

AN ORDINANCE

No. _____

An Ordinance amending Article VII of Chapter 13 of the Columbus Code Solid Waste Collection and Disposal to update the landfill, residential and commercial waste disposal fees, to update the guidelines for an offset to the residential rate for low-income households; and for other purposes.

THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1.

Sections 13-169 (1) and 13-169 (2) of the Columbus Code of Ordinances are hereby deleted in its entirety and new Sections 13-169 (1) and 13-169 (2) are inserted to read as follows:

For the service of collection and disposal of garbage, trash, and other solid wastes, businesses, industries, and all non-residential institutions in the city requiring such services shall be charged as follows:

- (1) A minimum rate of \$26.00 per month for one (1) 95-gallon container for the disposal of garbage/trash and one (1) 95-gallon container for the disposal of recyclables collected at the curbside or on city right-of-way. Businesses, industries, and all nonresidential institutions are limited to one (1) additional container for the disposal of garbage/trash at the same cost assessed for an additional cart under the residential collection program. Collection will occur along with regular waste collection schedules.
- (2) A minimum rate of \$32.67 per month for one (1) 95-gallon container for the disposal of garbage/trash and one (1) 95-gallon container for the disposal of recyclables collected off city right-of-way or on private property. Businesses, industries, and all nonresidential institutions are limited to one (1) additional container for the disposal of garbage/trash at the same cost assessed for an additional cart under the residential collection program. Collection will occur along with regular waste collection schedules.

SECTION 2.

Section 13-169.1 (a) of the Columbus Code of Ordinances is hereby deleted in its entirety and a new Section 13-169.1 (a) is inserted to read as follows:

(a) A charge for the services of collection and disposal of garbage, trash, and other solid waste including yard waste, in Columbus, Georgia for any residential property shall be as follows:

- (1) A rate of \$24.00 per month for waste collection services at the curb or on city right-of-way. Residential households may purchase additional

garbage, trash, or yard waste containers at a one-time cart fee of \$55.00 for each additional container.

- (2) An offset of 25% per month, rounded to the nearest dime, for a low-income household collection service at the curb or on the city right-of-way.

A low income household is one which receives food stamps, aid to families with dependent children or has a total yearly income below the poverty income line guidelines for family units in the United States set by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, or its successor, said guidelines now being set forth presently in the Federal Register, Vol. 90, No. 11, January 17, 2025 (Document no. 2025-01377), pp. 5917-5918 as follows:

SIZE OF FAMILY UNIT	POVERTY
1	\$ 15,650
2	\$ 21,150
3	\$ 26,650
4	\$ 32,150
5	\$ 37,650
6	\$ 43,150
7	\$ 48,650
8	\$ 54,150
For each additional person, add	\$ 5,500

“Such guidelines will be adjusted annually according to the Federal Register.”

SECTION 3.

Section 13-169.1 (j) of the Columbus Code of Ordinances is hereby deleted in its entirety and a new Section 13-169.1 (j) is inserted to read as follows:

(j) The fees for collecting branches, limbs and trunks of trees to be removed from private property by the department of public works are as follows:

Per load	\$50.00
Per ton	\$76.50

- (1) An offset of 25 percent as described in section 13-169.1(2) shall be applied to low-income households.
- (2) The above rates shall be assessed on the customers' water and sewer bill and shown as a separate and distinct item on said bill and shall be paid in full by the due date as shown on said bill.
- (3) Should the aforesaid charge for tree disposal not be paid by said due date, action shall be taken as specified in section 13-169.1(e), (f), and (g).

SECTION 4.

Sections 13-170 (a) and 13-170 (d) of the Columbus Code of Ordinances are hereby deleted in its entirety and new Sections 13-170 (a) and 13-170 (d) are inserted to read as follows:

(a) A person (including private or non-governmental nonprofit organizations, which are exempt from ad valorem taxes, including the Muscogee County School District) who shall direct a vehicle into a sanitary landfill for the purpose of dumping solid waste therein shall pay according to the following schedule:

Effective date	July 1, 2025
Putrescible waste per ton	\$85.00
Construction and demolition waste per ton	\$85.00
Inert waste per ton	\$76.50
Special handling per ton	\$102.50

Tires:

Per ton\$110.00

Off-road tires:

Per ton\$270.00

Special handling. Solid waste requiring special handling shall be charged per vehicle at the rate designated. The following solid waste, plus any like items, as determined by the city manager, shall be classified in the special handling category:

- (1) Metal nuggets.
- (2) All liquids to include soft drinks, wine, beer and juice, the handling of which must be scheduled 24 hours in advance by the landfill division.
- (3) All animal entrails.
- (4) Carpet strips and bundles.
- (5) Cotton bales.

- (6) Wastewater solids.
- (7) Any food products or written documents that must be covered immediately, the handling of which must be scheduled 24 hours in advance by the landfill division.
- (8) Tobacco products.
- (9) Paint filters.
- (10) Wire, cable, or metal bonds if consisting of more than 30 percent of the land.
- (11) All products containing asbestos.

(d) All landfill fees shall be effective as specified Section 13-170 (a). Disposal will be available in accordance with posted schedules at each landfill except on Sundays and holidays authorized by the Council.

SECTION 5.

All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the 3rd day of June, 2025; introduced a second time at a regular meeting of said Council held on the 10th day of June, 2025, and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

Councilor Allen	voting _____
Councilor Anker	voting _____
Councilor Chambers	voting _____
Councilor Cogle	voting _____
Councilor Crabb	voting _____
Councilor Davis	voting _____
Councilor Garrett	voting _____
Councilor Hickey	voting _____
Councilor Huff	voting _____
Councilor Tucker	voting _____

Lindsey G. McLemore, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson, III, Mayor