

2.1.20 Waste Services and Charging

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| Type: | Corporate Services – Financial Management |
| Legislation: | <i>Local Government Act s 6.16 (2) (b)</i> <i>Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007</i> |
| Delegation: | Not Applicable |
| Other Related Document: | Policy 2.1.15 Waste Services for Community and Sporting Organisations Waste Local Law 2017 |

Objective

The purpose of this policy is to state Council’s position regarding waste management, service requirements and waste charges within the Town of East Fremantle.

The community is encouraged to embrace waste minimisation principles and maximise the separation of waste into the appropriate collection streams of recycling, food organics/garden organics (FOGO) and general waste.

Policy Scope

The State Government is proposing to legislate the imposition of a separate waste charge on the rate notice with the objective of “providing transparency and awareness of costs for ratepayers”.

Local governments should however establish guiding principles when determining an appropriate level for fees and charges that assist in maintaining uniformity of methodology over successive periods.

Waste charges will be adopted annually in Council’s Schedule of Fees and Charges. The receptacle charges are imposed under the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* (WARR Act). Collection of an annual charge for provision of a waste receptacle is permitted under Section 67 of the WARR Act as follows:

A local government may, in lieu of, and in addition to, a rate under Section 66, provide for the proposed disposal of waste, whether within its district or not, by making an annual charge per waste receptacle, payable in one sum or by equal monthly or other instalments in advance, in respect of premises provided with a waste service by the local government.

Waste charges will be levied with the objective of full cost recovery of direct and indirect costs, and incentivisation of use of the three-bin FOGO system. Waste charges include, but are not limited to, the following services:

- Kerbside Collection Service - FOGO
- Kerbside Collection Service - Recycling
- Kerbside Collection Service – General Waste
- General Waste – Commercial Collection
- Recycling – Commercial

- Bulk collection services
- Provision of Bulk Bins for Multi-Unit Dwellings
- Provision of Waste Education
- Provision of Residential Tip Passes
- Provision of FOGO Bin Caddy and Liners
- Provision of access to the Fremantle Recycling Centre
- Public place litter bins at parks, reserves and roadsides
- Provision of bins for privately run events

Policy

The Town of East Fremantle provides a standard 3 bin collection system for residential and commercial properties. There are options for variations to the standard services to meet specific requirements or needs of the user at the discretion of Town Officers, guided by the following key principles.

The following are the key principles of the system:

1. All residential dwellings within the Town will be charged for a standard three-bin FOGO waste service. This includes multi-unit dwellings where shared bins or bulk bins are being used. This principle is very similar to how minimum rates are applied; all residential properties are required to make an equitable contribution to the cost of waste services, irrespective of how they are consuming services, how much residential waste is being generated, or how efficient the collection systems are.
2. The standard three-bin collection system is a fortnightly 140 L general waste service, a fortnightly 240 L recycling service, and a weekly 240 L food organics and garden organics (FOGO) service.
3. All commercial properties within the Town will be charged for a standard three-bin service (unless a private contract is in place).
4. The standard commercial collection system is a weekly 240 L residual waste service and a fortnightly co-mingled recycling 240 L service. Where appropriate, commercial properties will also be provided with a 140 L or 240 L FOGO service, which is emptied weekly at no additional charge.
5. The standard waste collection system must utilise mobile garbage bins supplied by the Town. The bins are allocated to and are to remain at the property. Each bin will have a serial number affixed, which will be recorded in the rating system.
6. Residents may be granted an upgraded bin (140 L to 240 L) or one additional general waste bin (140 L) on payment of a one-off assessment fee and an ongoing service charge. Any amendment to the service will be pro rata and effective from delivery/removal.
7. Residents may be granted an increased recycling bin (240 L to 360 L) or one additional 240 L bin on payment of a one-off assessment fee and an ongoing service charge. Any amendment to services will be pro rata and effective from delivery/removal.
8. New applications for additional or upgrades to FOGO bins will not be supported.
9. Free upgrades will be limited to residents with medical conditions that generate unavoidable excess waste.
 - i. Supported by a doctor's note (using a pre-filled form with defined duration from the Town).
 - ii. Priority bin service users (~25 residents) automatically qualify for compassionate upgrades if required.

