

2021 Solid Waste Rate Study – Glossary of Terms

For purposes of the 2021 Solid Waste Rate Study, the following terms and definitions shall be used:

Abate, Abatement

To remove, remediate or terminate a public nuisance or violation of Tempe City Code Chapter 28.

Alley or Alleyway

Any public space or thoroughfare twenty (20) feet or less in width, which has been dedicated or granted for public use.

Commercial Customer

Classification of solid waste customers receiving front load, roll-off or special event services and meet the requirements defined in [Arizona Revised Statutes \(ARS\) Section 49-746](#).

Compost, Composting

Composting is the biological decomposition or decay of organic wastes (sometimes including mixed solid waste) under controlled, aerobic conditions. The end product of composting is compost, a humus-like material that can be added to soils to increase soil fertility, aeration and nutrient retention.

Container

Any receptacle used for the collection of solid waste. May also be referred to as bin or can.

Contamination

Commingling of refuse or other material having unsuitable physical or chemical properties with recyclables or green organics, thereby rendering the recyclable materials or green organics unfit for further reuse, requiring processing prior to reuse or decreasing their value for reuse.

Cost Allocation

The process of classifying or assigning annual costs of service to appropriate cost components, for subsequent proportional distribution to respective customer classifications.

Cost of Service

Total annual expenses associated with operations and maintenance capital-related costs incurred in meeting various aspects of providing solid waste utility services.

Cost of Service Rate Study

The process of determining the cost to provide solid waste utility service to each of the defined customer classifications. This process includes the functionalization and allocation of solid waste utility revenue requirements, followed by the distribution of costs, by customer classification, based on customer-specific costs for which each classification of service is responsible.

Customer Classification

The grouping of customers into homogeneous groups or classes. Tempe has two solid waste customer classifications: residential and commercial.

Customer Costs

Costs directly associated with serving customers.

Diversification

Re-direction of materials from landfill disposal through recovery.

Diversification Rate

Ratio of the quantity of recovered materials to the sum of the quantity of recovered

materials, plus the quantity of disposed materials. What materials are deemed recovered or disposed may vary among different local, state, provincial and national governments. May also be referred to as “recycling rate” or “recycling diversion rate”.

Enterprise Fund

Self-supporting method of funding a solid waste utility through revenues generated from service charges and fees, deposited and kept separate and distinct from local governments’ general funds (tax dollars).

Front End Loaders, Front Loaders

Solid waste collection vehicles with two forks attached to the front, used to lift bins overhead and empty the contents on top of the vehicle. Front end loaders are typically used to perform commercial collection services.

Garbage

Putrescible solid waste.

Green Organics

Solid waste comprised of brush, tree trimmings, grass clippings, shrub and tree cuttings, leaves and other organic wastes resulting from lawn care and gardening.

Hazardous Waste

Solid wastes that are hazardous by reason of their pathological, explosive, flammable, radiological or toxic nature, including, but not limited to, all wastes defined as hazardous by [ARS Section 49-921](#).

Inerts or Inert Material

Materials such as concrete, fully cured asphalt paving, glass, plastics, fiberglass, asphalt or fiberglass roofing shingles, brick, slag, ceramics, plaster, clay and clay products, that do not degrade or putrefy and are not hazardous waste.

Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)

A structure or building where commingled recyclables are separated and processed (including sorting, baling and crushing) or where source-separated recyclables are processed for sale to various markets. In a Dirty MRF, incoming recyclable materials are co-collected and commingled with other nonrecyclable portions of solid waste.

Rate-Making Process

The process of developing and establishing rates, fees and charges. The process is comprised of four phases: (1) determination of revenue requirements; (2) allocation of revenue requirements to appropriate cost components; (3) distribution of the costs of service for each cost component to customer classifications; and (4) development and design of a schedule of rates, fees and charges applicable to each customer classification, which recovers their proportional cost of service.

Rate Schedule

A schedule of the rates, fees and charges applicable to the various services and customer classifications.

Recyclables, Recyclable Material

Solid wastes that can potentially be reused as or recycled into a recycled material or recycled product. These wastes are separated from other solid waste for the purpose of being collected and recycled.

Recycled, Recycling

Refers to the collection, sorting, marketing, processing and transforming or remanufacturing recyclable materials into recycled materials and recycled products, including marketing thereof.

Residential Customer

Classification for customers receiving solid waste service for real property that has one or more structures and that contains four or fewer dwelling units for rent or lease, as defined in [ARS Sections 33-1310.4 and 3310.16](#). These customers receive weekly refuse and recycling collection.

Refuse

Non-putrescible solid waste, meaning solid waste that does not contain organic matter and therefore is not capable of being readily decomposed by microorganisms. Refuse is used synonymously with trash and garbage.

Revenue Requirements

The total annual operations and maintenance and capital-related expenses incurred in meeting various aspects of providing solid waste utility service.

Roll-Off Containers

Open-topped, rectangular containers for storage, collection and transport of solid waste, rolled onto and off of flatbed collection vehicles for transport. Roll-off containers are most commonly used for commercial customers and services.

Side Loaders

Solid waste collection vehicles that are loaded from the side, manually or with fully or semiautomated mechanical arms that grip containers, lift containers overhead, and empty them into the collection vehicle. Side loaders are typically used for residential services.

Solid Waste

Any refuse, green waste, liquid waste, medical waste, domestic animal waste, garbage, sludge and other discarded material, including solid, liquid, semisolid or contained gaseous material, but not including domestic sewage or hazardous wastes or swimming pool drainage water.

Solid Waste Infrastructure

Facilities, furnishings, equipment, systems and programs developed to provide solid waste services, including privately or publicly owned or operated collection fleets, transfer stations, MRFs, composting facilities, sanitary landfills, solid waste combustors and other solid waste disposal facilities, or operation or service contracts.

Special Wastes

Solid wastes that are often separated from mixed solid waste for special handling or management, including household hazardous waste, tires, batteries, discarded pesticides, E-waste and uncontained (bulk) wastes.

Tipping Fee

The fee charged for accepting recyclable materials or solid waste at a solid waste management facility such as a transfer station, MRF or landfill.

Transfer Station

Facility that receives and consolidates solid waste or recyclable materials from municipal or commercial collection trucks, and self-haulers' vehicles, and loads the solid waste onto tractor trailers, railcars or barges for long-haul transport to a distant disposal facility.

Uncontained Waste

Solid waste comprised of large, discarded materials such as large trimmings from trees and shrubbery, furniture, major appliances, mattresses and other acceptable materials that are too large to be deposited into containers. This waste is generated by a residential, single-unit dwelling within the City. May also be referred to as bulk trash/refuse.

Volume-Based Container Pricing

Charges for solid waste collection services that incrementally increase with disposed refuse volume, to encourage recycling and discourage landfill disposal.

Zero Waste

Efforts to reduce solid waste generation to minimal levels by minimizing excess consumption and maximizing the recovery of solid wastes through recycling and composting.