

Standardized Cart Program Q&A

The City is in the process of considering the pros and cons of a new standardized cart program. As we asked for feedback, you asked a number of great questions. Here are answers to your most popular questions:



• **Question: What would the cost be for the standardized cart program?**

Answer: The total quarterly fees are shown below. No matter if the City keeps the current program or moves to standardized carts, households will see a monthly fee increase (the cost of keeping everything the same is listed as “Status Quo” below). Should the City move to a standardized cart program, Local Waste Services would offer lower monthly rates when compared to keeping the current program. Senior discounts would still be available .

Service Level	Monthly Rate	Quarterly Rate	Billing Fee	Admin. Fee	Total Quarterly Fee	Quarterly Fee Change
Current Rate	\$13.75	\$41.25	\$0.50	-	\$41.75	
Status Quo Rate	\$19.20	\$57.60	\$1.80	-	\$59.40	+ \$17.65
96-Gallon Rate	\$18.20	\$54.60	\$1.80	\$2.25	\$58.65	+ \$16.90
64-Gallon Rate	\$17.20	\$51.60	\$1.80	\$2.25	\$55.65	+ \$13.90
48-Gallon Rate	\$16.20	\$48.60	\$1.80	\$2.25	\$52.65	+ \$10.90

Note: The current fee to rent a 96-gallon garbage cart and a 64-gallon recycling cart from Local Waste Services is \$5 monthly, or \$15 quarterly.

• **Question: Why are rates increasing now? Don't we have enough going on?**

• **Answer:** A rate increase was to be expected, as the last garbage and recycling collection fee increase in Whitehall was instituted over 10 years ago. The City's current contract expires in December, so a new program must be selected.

• **Question: Can't the City find a different garbage and recycling hauler to get households better rates?**

• **Answer:** The City participated in a competitive bidding process for the new contract, in which two of the three residential garbage and recycling haulers that operate in our area responded. Of those two haulers, Local Waste provided the lowest and best bid.

X MYTH

The City used a for-profit, private company to bid for the new garbage and recycling contract.

✓ FACT

The City participates in a garbage consortium managed by SWACO (the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio). SWACO is a government entity charged with managing waste in Franklin County. They offer garbage consortiums as a service to help over 40 communities in Franklin County partner together to secure lower garbage and recycling collection rates.

X MYTH

The recycling market has changed, and now most of what we try to recycle goes to the landfill anyway because it can't be sold.



FACT

While the recycling market has changed, Franklin County has a waste diversion rate of **50%**, and there is room to do better. With Whitehall's waste diversion rate only being **13.8%**, we can improve as a community too. The EPA reports that households using standardized carts discard between **14–17% less waste and increase recycling by up to 59%**.

- **Question: What will I receive in terms of benefits should we go with the new standardized cart program?**
- **Answer:** The fees on page one are an all-inclusive cost for garbage, recycling and yard waste collection services, a weekly bulk item collection and four unlimited collection days. Additionally, the program would upgrade all households from an 18-gallon recycling tote to a wheeled 64-gallon recycling cart.

...And there are some extra perks for everyone:



INCREASED
RECYCLING



COST
CONTAINMENT



AUTOMATED
COLLECTION



LITTER
REDUCTION

- **Question: What would I pay for the garbage and recycling carts?**
- **Answer:** Nothing. The garbage and recycling carts would be purchased, owned and maintained by the City, and distributed to all households. Fees would only apply should a resident need to purchase a second garbage cart for their household.
- **Question: What happens if there is another major flooding incident? How will that excess garbage be collected?**
- **Answer:** Should there be another natural disaster, the City would work with Local Waste to collect any additional waste produced at no additional charge to households.
- **Question: What about discounts for seniors?**
- **Answer:** Regardless of whether the City moves to a standardized cart program, discounts for seniors in our community will continue. The senior rate will be 10% less than the normal monthly program rates (as stated on page one).
- **Question: What would I do with my current garbage and recycling containers if we move to the new standardized cart program?**
- **Answer:** This depends on whether you currently rent carts from Local Waste or if you own carts. If you rent carts, they would be collected by Local Waste during the transition period. The 18-gallon recycling totes provided through the City would also be collected during the transition, or may be kept for other household purposes. If you own your garbage bins and carts, they could be used for yard waste or for other household purposes.

Learn more at www.whitehall-oh.us