



Rate Year Six 2020 (RY6) FAQs

When are rate increases effective?

March 1, 2020

Residents are billed quarterly as follows:

Feb, May, August, Nov – Danville, Walnut Creek

March, June, Sept, Dec – County, Lafayette, Orinda, Moraga

How much did rates increase?

See attached Rate Year Six (RY6) rate sheets for rates by Member Agency and service level.

The percentages below reflect the **average percentage increases of all container sizes**; actual percentages vary by container size.

Danville	Residential – 8.00%	Commercial – 8.00%	Multi-Family – 8.00%
Lafayette	Residential – 3.98%	Commercial – 3.98%	Multi-Family – 3.98%
Moraga	Residential – 8.75%	Commercial – 8.75%	Multi-Family – 8.75%
Orinda	Residential – 12.00%	Commercial – 12.00%	Multi-Family – 12.00%
Walnut Creek	Residential – 5.50%	Commercial – 5.50%	Multi-Family – 5.50%
County	Residential – 7.00%	Commercial – 7.00%	Multi-Family – 7.00%

Is there a lower service rate for seniors and/or low-income residents?

No, the CCCSWA Board of Directors has not approved a lower rate for seniors and/or low-income residents. There is one standard rate for all residents in the RecycleSmart service area.

Why did rates increase?

1. The majority of solid waste costs are fixed. Residents are frequently reducing their cart size and businesses are downsizing their bins, or reducing the frequency of their service, leaving a smaller base to cover these costs,
2. A third-party auditor performs an exhaustive analysis of any request for increase of rates to ensure that the costs are appropriate,
3. Inquiries regarding increases in vehicle impact – garbage trucks provide a continuous wear and tear on roadways. Each community handles this wear and tear in a different way. Contact your City/Town for more information.
4. In response to changing recycling market conditions and processing to reduce contamination.

Residential rates include:

- Weekly landfill collection,
- Weekly recycling collection of mixed recyclables (#1-#7) and plastic bags,
- Weekly organics collection; yard waste with food scraps and food soiled paper,

- Free on-call collection of yard waste and recycling (4 combined per rate year),
- Free on-call collection of landfill materials (garbage/junk) (free once per 12 months),
- 2 scheduled Reuse and Clean-up Days per year, where usable items are collected by charities. The unusable items are hauled off for disposal,
- Free on-call used motor oil collection at curb,
- Free battery, cell phone and CFL collection at curb, and,
- Backyard composting, schools recycling program, medical sharps (needles) disposal, public outreach, and other programs in support of recycling and diverting waste from the landfill.

How can I lower my bill?

If you are recycling and composting properly, and not regularly filling up your landfill cart or dumpster, you can switch to a smaller size landfill cart/bin. For example, **residents** using a standard 32-gallon cart can switch to a 20-gallon cart, and residents using a 64-gallon cart can switch to a 32-gallon cart. **Commercial** accounts can switch to a smaller cart/dumpster *and* decrease the frequency of collection.

By composting organic material at home, and certifying your efforts through Republic Services. Residents can go to www.recyclesmart.org/certification or call (925) 685-4711. Discount is \$4.50 per quarterly Republic Services bill (\$18/year).

How do rates today compare with rates over 20 years ago?

In 1996, the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) was formed, and addressed the then rapidly increasing garbage rates. Due to steps taken by the JPA, reduced service rates were implemented, lowering subscriber costs substantially. There have been slight increases each year since 1996. **See attached Rate History.**

Why is my garbage rate different from other neighboring RecycleSmart communities?

Different communities have different service needs because of difficulties related to terrain, different fee structures, and different residential/commercial mixes.

Is garbage service mandatory?

It is mandatory to have garbage service for occupied property within the **unincorporated** areas of Contra Costa County. Residents in those areas may, however, apply for an exemption by contacting the County's Environmental Health Division of the Health Services Department. If exempt, garbage must be removed from property a minimum of once per week.

Garbage service for residents living in all other jurisdictions is not mandatory, however, residents not subscribing to services must arrange for removal of garbage from property a minimum of once per week.

Residents may not use other service providers to haul garbage, recycling or organics. Those materials fall under Exclusive Franchise Agreements held by Republic Services and Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery.

RecycleSmart (Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority)

Who is RecycleSmart?

A government agency – a Joint Powers Authority of six Member Agencies: (1) Danville, (2) Lafayette, (3) Moraga, (4) Orinda, (5) Walnut Creek, and (6) the County.

RecycleSmart does not directly collect recyclables, organics, or landfill materials. Those services are provided by Republic Services under a Franchise Agreement.

For questions about your recycling, organics and landfill services, and billing questions, contact Republic Services at (925) 685-4711.

Who decides to raise rates?

The RecycleSmart Board of Directors, after careful consideration of costs and expenses identified by an extensive yearly analysis performed by a third party. The Board is comprised of two representatives from each of the six Member Agencies (City/Town Council Members or County Supervisors). The Board voted on the new rates at their January 23, 2020 Board Meeting (a public meeting).

Where can I get more information?

(925) 906-1801

www.RecycleSmart.org

authority@recyclesmart.org

Who can I write a letter to?

RecycleSmart

Attn: Board of Directors

1850 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 320

Walnut Creek, CA 94596