

Recycling Rate Increase - Frequently Asked Questions

- **Is recycling service required in the City?**
Yes, per Mount Vernon Municipal Code 8.12.010:
“The maintenance of health and sanitation requires, and it is the intention hereof, to make the collection, removal and disposal of recyclable materials, garbage and refuse and dead animals within the city compulsory and universal. (Ord. 3408 § 1, 2008)”
- **Does the City provide curbside recycling service?**
No. The City has never provided recycling service – the City has been a pass through for billing only. Waste Management is the current provider, and is currently the only provider of curbside recycling service, in our region.
- **Does the City set the rates for recycling service?**
No. As a private company, Waste Management sets their own rates.
- **Does the City determine the size of bins for recycling service?**
No. As a private company, Waste Management decides what size bins they will offer.
- **Why can't the City provide its own recycling services?**
In order for the City to provide recycling services, we would have to set up an entire utility (business) including collection trucks, employees, and a contract for the recycling materials. It is not feasible to do this as all of the set up costs would be passed along to our residents.
- **Can the Municipal Code be changed so that recycling is not required?**
Mount Vernon City Council is the only entity that can change the Municipal Code. Appeals to Council to change the Code can be made by:
 - Email: council@mountvernonwa.gov
 - Mail: 910 Cleveland Avenue, Mount Vernon, WA 98273