

Effective July 1, 2020, the City of Staunton will implement rate and fee increases for the 2021 fiscal year for the following services: refuse (trash) and recycling, and water fees. Information about the increases is provided in detail below.

Refuse & Recycling Rates

Q. How much will refuse and recycling rates increase, and why?

A. Trash and recycling fees will increase 10% to cover the costs of operating and capital expenses for waste removal, recycling, landfill operations and landfill costs. Bi-monthly customers will be billed at the new rates beginning with utility bills issued on Sept. 10. The increase will amount to an additional charge of \$1.90 per month – or \$3.80 bimonthly – on residents' utility bills.

Refuse & Recycling Rates	FY20 Rate	FY21 Rate
Residential	\$18.98	\$20.88
Recycling Fee	\$18.98	\$20.88
Light Commercial Fee	\$43.09	\$47.40
Heavy Commercial, Outside CBD	\$91.16	\$100.28
Heavy Commercial, Inside CBD	\$115.83	\$127.41
Special Unscheduled Pickup	\$95.00	\$105.00

Q. Why are fees for trash and recycling increasing while plastic recycling is suspended?

A. A few reasons:

- 1) While the City is not currently collecting plastic for recycling, the City is continuing to collect plastic as garbage. In other words, the container in which residents put plastic has changed, but the volume of waste the City collects has not changed.
- 2) The City has not discontinued recycling service. Metal and aluminum cans, cardboard, mixed paper and glass will continue to be collected from curbside

recycling bins. The City's recycling truck needs to be replaced to effectively continue curbside recycling collection and will cost about \$160,000.

- 3) The City pays its share, along with Waynesboro and Augusta County, for the use of the Augusta Regional Landfill. The City is expecting to raise the refuse rate incrementally over the next several years to prepare for a capital expenditure of \$997,272 in FY 2023 to develop a new cell at the landfill, scale house relocation and office construction projects. Each time the landfill opens a new cell for garbage disposal, it comes at a higher cost to each participating locality. City rates must keep up to ensure a well-maintained landfill for residents' use for years to come.

Water Rates & Fees

Q. How much will the water rate increase, and why?

- A. The water rate will increase by 5% to cover rising operating and capital costs to replace and repair major water system infrastructure. The funds will also go towards major water infrastructure projects including the \$6.9 million improvement project at Gardner Spring and the \$7 million Phase I of the North River pipeline replacement project, both of which supplies the majority of the City's water, including clean drinking water.

Bi-monthly customers will be billed at the new rates beginning with utility bills issued on Sept. 10. For an average family of four, the increase will add an estimated \$2.52 per bi-monthly billing cycle, or \$15.12 a year*

**Based on an average bi-monthly consumption of 14/100 cubic feet.*