

FAQ FOR SOLID WASTE BILLING

Why is this charge appearing on my water bill? Placing the solid waste fee on your water bill is the most efficient and least expensive method to charge residential properties for solid waste services. Consolidated Utility District (CUD) is also placing solid waste fees on their water customer billing for customers who are Murfreesboro residences and receive solid waste services.

What if the charge doesn't appear on my bill? The fee won't apply to all MWRD and CUD customers. It will only apply to residential or commercial customers who receive solid waste services inside the City.

How was \$5 chosen as the amount? The City wanted to keep the fee as low as possible while still collecting a per-month, per-container charge. In fact, \$5 does not fully recover the costs involved in operating City Solid Waste Services. At some point in the future, the City will have to raise the fee to cover increasing operations and transportation costs.

Why is Murfreesboro billing for solid waste collection and disposal? Solid waste collection and disposal is a utility service that is optimally billed through a user fee. The City has used tax revenue to fund this service to date; however, the service is primarily for residential single-family units. Using tax revenue from all property taxes (i.e., commercial and industrial properties) creates an inequitable subsidization of a service that they are not afforded by the City.

Why is Murfreesboro choosing to bill for solid waste collection and disposal services as a utility and charging a "user fee" now?

We must look ahead and plan for the eventual closure of that landfill – which is expected in less than 7 years. When the landfill does close, the City will begin shipping waste out of the county and will be charged a disposal fee (i.e., "tipping fee") at another landfill. The increased expenses require revenue that is ideally generated through a user fee. A user fee charges the individual property using the service fairly and equitably. The City was only able to cover solid waste services through property taxes to date because they were not charged "tipping fees" at Middle Point Landfill.

What if I want to find my own garbage pickup company? The City of Murfreesboro will determine who qualifies to receive City solid waste collection and disposal services. Single family residential units that do not have physical constraints prohibiting the City from picking up their garbage will be required to use City services. Having the City manage pickup actually makes things easier on our customers in a couple of important ways ...

- This method reduces the number of trucks on the road servicing waste pickup. Each solid waste garbage vehicle produces 20 times the carbon emissions coming from the average U.S. home.
- For example, only one truck will be used to pick-up an entire subdivisions' trash versus 3 or 4 trucks picking up only a portion of the subdivision.
- The \$5 fee is a fraction of the typical cost of solid waste pickup.

Where will the garbage be taken? We're looking at areas far from Rutherford County. The most likely sites right now are Camden, Tenn. (roughly 110 miles away) and Huntsville, Ala.