

## Commercial Garbage and Recycling Services Rate Changes Frequently Asked Questions

**The City of San José has an exclusive franchise agreement with Republic Services to provide solid waste services to all businesses in San José.**

### **Why are my rates changing?**

Under the San José Municipal Code, the commercial collection franchisee – in this case, Republic Services – may apply for a service rate adjustment once per year and any adjustment will be made following a process set forth in the franchise agreement. The City Council may conduct a public hearing to confirm that the proposed maximum service rates are consistent with the terms of the franchise for fiscal year 2024-2025. Republic Services submitted a rate adjustment request to increase commercial garbage and recycling service rates due to the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) increases in wages of commercial waste employees, costs of operation, and cost of processing of garbage and recyclable materials in San José. The change in the COLA is calculated annually based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index (CPI) data.

The City Council establishes the annual rate changes at a regular meeting. This year's meeting is on May 14, 2024.

### **What is the proposed rate change?**

On May 14, 2024, City Council will review the proposed rate increase for commercial garbage and recycling services provided by Republic Services. The rate increase is 2.32%. If approved, it will take effect on July 1, 2024.

### **How much have rates changed in previous years?**

In the past five years, rate changes have varied from 1.85% to 8.47%.

### **How are rates calculated?**

Rates are calculated by reviewing CPI data and evaluating Republic's cost of operations, including labor, vehicle, fuel, transfer and transport. The City also evaluates the cost of sorting and processing the collected materials at the recycling and the organics processing facilities.

### **How do San José rates compare to the other cities?**

San José commercial garbage and recycling services rates are among the lowest in Santa Clara County. The table below provides a comparison of two common service levels, 3 cubic yards and 40 cubic yards, to other cities in the county and Bay Area.

Rates are from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 (unless otherwise stated).

<u>City</u>	<u>3 Cubic Yard Container Collected Once Per Week (monthly rate)</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>40 Cubic Yard Container (per collection)</u>
<u>San José Current</u>	<u>\$266.53</u>	<u>Santa Clara</u>	<u>\$1,004.00</u>
<u>San José Proposed (Effective July 1, 2024)</u>	<u>\$272.71</u>	<u>Morgan Hill</u>	<u>\$1,063.97</u>
<u>Fremont*</u>	<u>\$283.62</u>	<u>San José Current</u>	<u>\$1,080.29</u>
<u>Milpitas**</u>	<u>\$313.56</u>	<u>Los Altos‡</u>	<u>\$1,103.73</u>
<u>Mountain View</u>	<u>\$385.45</u>	<u>Fremont*</u>	<u>\$1,103.89</u>
<u>Campbell</u>	<u>\$395.23</u>	<u>San José Proposed (Effective July 1, 2024)</u>	<u>\$1,105.35</u>
<u>Gilroy</u>	<u>\$411.31</u>	<u>Cupertino†</u>	<u>\$1,152.74</u>
<u>Santa Clara</u>	<u>\$431.89</u>	<u>Gilroy</u>	<u>\$1,156.22</u>
<u>Palo Alto</u>	<u>\$437.20</u>	<u>Campbell</u>	<u>\$1,206.20</u>
<u>Morgan Hill</u>	<u>\$462.15</u>	<u>Palo Alto</u>	<u>\$1,227.59</u>
<u>Sunnyvale</u>	<u>\$481.70</u>	<u>Saratoga</u>	<u>\$1,254.94</u>
<u>Los Gatos</u>	<u>\$488.91</u>	<u>Monte Sereno</u>	<u>\$1,336.89</u>
<u>Saratoga</u>	<u>\$566.53</u>	<u>Los Gatos</u>	<u>\$1,349.22</u>
<u>Los Altos‡</u>	<u>\$570.21</u>	<u>Milpitas**</u>	<u>\$1,449.96</u>
<u>Monte Sereno</u>	<u>\$579.01</u>	<u>Sunnyvale</u>	<u>\$1,467.07</u>
<u>Cupertino†</u>	<u>\$591.37</u>	<u>Mountain View</u>	<u>\$1,523.85</u>

\* From January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025

\*\* From January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024

† From February 1, 2024 to January 31, 2025

‡ Includes appropriate level of recycling and organics for no additional charge

### Will the Commercial Solid Waste service fees change?

Yes, a price increase will be applied to all services provided, as well as push-pull service, container locks, overage charge, rental charge, delivery, return, and bin cleaning.

### Will there be another rate change next year?

Possibly. The need for rate adjustments is evaluated each year and depends on a number of factors, including contractual cost increases.

### **What if I want to downsize my current garbage service to save money?**

Subscribe to the appropriate size containers and collection frequency to match the amount and type of waste you produce. Schedule a FREE waste audit to evaluate your business needs. Contact [Republic Services](#) at 408-432-1234.

Businesses subject to edible food recovery requirements must donate edible food to food rescue organizations (FROs) instead of throwing it away in the Organics (green) container. Please visit the County of Santa Clara [website](#) for more information about food recovery requirements.

### **May I share a cart with my neighboring businesses to save on costs?**

Yes, you can share containers with your neighboring businesses in certain circumstances. Once you have an arrangement agreed upon with your neighboring business, call Republic Services at 408-432-1234 to set this up. Republic Services can also help identify ways to share and reduce your costs.

### **How can I reduce my waste?**

Republic Services has several zero waste tips:

#### *Reduce*

- Order items with minimal packaging.
- Provide customers unbundled single-use foodware and condiments only upon request
- Print, copy, and write on both sides of a sheet of paper when possible.
- Use dry-erase boards and projectors for presentations instead of handing out copies.
- Make training manuals and company information available electronically, instead of in printed books and binders.
- Encourage your staff to use reusable coffee mugs, dishes, and utensils.
- Adopt an environmentally preferable purchasing policy.

#### *Reuse*

- Use refillable toner cartridges for printers. Non-refillable cartridges contain between two and three pounds of plastic and metal.
- Send documents between offices and departments in reusable envelopes.
- Reuse corrugated boxes for shipping supplies between offices.

- Buy refillable pens and mechanical pencils. Pencils and the outer casings of pens can come in a variety of reclaimed materials, such as recycled newspaper, plastic, and rubber.

#### *Donate*

- Donate unwanted office supplies to nonprofit organizations, charities, schools or used materials exchanges.
- Give excess building materials and supplies from renovations to low-income housing developers or non-profits such as Habitat for Humanity.
- Donate edible food and comply with state laws.

You can also visit the [City of San José](#) for more tips on the Five R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refuse, and Rot.

#### **How can I change or reduce my pickup services with Republic?**

Contact Republic Services at 408-432-1234 to request a change or to reduce service.

#### **Contact Us**

If you have further questions concerning rates or San José's commercial solid waste system, please contact us at [zerowaste@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:zerowaste@sanjoseca.gov).