

Learn about your waste charge

**Your kerbside waste service is now a 4-bin service.
Your waste charge on your rates notice has also changed.**

Why do we have a waste charge?

The waste charge pays for all the kerbside waste services Council provides. This includes:

- the collection, transportation, sorting and processing of waste and recycling
- the hard waste service
- waste education for our community
- administration costs to deliver these services
- the State Government waste levy.

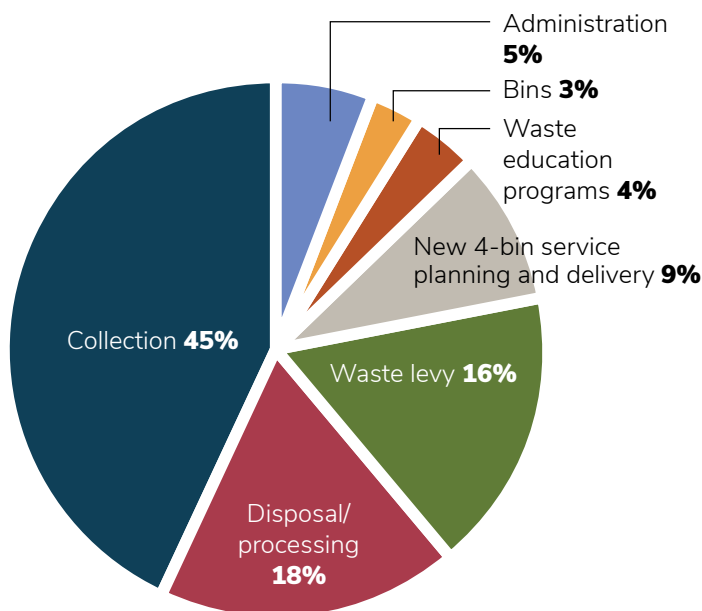
The waste levy increases every year and is charged per tonne of waste sent to landfill. As all general rubbish is sent to landfill, the general rubbish service is the most expensive to deliver.

The waste charge is paid by ratepayers and appears as a separate charge on your rates notice.

Having a separate waste charge is not new here in Merri-bek. We have included this charge in rates notices since the late 1990s to cover the cost of our waste services.

The new 4-bin service will help to manage the above costs. It will increase the amount of recycling we can collect and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. The more we can reduce waste to landfill the lower the cost impact of the waste levy will be.

Costs recovered through the waste charge for 2024/25



Has the waste charge increased?

Yes. The waste charge for 2023/24 has increased to cover the costs of the new glass recycling service, expanded food and garden organics service, and the yearly increase to the State Government waste levy.

The standard kerbside waste service will increase by 42 cents per week or \$21.19 per year (to a total cost of \$296.41 per annum).

The State Government has put funds towards the cost of starting the new 4-bin service. This has helped to offset the increased service costs.

You may notice that your waste charge looks a bit different this year...

There is no longer a single line charge on your rates notice. Having each collection service listed on your rates notice makes it easier for you to see what you are paying for. There are now 4 waste streams to collect and process. While recycling and composting is cheaper than sending waste to landfill, there are still costs to provide these services.

How is the waste charge calculated?

The charge depends on the size of each bin and whether it is shared. The charge for each service depends on the size of your bin. Where bins are shared (in a townhouse or apartment block) the charge is lower for all users.

The cost also depends on how often we collect each bin. For example, glass recycling bins are collected every 4 weeks, so this service has the lowest cost.

There is a higher charge for larger bins and a lower charge for smaller bins. Reducing household waste and recycling can reduce the need for larger bins and help minimise your waste charge.

Changes to bin sizes

Between March and June, most households received a larger mixed recycling bin and a new glass recycling bin. Households that did not already have a food and garden organics bin received one.

Now that you have received your rates notice, you can change the size of your bins if you need to.

If you request to change the size of your mixed recycling or food and garden organics bin within 2 months of the issue date on your rates notice, the charge for this bin will be back dated to 1st July.

If you request to change the size of these bins from 2 months after the issue date on your rates notice, you will be charged pro rata for this bin.

Important things to know...

- The waste charge is displayed a bit differently on your rates notice this year. General rubbish, mixed recycling, food and garden organics (FOGO) and glass recycling are now listed separately. In previous years the waste charge was listed in one single line.
- In Merri-bek, we have had a waste charge for 27 years.
- The waste charge funds the 4-bin kerbside service.
- Your waste charge depends on the size of each bin and whether bins are shared on your property. There is a higher charge for larger bins and lower charge for smaller bins.
- You can now request to change your bin size. We will back date your waste charge if your request is received within 2 months of the issue date on your rates notice.
- Reducing your household waste reduces the need for larger bins, which helps reduce your waste charge.

Standard bin sizes for the 4-bin service



240L bin
fortnightly
(larger)



120L bin
monthly
(new)



120L bin weekly
(new to households that
didn't have one)



80L bin
weekly
(no change)

More information

For more information on the new 4-bin waste service and how your waste charge is changing please visit merri-bek.vic.gov.au/bins
Phone 9240 1111

Merri-bek Language Link

Italiano	Italian	9280 1911
Ελληνικά	Greek	9280 1912
عربي	Arabic	9280 1913
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