

# How Would a Governance Change Affect GARBAGE AND RECYCLING SERVICE?

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## ***What Happens Today With Garbage and Recycling Service?***

Each household is different. Residents and businesses have the option of paying for garbage and recycling services, or they may haul their own materials to a King County Transfer Station. Curbside collection services are available in unincorporated King County, but collection by a hauling company is not required in unincorporated areas, or in cities that do not have mandatory collection services.

Garbage collection in unincorporated areas of the State is provided by private solid waste companies that hold the hauling Certificate for a particular area, and King County Solid Waste Division sets rates for transfer and disposal of materials. In unincorporated areas of the State, and in cities that do not contract for collection services, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) regulates rates of private solid waste haulers. Residents of the Benson Hill Communities pay the following collection rates listed below, today, depending on their approach to disposing of solid waste:

- If residents haul their own garbage and recycling material to transfer stations periodically, the minimum charge for disposal at each visit is \$15.25, or \$88.17 per ton, with additional fees for certain recyclables (such as appliances with refrigerants). King County Solid Waste has 8 transfer stations and 2 drop boxes in King County; the nearest sites are in Enumclaw and Renton.
- Some households purchase curbside collection from Waste Management once a month. A typical household of up to four people usually uses one 32-gallon garbage cart at a cost of \$11.90 per month, which totals to \$143 per year.
- Other households purchase weekly garbage and recycling collection. One 35-gallon garbage cart collected weekly costs \$19.05 per month, which totals to \$229 per year.
- In both cases, recycling collection every other week is included in garbage collection charges.
- Curbside yard waste service is also available weekly March through November, every other week December through February for an additional monthly cost of \$9.00.

## ***What Would Change About Our Service if the Area Annexed?***

The current provider of solid waste, for those who choose it, is a private company. Upon annexation, the area would come into the City under a provision of Renton's current contract with Waste Management, and would be provided weekly garbage, recycling and yard waste collection. The service and associated fees would be mandatory.

Any part of an unincorporated area served by another hauler (such as Allied Waste) would not be subject to the mandatory provision, and the existing hauler in the area would continue to provide service, for a period “not less than 7 years.” What this means is that the hauler holding the Certificate for the area would continue to provide service to all customers who opt for curbside collection, and a seven-year grace period would apply after a change in governance before residents would be required to sign up for garbage collection. Therefore, the City of Renton would not initiate mandatory service until the City takes over the area and customers come under the contract.

The City of Renton’s rates are generally lower than those in unincorporated King County for combined garbage, collection and yard waste collection. However, if residents are not currently paying for garbage service, these collection fees would represent a new cost to some households. Differences in collection rates are listed in the table below.

### ***How Do Solid Waste, Recycling and Yard Waste Fees Compare?***

The table below gives a comparison of one example of a household with a 32-gallon garbage can, receiving recycling service and yard waste.

<b>Waste Collection Service</b>	<b>King County</b>	<b>City of Renton</b>
One 32-gal Garbage Cart – Collection <i>Frequency of Collection:</i>	\$18.05 <i>Weekly</i>	\$13.44 <i>Weekly</i>
All-in-One Recycling Cart – Collection <i>Frequency of Collection:</i>	Included in rate above <i>Biweekly</i>	Included in rate above <i>Weekly</i>
64-gal Yard Waste Cart – Collection <i>Frequency of Collection:</i>	\$9.00 <i>Weekly in summer, bi-weekly in winter</i>	Included in rate above <i>Weekly</i>
<b>Total Monthly Charges</b>	<b>\$27.05</b>	<b>\$13.44</b>
<b>Annual Cost</b>	<b>\$324.60</b>	<b>\$161.28</b>

### ***Where Can I Learn More?***

King County Solid Waste Division: 206-296-4466 (information line) or

<http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/garbage-recycling/index.asp>

City of Renton Public Works: 425-430-7201 (information line), or

[www.ci.renton.wa.us/pw/utility/collserv.htm](http://www.ci.renton.wa.us/pw/utility/collserv.htm)

City of Renton Utility Billing: 425-430-6852