

City of Riverside Refuse Services Frequently Asked Questions

1) What are refuse services?

Services include: trash, recycling and green waste pick-up; two bulky item pickups annually for residents; free bulky item and green waste drop off for residents on the third Saturday of every month; e-waste disposal; hazardous waste disposal; and community wide bulky item disposal days.

2) Why is this service important?

Regular trash service is important to keep our community clean, prevent illegal dumping, and prevent the spread of disease, infection and environmental contamination caused by not disposing of trash properly.

3) Why is recycling important?

Recycling is important because it protects our environment and it keeps the cost of trash disposal low. To encourage recycling, the State required that we divert 50% of trash from the landfill. The City exceeded this goal and we currently divert 69%. This puts us on track to reaching the new State goal of 75%.

4) Why did I receive a notice about refuse service rates?

A notice has been sent to all rate payers to allow them an opportunity to support or oppose the proposed Refuse Rates for 2013 to 2017 which provide for minimal annual increases to maintain current services.

5) What has the City done to keep disposal costs low?

We have created efficiencies in our routing resulting in savings of over \$800,000 a year. We have created alternatives to disposing green waste at landfill by turning it into mulch and providing it free to residents.

6) How do our city rates compare to those in other cities?

Even with the proposed increase, our rates are lower than most of our neighboring cities, such as Loma Linda at over \$34 a month, San Bernardino at \$27 a month, Ontario at \$29 a month for residential collection services.

7) What is the proposed rate structure?

The structure is proposed to continue as it has since 2003, with minimal annual increases, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), plus a one-time increase in 2013 of less than 1% due to increased fuel costs.

8) What is the Consumer Price Index (CPI)?

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measurement of the change in the prices of consumer goods and services purchased by households. It is regularly calculated by the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics by reviewing the cost of items such as food, clothing, fuel, and other merchandise.

9) What is the estimated Consumer Price Index (CPI)?

The CPI for this year is estimated to be around 2.5% but will not be set until around January 15 of 2013 by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

10) How will this affect my monthly bill?

It is estimated that your bill will go up by 70¢ per month (less than a cup of coffee) in July of 2013, for basic residential service. From 2014 to 2017, no increase would be allowed other than the CPI, adding an estimated 50¢ to 60¢ to your monthly residential bill each July, depending on the actual CPI.

11) What can I do to help reduce disposal costs?

The best way to reduce costs is to recycle. Recycling revenue helps off-set the cost of providing services, keeping costs at the lowest level possible.

12) Why is this rate structure important?

By providing small incremental increases as needed to cover actual costs, it minimizes the need for large one time increases in cost in the future, and keeps rates stable.