



# Rate Year Seven 2021 (RY7) FAQs

**When are rate increases effective?**

March 1, 2021

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 Rate Year Seven (RY7) rate sheets for rates by Member Agency and service level.

The percentages below reflect the **increases of residential, commercial and multi-family services.**

<b>Danville</b>	Residential – 4.50%	Commercial – 4.50%	Multi-Family – 4.50%
<b>Lafayette</b>	Residential – 4.43%	Commercial – 4.43%	Multi-Family – 4.43%
<b>Moraga</b>	Residential – 6.75%	Commercial – 6.75%	Multi-Family – 6.75%
<b>Orinda</b>	Residential – 6.75%	Commercial – 6.75%	Multi-Family – 6.75%
<b>Walnut Creek</b>	Residential – 4.75%	Commercial – 4.75%	Multi-Family – 4.75%
<b>County</b>	Residential – 7.00%	Commercial – 7.00%	Multi-Family – 7.00%

**Miscellaneous Rates**

In 2020 RecycleSmart received a request from Republic Services to establish additional miscellaneous maximum rates for special services such as extra collections, e-waste, account restart, container exchange, “go-backs” and overages. These rates are allowable to charge in the Franchise Agreement with Republic Services. **The miscellaneous rates, unlike the rates for the base services, are generally the same across all Member Agencies, with a 2.78% increase for RY7 2021 rates (see RY7 rate sheets).**

**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. Although many of the solid waste costs are fixed, the Franchise Agreement does allow specified annual adjustments to certain costs incurred by the hauler. A third-party auditor performs an extensive analysis of any rate increase request to ensure that the costs are appropriate.
2. In response to changing recycling market conditions and the demand for cleaner recyclable materials, the cost to process recyclable materials has increased.
3. Garbage trucks provide a continuous wear and tear on roadways and each community handles this wear and tear in a different way. Therefore, inquiries regarding increases in vehicle impact fees should be directed to your City/Town for more information.

### Residential rates include:

- Weekly landfill collection,
- Weekly recycling collection of mixed recyclables
- Weekly organics collection; yard waste with food scraps and food soiled (uncoated) paper,
- On-call collection of yard material and/or recycling (4 combined per rate year at no additional cost),
- On-call collection of landfill materials (garbage/junk) (once per 12 months at no additional cost),
- 2 scheduled community Reuse and Clean-up Days per year, where usable items are collected and given to people in need. The unusable items are hauled off for disposal,
- On-call used motor oil collection at curb at no additional cost,
- Household battery, cell phone and CFL collection at curb, and,
- Backyard composting, schools recycling and composting, medical sharps (needles) disposal, public outreach, and other programs in support of reduce, reuse, recycling and diverting waste from the landfill.

### How can I lower my bill?

If you are recycling and composting properly, and not regularly filling 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. Single family home residents can go to [www.recyclesmart.org/certification](http://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.

Service for residents living in all other jurisdictions is not mandatory, however, residents not subscribing to services must arrange for removal of materials 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 28, 2021 Board Meeting (a public meeting).

#### Where can I get more information?

(925) 906-1801

[www.RecycleSmart.org](http://www.RecycleSmart.org)

[authority@recyclesmart.org](mailto: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