

VALPARAISO CITY SERVICES
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
TRASH COLLECTION RATE INCREASE 2022

Q. How much will the average resident be paying as a result of the proposed increase?

A. The current rate is \$12.00 per month. Subject to future City Common Council approval, at the start of October 2022 the typical average residential user's trash and recycling fee will show an increase of \$7.50 per month for a total of \$19.50 per month for trash and recycling services. Refer to Rate Exhibit.

Q. Why does the Valparaiso City Services Department of Public Works need more money?

A. The proposed rate increase is required so that the City of Valparaiso can continue to pay for all costs associated with operating a safe, reliable and efficient trash and recycling operation, including:

- Cumulative effect of inflation on fuel and landfill costs.
- Volatility of the recycling market
- Capital equipment upgrades (garbage and recycling trucks)
- Continued increases in wages and benefits

Q. Has a schedule been set for the public hearings?

A. Yes. The tentative schedule is as follows (schedule is subject to change):

- Resolution by the Board of Works and Safety (08/12/2022)
- City Common Council Rate presentation and first reading of rate ordinance (08/22/2022)
- City Common Council Second reading, public hearing and final vote (09/12/2022)

Q. What are the trash and recycling services as shown in the monthly billing statement?

A. The resident is paying a service charge for the collection, transport and processing of all trash and recycling materials generated by the City of Valparaiso's residents. Depending on service, residents may also include a charge for water, sewage and stormwater services as provided by Valparaiso City Services.

Q. Is a rate increase needed at this time?

A. Yes. Rates have not been increased since 2012. The City of Valparaiso has done all it can to manage costs and realize operational efficiencies. However, increases are needed in order to assure long-term reliability, quality of service, and safety to our community. For more details, please visit <https://www.ci.valparaiso.in.us/163/City-Services---Public-Works-Division>.