

Expanded Waste Service Proposal

Spring 2022

Denver is exploring opportunities to reduce waste and take action on climate change by expanding residential collection services with **weekly recycling and composting** for all customers. This initiative will decrease the amount of waste being sent to the landfill, drastically reducing harmful methane emissions that impact the quality of life in our community. To cover the costs of expanded services, including labor and regular equipment replacement, Denver is proposing a fee based on the trash cart size that residents would select.

The city services about 180,000 households — approximately two-thirds of Denver residences. The city currently provides recycling every two weeks and charges for composting. Residents have been clear, they want weekly recycling available and they want the city to act on climate change. This proposal would accomplish both.

Fee proposal: In this system, customers are charged for waste services based on the size of their trash cart. **The smaller the cart, the lower the fee.**

Proposed rates



holds 7-8 tall kitchen bags



holds 4-5 tall kitchen bags



holds 2-3 tall kitchen bags

\$21 / month

\$13 / month

\$9 / month

Recycling and compost carts included at no extra charge

By state law, the fee can only cover the cost of service and cannot generate additional revenue for the city budget.

Learn more: www.denvergov.org/expandedcollection

This expansion of recycling and compost collection services will increase Denver's recycling and composting rate and send less of our waste to the landfill. Denver's current diversion rate is 26%, well below the national average of 34%.

Financial Assistance: Denver will be one of only a few cities in the nation providing a discount on waste services for low-income households. Eligibility for the instant rebate will be based on household income and the number of people in the home, according to the [Area Median Income table](#). Eligible residents can apply for a rebate before the new services begin.

Proposal Q&A

When would this fee start? If approved by City Council in the spring of 2022, the new service and fee would start by the end of the year.

What services are included in the new fee? [All services currently provided](#) are included in the fee, such as weekly trash pick-up, monthly extra trash/large item pick-up, special pick-ups such as TreeCycle and the Cherry Creek Recycling Drop-off center. New service will provide weekly recycling and composting collection for all customers with no additional fee.

How can I reduce my waste in order to reduce my monthly fee? There are many ways to reduce household waste. We strongly encourage residents to Refuse, Reuse, Reduce and then Recycle and Compost. People can learn more about waste prevention by visiting our Refuse and Reuse [website](#).

How will I know if I qualify for a rebate/financial assistance? Eligibility will be determined based on your household income and the number of people in the home. For example, the following household sizes may qualify for 50, 75, or 100% off their bill based on their income:

- 1 person household – up to \$44,016 annual income
- 2 person – up to \$30,304
- 3 person – up to \$56,592
- 4 person – up to \$68,880
- 5 person – up to \$67,910
- 6 person – up to \$72,941