

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding July 1, 2011, 2012 and 2013 Trash/Recycling Rate Increases

Q. Did Elk Grove enact a trash/recycling collection and disposal rate increase in FY 2010-11?

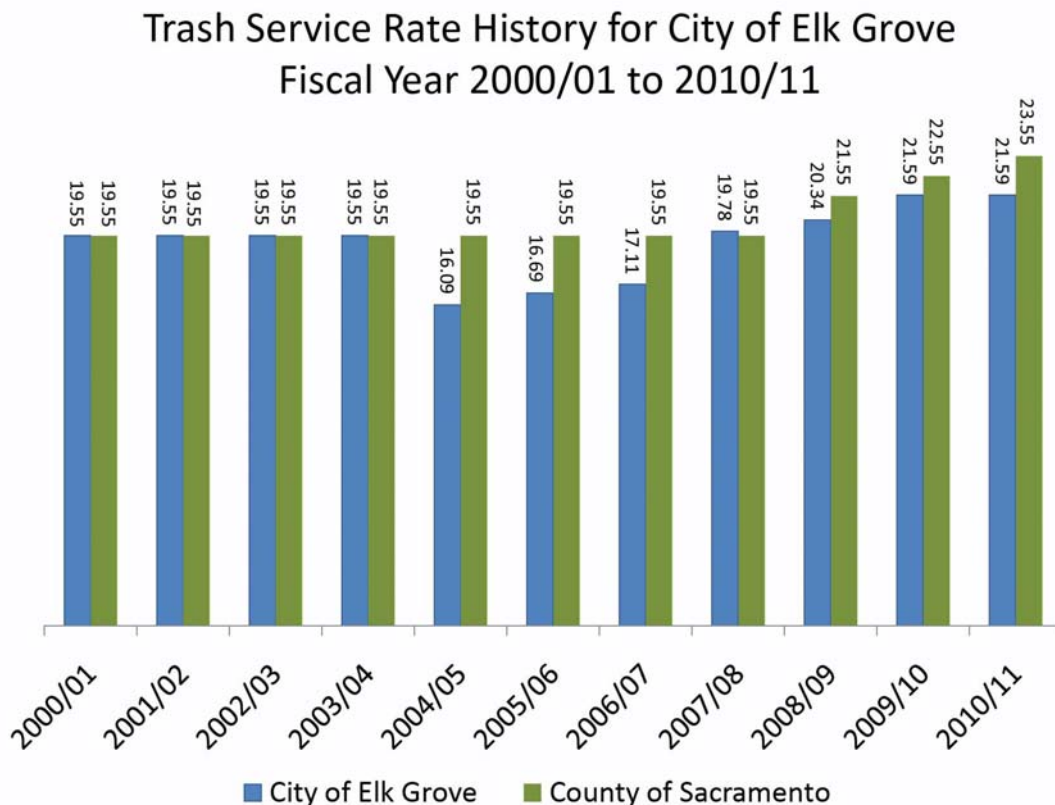
A. Elk Grove did not increase trash/recycling rates in Fiscal Year 2010-11. However, most other Cities and Counties did increase rates.

Q. How does the City compare with other City's and County's rates?

A. Elk Grove has the lowest solid waste service rates in the Sacramento region. The proposed increases will result in rates that are still below the regional average.

Q. How have Elk Grove trash/recycling rates changed since the year 2000?

A. The following chart demonstrates that the rate for trash/recycling services within the City of Elk Grove, has increased only \$2.04 overall. In those 10 years, State laws and regional pressures have gradually caused changes in trash and recycling responsibilities and processes that will affect the future. Proper planning for that future is essential part of proper environmental stewardship.



