



WASTEPRO BACKGROUND:

WastePro was awarded an exclusive franchise for the collection and disposal of solid waste and the collection of recyclables in unincorporated areas of Buncombe County on October 6, 2009. The franchise agreement began **January 1, 2010 and ends December 31, 2019**. They are required to deposit all solid waste collected under the franchise in the Buncombe County Landfill or Transfer Station and to dispose of recyclables with a qualified recycle center.

CUSTOMERS (FROM WASTEPRO):

2010 – 26,584
2018 – 31,416 (Increase of 4,832 or 18%)

RATE STRUCTURE HISTORY (MONTHLY RATE):

January 1, 2010 - \$14.20
July 1, 2012 - \$14.77 (4.01% Increase granted.) The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 7.1% between January 1, 2010 and July 1, 2012.

WASTEPRO RATE INCREASE REQUEST (RECEIVED JUNE 28, 2018):

Proposed New Rate -	\$16.17
Recycle Fee -	\$ 1.00
Tipping Fee -	\$ 0.075
TOTAL REQUEST	\$17.245/MONTH

This is a requested increase of **\$2.475 per month, or a 16.76% increase**. In contrast, the CPI, as defined in the ordinance, since July 1, 2012 (last increase) has risen **8.73%**. Applying the CPI to the current rate of \$14.77, the monthly subscriber fee would be **\$16.06, an increase of \$1.29 per month**.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

As noted in their letter, the cost of handling recycling has dramatically changed since awarding the franchise. The market for recyclables is increasingly difficult and costs have escalated significantly. This is a nationwide impact and is unlikely to change soon.

WastePro collects an average of 601 tons of recyclables/month. At \$34/ton payable to the recycling contractor, that equates to \$245,208/year in costs. Additionally, WastePro receives a tipping fee yearly rebate from Buncombe County per policy. Last calendar year they received \$131,115.72.

Ordinance Requirements For Fees

- Fees set by Board of Commissioners
- For every \$1.00 increase in tipping fees, franchised collector may increase monthly customer charge by 10% of the tipping fee increase
- No increase entertained for the first two years of franchise term except due to legislative actions causing hauling or disposal costs to increase
- Subsequent increase request may be made if the percent change in the annual consumer price index for all urban consumers goes above 5% since the start of the contract or since last increase, whichever is later
- Board may grant or deny a fee increase following public hearing. Board shall grant or deny a request within 60 days of application