

Solid Waste

Summary

Hermiston residents tie for paying the lowest rates for solid waste services among all of the cities surveyed, at \$16 per month for “standard” service. The standard service is not uniform among the various cities. When services are adjusted to reflect a true per-gallon rate, Hermiston residents pay at least 32% less than residents of the other cities.

Standard Service

The “Standard” service for Hermiston is a 90-Gallon cart emptied once per week. This is considered standard because it is the most popular service among residential customers. Because other cities may use different sizes for their standard service, comparing straight-across service costs may introduce bias into the survey. For example, residents of Hermiston and Baker City both pay \$16 per month, but Baker City residents receive 75% of the service for the same price, therefore making them not truly comparable services.

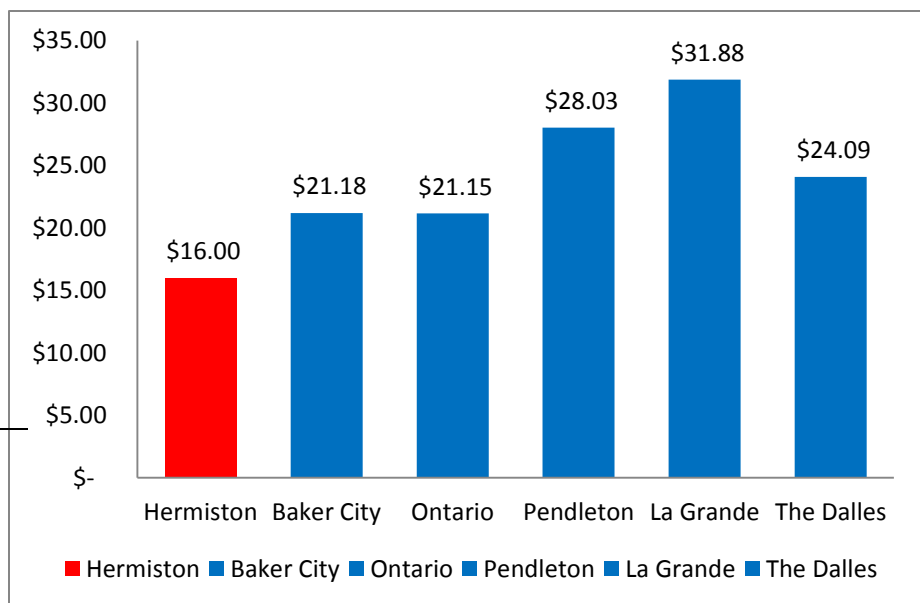
Standard Service Charges by City	
City	Service Charge
Hermiston ⁴	\$16.00
Baker City ⁵	\$16.00
Ontario ⁶	\$21.15
La Grande ⁷	\$21.25
The Dalles ⁸	\$24.09
Pendleton ⁹	\$29.90

Service Value

A better way to compare services between different cities is to look at the service value, or cost on a per-unit basis. By determining the per-gallon charge of all of the surveyed cities, it is possible to determine what the value would be in the other cities for an identical 90 gallon service, which is used in Hermiston. This process shows that Hermiston residents enjoy a much higher value for their rates than residents of the other cities surveyed.

Adjusted Charges for 90 Gal. Service	
City	Service Charge
Hermiston	\$16.00
Baker City	\$21.18
Ontario	\$21.15
La Grande	\$31.88
The Dalles	\$24.09
Pendleton	\$28.03

(Right): Monthly charge on a per-gallon basis converted to a 90 gallon equivalent to show the true value compared to Hermiston.



⁴ Hermiston: 90 Gallon Cart
⁵ Baker City: 68 Gallon Cart
⁶ Ontario: 90 Gallon Cart
⁷ La Grande: 60 Gallon Cart
⁸ The Dalles: 90 Gallon Cart
⁹ Pendleton: 96 Gallon Cart