City of Elk Grove also offers the following additional programs not provided by the County:

1. Free Sharps Collection at residential homes
2. Free e-waste curbside collection
3. Annual dump day at Elder Creek Transfer Station

Q. What is included in the FY 2010-11 trash/recycling rate increase?

A. There are two components to the proposed increase.

- There is an inflation based increase in the cost of providing trash/recycling services to residents. As costs (fuel, labor, truck and landfill/recycling expenses) gradually increase, the City's contract obligation to Allied Waste also gradually increases consistent with a contract stipulated formula.
- There is a Household Hazardous Waste Facility related cost. This cost includes the property purchase and construction for a new City facility. This is a long term investment being made at an economically advantageous time when land and construction costs are greatly reduced.

Q. Why should Elk Grove build its own Household Hazardous Waste Collection facility?

A. State laws require that the City be responsible to separate a variety of things from the normal trash that goes into landfills and to file documentation that demonstrates compliance with the laws.

- For this purpose the City provides residents with separate trash, green waste, mixed recycling cans.
- Household hazardous waste (pool chemicals, cleaners, solvents, paint, used oil, etc) must also be collected and packaged for specialized disposal or recycling
- Universal waste (household batteries, fluorescent bulbs, mercury thermometers and many electronic devices, etc.) must also be collected and packaged for specialized disposal and recycling.
- In an ideal world 100% of the residents would separate household hazardous and universal waste for proper and environmentally sensitive disposal and recycling. However, currently only about 4% of Elk Grove residents take their household hazardous waste to two available locations with 3 out 4 utilizing the closer City of Sacramento facility.

The City of Sacramento facility is currently over-utilized for a variety of reasons and the City and regional partners support a HHW facility in Elk Grove. The Elk Grove facility will dramatically increase participation by Elk Grove residents in proper disposal and recycling of these wastes.

Q. Is the Elk Grove Household Hazardous Waste Collection facility dangerous?

A. The items that this facility will collect, package, and ship out for proper disposal or recycling are often stored temporarily in residential garages, laundry rooms, or under the kitchen sink. The collection of these items in one place requires that the staff identify and separately package the items so that they do not intermix, off gas, or create problems that might occur with improper handling. The City will provide guidelines on safe transportation and handling of small quantities. Convenience of recycling and disposal is another component of proper environmental stewardship.

Q. How can a resident use the three HHW facilities?

A. Elk Grove residents can drop-off 15 gallons or 125 lbs of waste (per visit) at the Elk Grove facility and not be charged any fee. If they bring larger quantities, there will be a sliding scale of disposal costs for the extra amount. Residents who take similar quantities of waste to the City or County of Sacramento will not be charged, however the City will be billed approximately \$70 for each drop off. Likewise Elk Grove will charge non-Elk Grove jurisdictions a similar cost for their residents to use the Elk Grove facility. This regional concept is an important component of proper environmental stewardship.

Q. How far are the three HHW facilities from the center of Elk Grove?

A. The City of Elk Grove HHW facility will be located near the Grantline Road and HWY 99 intersection. It will be approximately 4 miles from the center of Elk Grove, and depending on traffic, could take roughly 6-8 minutes each way.

The City of Sacramento’s HHW facility is located at 8491 Fruitridge Road. It is approximately 15 miles from the center of Elk Grove and, depending on traffic, could take roughly 25-30 minutes each way.

The County of Sacramento’s facility is located at 4450 Roseville Road, North Highlands. It is approximately 22 miles from the center of Elk Grove and depending on traffic could take roughly 35-45 minutes each way.

Q. What has the usage been at each facility since we began using the City of Sacramento’s and the County of Sacramento’s HHW facilities?

A. See chart below.

Fiscal Year	County of Sacramento Resident Visits	City of Sacramento Resident Visits	Total Visits	% of Elk Grove Residential Homes Using Facilities*
2004/05	No contract	905	905	2.1%
2005/06	170	1,018	1,188	2.3%
2006/07	143	1,133	1,276	2.8%
2007/08	208	1,134	1,342	3%
2008/09	302	1,124	1,426	3.1%
2009/10	355	1,251	1,606	3.5%

*Based on number of residential homes that particular year.