10. Where additional waste or recycling bins are requested, an application form must be signed by the property owner or their authorised agent. If an additional bin is no longer required, an application to remove the bin must be made in writing by the property owner or their authorised agent. A pro rata credit will be applied to the property with effect from the date of removal.
11. The Rates Notice is to provide separate descriptions for the Waste Charge and Additional Bin Charges.
12. The Town provides a priority service for eligible residents.
13. Council's waste provider reserves the right not to collect any FOGO or recycling service, as well as any additional bins, where deemed appropriate on the grounds of ongoing and/or regular contamination, provided previous notices have been given to the resident.
14. All bins, inclusive of contents, must not exceed a total weight greater than 60 kg.
15. Bins damaged through fair wear and tear, vandalised, or damaged by the collection contractor will be replaced at no cost to the owner. Customers may report these issues through the Customer Service Officers. For stolen bins, residents may be requested to provide a Statutory Declaration to secure a new bin free of charge, and Council may investigate these instances.
16. In the event that a collection is missed and the bin was presented for collection, the Town expects the collection contractor to collect the missed bin on the next business day if it is reported prior to 2 pm.
17. All Council-owned bins shall be removed prior to demolition and be reinstated on request, once the new dwelling has been completed. An amendment to the service form will be required at both events.
18. Exempt rateable property will be charged according to VEN property use.
19. Whilst the Town provides commercial waste services, businesses are encouraged to arrange their own waste services by engaging a commercial waste contractor.
20. Council also encourages clubs, schools and not-for-profit organisations to participate in FOGO and recycling activities. Pursuant to Policy 2.1.15 'Waste Services for Community and Sporting Organisations', all organisations will be eligible for a full concession on 1 general waste service, including a FOGO, recycling and general waste bin.

Provision of Kitchen Organics Caddies and Compostable Bags

The Town will provide all residential properties with an initial Kitchen Organics Caddy and a roll of 150 Compostable Bags. Additional rolls of 150 Compostable Bags may be made available during the year to residents who demonstrate their residency, justify their high usage and may incur a charge. Broken or lost kitchen caddies can be purchased from all major retail stores.

Community Events

The Town can provide bins for all event requests. Council approved fees and charges will apply. Event bin costs are based on the collection being undertaken as part of a normal collection run, enabling standard collection rates to apply. Should a collection be required outside a standard collection run then the applicable charge will be per hour to service the bins.

The Town can provide complete bin stations (waste, recycling, FOGO) for all events held in the Town of East Fremantle.

The charge per bin covers the delivery to/from the site and the disposal of contents (one empty prior to removal from site). If an event is cancelled after the bins have been delivered, then the event bin charge will remain applicable. A late notice fee will be charged for less than 2 weeks' notice of a community event.

Pricing

Western Australian Local Governments have the right to impose different types of charges in relation to services beyond the raising of a general rate, including a waste collection rate (section 66) or a receptacle charge (section 67) under the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* (WARR Act). The *Local Government Act 1995* deals with fees and charges from sections 6.16 to 6.19. In summary, a local government may impose a fee or charge for any goods or services it provides.

Recovery of the cost of disposing of waste from collection should preferably be recovered through the waste collection charges. Effective subsidisation of waste services by general rates is not seen as equitable.

Sundry waste services and expenses such as litter collection, provision of park and street bins, green waste removal are included in the pricing model, and recoverable through fees and charges.

The following pricing model assumptions apply:

- The current level of service is maintained.
- The split of indirect costs is apportioned 96% residential and 4% commercial based on relative rateable assessment numbers.
- The split of disposal costs is apportioned 94% residential and 6% commercial based on prior waste audits.
- The standard fee is calculated per rateable assessment rather than by bin.
- The pricing model is not discounted for any income that is received from additional bins. This additional income is to be transferred into the Waste Reserve annually. The objective of this transfer is to create a pool of available funds that the Town can draw down in the event there are unexpected movements in operating costs such as gate fees and overhead contributions.

The schedule of fees and charges are calculated in the appendices, and are to be reviewed annually and adopted by Council:

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| Responsible Directorate: | Corporate and Technical Services |
| Reviewing Officer: | Finance and Operations |
| Decision-making authority: | Council |
| Policy Adopted: | 19/11/24 |
| Policy Amended/Reviewed: | 21/04/26 |
| Former Policy No. | Refer to 2.1.13 |