



June 18, 2019

Dear Valued Customer and Community Member,

During the Hillsboro City Council meeting on June 18, 2019, the Council approved a rate adjustment for garbage and recycling service that will take effect on August 1, 2019.

The 1.9% increase for residential customers (\$0.49 per month based on a 35-gallon roll cart) will develop a residential food scraps collection program with curbside composting.

- The City's goal is to begin the program in early 2020.
- Hillsboro residents will be able to simply add their food scraps to their yard debris. This will remove food waste from the garbage, and direct those wastes to compost. Doing so will decrease emissions from the landfill, and provide a feedstock for compost.
- Educational materials will be distributed to residences, along with a kitchen counter-top container for food scraps. There will not be a rate increase for commercial customers.

Garbage and recycling collection from Hillsboro homes and businesses is performed by six private waste collection companies. These companies are authorized under contract with the City to serve customers within defined areas of the City. The rates that the companies charge for collection services are set by the City Council and are reviewed annually based on an assessment of company revenues and expenses.

The annual assessment to determine whether rates are adequate to cover expenses — or whether an increase is warranted — includes variables such as costs for labor, fuel, health care, landfill, and recycling. As a City, we take every measure possible to avoid unnecessary increases in rates. Without new programs, there would be no need for an increase in rates this year. The Council declined a second option to offer food composting every week at an added cost of \$4.45 per month for most customers.

- Find more information on the City's solid waste program at [Hillsboro-Oregon.gov/SolidWaste](https://www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/SolidWaste), including tips to reduce your solid waste.
- Subscribe to receive email updates twice each month about City of Hillsboro news and events at [Hillsboro-Oregon.gov/News](https://www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/News).

We know you are busy, and we thank you for taking time to read this.

Sincerely,

Peter Brandom
Senior Project Manager