

City of Poulsbo

Finance Department



Solid Waste Rate Change 2026 Q&A

Q: How much did my rate increase?

A: The Solid Waste increase was a total of 14.2%. It is a combination of the CPI-U increase of 2.7% which went into effect for all utilities, and an additional 11.5% per Ordinance 2025-20.

Q: When was this decided?

A: On 11/19/2025 a Public Hearing was held and Ordinance 2025-20 was adopted. You can watch the City Council meeting and the presentation on the City of Poulsbo website.

Q: Why didn't I know about this until now?

A: In addition to the Public Hearing, communication has gone out in a few ways. Information about the increase was included on the utility bills themselves in November and December 2025, the City newsletter in December 2025 and January 2026, and rates are also available on the City of Poulsbo website.

Q: Why did my rates go up?

A: Solid waste rates were analyzed as part of the Solid Waste Financial Evaluation performed by FCS Group in 2025. The conclusion of the Evaluation was that solid waste rates must be increased to allow the solid waste utility to continue to operate. City Council was presented with these results at the August 6, 2025 Council meeting and the recommendation was to raise rates 11.5% effective January 1, 2026. The rate increased due to increased operations costs. This includes the cost of waste disposal at the Olympic View Sanitary Landfill, cost of gas, insurance, and other items.

Q: I heard the city is looking at outsourcing solid waste services? Is this true?

A: Yes, the city is evaluating outsourcing. The cost of services is important to citizens. The city will be seeking proposals from outside providers in an effort to see if services can be more cost effective from a business that specializes in solid waste.