



For Immediate Release

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RETHINKWASTE RELEASES GARBAGE RATE SURVEY RESULTS
Majority of Member Agency Rates for Most Common Garbage Cart Size Fall within the 50th Percentile of Surveyed Bay Area Communities

SAN CARLOS, CA – August 10, 2011 – RethinkWaste has released the results of a garbage rate survey showing that the majority of its 12 Member Agencies have residential rates for a 32-gallon garbage cart that continue to effectively be at or below the 50th percentile of the surveyed communities in the Bay Area. A total of 63 jurisdictions in Alameda, Santa Clara and San Mateo counties were surveyed using rates that were in place as of April 1, 2011. The 32-gallon garbage cart was used as the benchmark in the survey as nearly 80% of the 92,000 single-family households in the RethinkWaste service area subscribe to that service level or lower.

Based on the survey, the rate for the 50th percentile for those communities with garbage service levels ranging 30 to 35 gallons is \$24.63 per month. RethinkWaste Member Agencies with 32-gallon monthly rates effectively at or below the 50th percentile are as follows:

<u>Member Agency</u>	<u>Monthly Rate</u>
San Mateo	\$16.14
Foster City	\$17.78
Burlingame	\$19.08
Menlo Park	\$21.67
San Carlos	\$22.19
Redwood City	\$24.73
Belmont	\$25.12

These communities comprise 75 percent of the population in the RethinkWaste service area. Burlingame, Foster City and San Mateo all have solid waste rates for 32-gallon service substantially below the 50th percentile. Fewer RethinkWaste Member Agencies have 64-gallon and 96-gallon service level rates below the 50th percentile as many of these agencies have intentionally set progressive rates to charge more at higher garbage service levels.

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MEMBER AGENCIES: Town of Atherton • City of Belmont • City of Burlingame • City of East Palo Alto • City of Foster City • Town of Hillsborough
City of Menlo Park • City of Redwood City • City of San Carlos • City of San Mateo • County of San Mateo • West Bay Sanitary District

“Across our entire service area we are offering a great service value to cost equation for our residents,” remarked Kevin McCarthy, Executive Director of RethinkWaste. “With the January 1st rollout of the CartSMART program we now have the best residential recycling, compost and garbage collection services in the Bay area if not all of California and at a competitive price for the majority of our customers. Looking forward, we have strong contractual mechanisms in place to control costs, healthy cash reserves and a lower cost JPA structure to support keeping rates even more competitive.”

The survey was conducted by HF&H Consultants, LLC, on behalf of RethinkWaste, and has historically shown most of RethinkWaste’s Member Agencies having rates below the 50th percentile. A few Member Agencies, including Atherton and Hillsborough, have typically had higher rates based on geographic and service level considerations, such as difficult topography or greater distance between collection stops due to lot sizes, higher per capita generation rates for yard trimmings, and program requirements specific to that community.

The rates set by the Member Agencies also include paying off existing debts to Allied Waste of San Mateo County, the previous residential and commercial collection service provider whose contract expired last December, cart migration resulting in lower revenues for Member Agencies to cover program costs as more residents subscribe to smaller garbage cart sizes, increased Member Agency specific fees such as franchise fees, and increased San Mateo County fees, among others. RethinkWaste rolled out the new weekly CartSMART Recycle, Compost and Garbage collection services to its residents starting January 3, 2011. The increased costs for the new collection services accounted for an average rate increase of 4% for residents this year.

A copy of the full survey report can be found at <http://www.rethinkwaste.org/member-agencies/contractor-reports/annual-rate-review>.

RethinkWaste

Formed in 1982, RethinkWaste is a joint powers authority comprised of 12 Member Agencies (Atherton, Belmont, Burlingame, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Redwood City, San Carlos, San Mateo, the County of San Mateo and the West Bay Sanitary District) in San Mateo County and is a leader in implementing innovative waste reduction and recycling programs. RethinkWaste also owns and manages the Shoreway Environmental Center in San Carlos that includes a permitted solid waste transfer station and a recycling processing facility. The Agency’s legal name is the South Bayside Waste Management Authority (SBWMA.) For more information on RethinkWaste, please visit our website at www.RethinkWaste.org.

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SBWMA Residential 30-35 Gallon Rates (on April 1, 2011)

