to be lower than those of most other cities in the Puget Sound region.
- Rate comparison for 32-gallon can:

• Seattle.....	\$ 29.65
• Kent.....	\$ 26.64
• Auburn.....	\$ 21.34
• Renton*.....	\$ 18.41

* 35-gallon cart rate used for comparison

What are the proposed new solid waste rates?

The Renton City Council will consider adopting these proposed new rates in November:

Every-other-week capacity - 2009 rates

- 20 gallon mini-cart..... \$ 11.20
- 35 gallon cart \$ 18.41
- 45 gallon cart \$ 23.21
- 64 gallon cart \$ 32.32
- 96 gallon cart \$ 47.70

Are there discounts for residents who qualify based on their income level?

- Yes. There are special discounts for City of Renton seniors and persons with disabilities who qualify based on their income level. These discounts apply to all utility rates. Currently the discount is 50% of the selected garbage service level rate. Applications are available online at rentonwa.gov. For more information, call 425-430-6852.

Will there be an additional cost for extra recycling or yard/food waste?

- No. The City of Renton does not charge for the removal of recycling or food and yard waste regardless of the volume.

Can I change my level of service?

- Yes. The City of Renton allows one change in level of service per year for free. Additional changes in level of service will be charged an administrative fee.

Can I get weekly garbage pickup?

- Yes. Single-family residential customers may elect to have their garbage collected weekly for an additional fee of \$18.80 per month. This fee will be added to the monthly garbage billing as an extra Premium Service Fee.

2009 SOLID WASTE PICK UP SCHEDULE

YARD AND FOOD WASTE



Now combines yard waste with food scraps (including meats, dairy and cheeses) and food-soiled paper (such as pizza boxes)

Collected weekly

RECYCLING



Now includes paper, cardboard, cans, glass, all plastic bottles, plastic dairy tubs, milk cartons, juice boxes and scrap metal

Collected every other week



GARBAGE

Collected every other week

City of Renton Garbage and Recycling Services



Frequently Asked Questions



For more information call 425-430-7397
or email lknight@rentonwa.gov
www.wmnorthwest.com/rentonrentonwa.gov

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The City of Renton has entered into a new contract for the city's garbage and recycling services with Waste Management, Inc., that will be effective January 2009 to May 2016.

The enhancements and changes to services associated with the new contract include:

- Garbage, recyclables, yard waste and food waste all collected curbside in wheeled carts.
- All residential recyclables will go into a single recycling cart.
- Collection for residential garbage and recyclables will move to every other week.
- Collection of yard waste, which will include food waste, will be weekly.
- Significant expansion of items that can be recycled, including all plastic bottles, jugs, containers and tubs, milk and juice cartons, and scrap metal.
- Food waste collection will include all food scraps including meats, cheeses and dairy.

The contract also includes recycling services for local businesses. This is the first change in the city's solid waste contract and the first rate increase since 2000.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is the City of Renton establishing a new contract?

- The city is required to establish a new contract because the existing contract expires in 2009.

How did the city select and test the new services?

- After a thorough two-year review of all the available options, the city selected Waste Management, Inc., (WM) as the collection contractor to provide the most cost-effective

and reliable garbage and recycling services to Renton residents.

- The enhanced recycling and service changes that are part of the new contract were tested in a year-long pilot in two Renton neighborhoods. Participants in the pilot indicated a strong satisfaction with the expanded services and shift in collection methods.

What are the changes to service?

- In January 2009, WM will deliver a new garbage cart at the same size/rate category that residents are currently subscribing to, along with new 96-gallon recycling carts for expanded recycling; customers will retain their existing yard waste cart for all yard and food waste.
- Collection for residential garbage and recyclables will move to every-other-week service (current collection is weekly).
- Collection of yard waste will continue to be weekly. Food waste may be placed in the yard waste carts for weekly collection.
- Garbage, recyclables, yard waste, and food waste will all be collected curbside in wheeled carts for residential customers, reducing litter in the neighborhoods.

What are the changes to recycling and yard waste services?

- All residential recyclables will now go into a single recycling cart rather than into three bins.
- Recycling includes more kinds of plastics including all plastic bottles, jugs, containers, and tubs.
- Expansion of the recycling program will include poly-coated cartons and boxes such as

milk and juice cartons, and ferrous and non-ferrous scrap metal.

- Expansion of the food waste collection will include all food scraps including meats, cheeses and dairy.

How do these new changes affect residents in the Benson Hill area?

- Residents in the newly annexed Benson Hill area of Renton who are currently served by WM will now receive the new service from the City of Renton.
- While specific rates will vary based on individual service options, typically residents in this area will see a reduction in their rates.
- There will be no change for residents who are currently served by Allied Services.

Will we need to increase our cart size since garbage collection service will now be every other week?

- With the expanded recycling services residents will be able to recycle and compost more items than ever before. In fact, for most customers the amount of garbage will be significantly reduced and primarily include non-recyclable packaging and some personal hygiene products.
- However, customers wanting to change their service level may contact Utility Billing and will be allowed one service level change per year without paying the service adjustment fee (Their monthly rates will be adjusted for the new service level.)

What about potential odor and litter problems arising from the every other week service?

- The new, wheeled carts that can be collected curbside have heavy-duty lids that significantly reduce litter in the neighborhoods and minimize odor.
- These factors were specifically tested during the year-long pilot and did not pose a problem. The Seattle/King County Health Department inspected and approved the collection process.

What happens when service is suspended due to snow and ice?

- If garbage, recycling, or yard waste plus food scraps collection is interrupted by inclement weather, Waste Management will collect that material on the Saturday immediately following the interrupted collection day. Please have the carts at your curb by 7:00 a.m.

In addition to expanded recycling are there other environmental benefits?

- Less noise and pollution will be generated from collection trucks. All collection vehicles will run on compressed natural gas or biodiesel.
- The addition of commercial recycling services will provide more choice to local businesses and help increase the city's overall recycling rate.

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