

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PROPOSED FIVE-YEAR RATES FOR SOLID WASTE SERVICES

(LANDFILL, RECYCLING AND COMPOST)

Esta información es sobre aumentos de tarifas de recolección de residuos sólidos (basura, reciclaje y productos orgánicos). Si tiene alguna pregunta, favor de llamar al 650-330-6740.

PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

6 p.m.

City of Menlo Park - Council Chambers

751 Laurel St.

Menlo Park, CA 94025

Visit menlopark.gov/agendas



The City of Menlo Park is proposing to increase the solid waste rates for customers within the city boundaries. Solid waste rates pay for the collection, processing and disposal of landfilled waste, recyclable and compostable (organics) materials. If adopted, increased rates will be effective July 1, 2026, with annual adjustments effective on or after each July 1 through July 1, 2030.

This notice provides information about proposed increases in solid waste rates including the reasons for the proposed rate increase, the amount of the new proposed rates, the basis for calculating the rates and how the public can participate in the process to comment or protest. During the noticed public hearing, the City Council will consider all comments from the public regarding these proposed new rates, along with any written protests submitted by property owners or tenants responsible for paying the new rates.

For additional information regarding the proposed increase to solid waste rates, including details regarding the calculation of the rates, view the Solid Waste 5-Year Rate Study (Rate Study) prepared by the City's rate consultant (R3 Consulting Group), online at: menlopark.gov/solidwasterates.



City of Menlo Park
701 Laurel St.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
650-330-6740



Escanea el código QR para leer en español o visita menlopark.gov/solidwasterates

WHY THE NEED TO CONSIDER RATE INCREASES?

- The City will need to adjust its solid waste rates in order to meet increasing costs of solid waste collection and post-collection services with Recology and South Bayside Waste Management Authority.
- Recology's compensation increases are set per the financial terms in the amended and restated Franchise Agreement, which took effect January 1, 2021 and has a 15 year term.
- The City is legally obligated under Proposition 218 (California Constitution Article XIII D, Section 6) to set rate amounts so they do not exceed the estimated proportionate costs of service for each customer class and type of service (e.g., container type for: landfill-black, recycle-blue and organics-green). The City has structured the recommended rate increases in order to meet these legal requirements with adjustments over the next five fiscal years. Thus, as the City adjusts the rates to achieve proportionality of charges, some residential customers will see landfill rate increases and commercial customers will see increases in composting and recycling.
- Rate increase to the existing fees for supplemental services not covered in the monthly base rates, such as backyard service distance charges.



HOW TO PROTEST THE PROPOSED SOLID WASTE RATES

Proposition 218 allows the owner of record or tenant of a parcel that receives solid waste service to submit a written protest at or before the close of the Public Hearing May 12, 2026.

If the person signing the protest is not listed as the owner on the last equalized assessment roll for San Mateo County, the protest must be accompanied by written evidence that the signer owns the property. In rental situations, if a tenant is the Recology account holder for solid waste service, the tenant also has the right to submit a written protest for the property. Only one protest per parcel will be counted. If the City receives valid written protests on behalf of a majority of the parcels that receive solid waste service, the increased solid waste rates will not be adopted.

All Written Protests Must:

- Be in writing with the printed name and an original signature from the property owner of record or tenant directly liable for the payment of the fee/account holder. (Spoken, telephonic, or emailed protests will not be counted as a "written protest.")
- Identify the parcel for which the protest is filed, by street address or Assessor's Parcel Number (APN).
- State that the signer opposes the proposed solid waste rates.
- A protest must be mailed or hand delivered in paper form. Email, fax, telephone and oral protests of any kind will not be counted. Mailed protests received after the close of the public hearing will not be counted, even if they were postmarked earlier.

A protest may be:

- (a) Mailed to the City of Menlo Park. The protest must be received (not postmarked) by the date and time of the public hearing.

Attn: City Clerk - Solid Waste Rate Protest
701 Laurel St.
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Or

- (b) Delivered to the same address during regular business hours,
Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m and
every other Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Or

- (c) Delivered to the City Clerk at the Menlo Park City Council Chambers located at
751 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA before the close of the public hearing.

For more information, review the report and presentation from the City Council's March 10, 2026 meeting online at menlopark.gov/agendas or menlopark.gov/solidwasterates.

SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL RATES

The table below shows the monthly rates being considered for single-family residential customers for each year by container size. The base monthly rates include the following solid waste services:

- Weekly pickup of garbage, recycling and organic material.
- Two free on-call bulky item collection service per year.
- Curbside holiday tree collection service.
- Single-stream recycling using a blue cart to recycle glass, metal cans, aluminum, cartons, non-food soiled paper and cardboard, small scrap metal and plastic bottles and containers.
- Residential composting program using the green cart for items such as yard waste, food scraps (meat, cheese, fruits and vegetables, etc.) and food soiled paper products such as pizza boxes, paper drink cups, paper plates and paper napkins.

PROPOSED RATES FOR SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (Effective July 1 every year)

Bundled service, which includes 64-gallon recycling and 96-gallon organics services plus variable landfill container size, as listed below.

Landfill container size	Current rate	July 1, 2026	July 1, 2027	July 1, 2028	July 1, 2029	July 1, 2030
20-gallon	\$50.31	\$53.33	\$56.53	\$59.92	\$63.52	\$67.33
32-gallon	\$58.64	\$62.16	\$65.89	\$69.84	\$74.03	\$78.47
64-gallon	\$73.93	\$78.37	\$83.07	\$88.05	\$93.33	\$98.93
96-gallon	\$92.21	\$97.74	\$103.60	\$109.82	\$116.41	\$123.39



COMMERCIAL AND MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL RATES

The table below shows the monthly rates currently in effect as of July 1, 2025, and the proposed monthly rates to be effective July 1, 2026 for commercial and multi-family residential customers by container size for once weekly collection of landfilled, recyclable and compostable materials. The base rates for these services are determined not only by the type of service but also the service frequency.

Complete rate sheets and a detailed listing of the proposed monthly base rates, including all rates for multi-family residential and commercial customers for each year and all supplemental services can be viewed on the city website at menlopark.gov/solidwasterates.

PROPOSED RATES FOR COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES AND MULTI-FAMILY						
Current rates (effective January 1, 2025) and Proposed rates (effective July 1, 2026). Visit menlopark.gov/solidwasterates for details on the annual adjustments through July 1, 2030.						
Service	Landfill		Recycling		Organics	
Description	Current 2025 Rate	Proposed 2026 Rate	Current 2025 Rate	Proposed 2026 Rate	Current 2025 Rate	Proposed 2026 Rate
20-gallon	\$80.61	\$83.99	N/A	N/A	\$115.94	\$115.94
32-gallon	\$83.75	\$87.27	\$30.34	\$31.51	\$120.49	\$120.49
64-gallon	\$93.20	\$96.06	\$30.34	\$31.51	\$133.18	\$133.18
96-gallon	\$104.80	\$104.84	\$30.34	\$31.51	\$145.60	\$145.60
1 cubic yard	\$127.68	\$133.38	\$30.34	\$31.51	\$182.69	\$183.03
2 cubic yards	\$249.39	\$249.39	\$30.34	\$31.51	\$257.15	\$272.58
3 cubic yards	\$374.08	\$374.08	\$30.34	\$31.51	\$331.61	\$351.51
4 cubic yards	\$498.78	\$498.78	\$30.34	\$31.51	\$406.41	\$430.79
6 cubic yards	\$781.40	\$781.40	\$30.34	\$31.51	\$557.92	\$591.40
8 cubic yards	\$1,041.88	\$1,041.88	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

For any annual adjustment to rates (for single-family residential or commercial businesses and multi-family) planned to be effective July 1, 2027 through July 1, 2030, the City has calculated the schedule of adjustments to address estimated inflationary impacts as a part of the Rate Study, and the City will mail a written notice to all customers at least 30 days prior to the effective date of any annual adjustment in rates.

RATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

In 2020, the City Council approved a rate assistance program to help those facing financial hardship. Qualified households may receive a 20% monthly discount of solid waste service from Recology. This program is subject to annual renewal by City Council.

The program requires customers to:

- Enroll in PG&E California Alternative Rates for Energy (CARE) program to receive discounts on their gas and electricity bills, if not currently enrolled.
- Must be the account holder to receive discount.

Learn more at menlopark.gov/rateassistance.

RATE STUDY



- For more details on the Solid Waste Rate Study and exact fees visit menlopark.gov/solidwasterates
- Call 650-330-6740
- Email publicworks@menlopark.gov



DID YOU KNOW?

Menlo Park's single-family residences redirect over 70% of their solid waste away from landfill through recycling and composting! Your single-family residential monthly solid waste rates cover the cost of collection AND recycling, composting and disposing of your recyclables, organics and garbage.