

WADENA COUNTY
SOLID WASTE SERVICE CHARGES
POLICY

As a method of collecting fees for services provided by Wadena County or by others through a contract with Wadena County, the Wadena County Board of Commissioners has implemented a Solid Waste Service Charge and subsequently a Solid Waste Service Charge Policy. For purposes of this policy the terms "Solid Waste Service Charge", "Solid Waste Service Fee", and "Parcel Charge" are utilized interchangeably and have the meaning defined and utilized in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 400 (400.08) as well as in Section 4 (4.01-4.05) of the Wadena County Solid Waste Management Ordinance (November 2012 as amended). Wadena County, per Minnesota Statutes Chapters; 115, 115A, 116, 375, 400, 145A, 561 and 609 is required to plan for as well as to provide certain waste management related services and/or access to certain solid waste management related services throughout the County of Wadena (Service Area).

In an effort to provide the above identified solid waste management services in a manner that is fair and equitable, the Wadena County Board of Commissioners has determined that all properties located within the Service Area shall be evaluated for use as it would pertain to the potential for such use to generate Solid Waste and/or to generate materials defined and required in either Minnesota Statutes or in the Wadena County Solid Waste Management Ordinance as requiring management, or "Solid Waste Management Services".

Property "classification" and "use" is determined by the records of the Wadena County Assessor's Office. Records of the Wadena County Assessor's Office, in general, are based on evaluations for the calendar year immediately preceding the tax year in which the Solid Waste Service Charge is placed on the real estate property tax statement.

Solid Waste Service Charges will be collected per a line item on the Real Estate Property Tax Statement associated with each property. The Property Tax Statement is utilized as a method of collection as it is a billing method available to Wadena County which does not require separate mailing and separate collection services. The Solid Waste Service Charge is defined and intended by Minnesota Statute Chapter 400 and the Wadena County Solid Waste Ordinance as a fee for services and shall not be interpreted or construed to be a tax.

Residential Properties:

The following is intended to identify the decisions used to determine if a property with a residential, seasonal, or recreational classification is subject to the Solid Waste Service Charge:

All primary properties claiming and receiving the Homestead classification shall be defined as occupied and shall be interpreted as generating solid waste or requiring solid waste management services. As a result, all properties claiming and receiving the Homestead Exclusion will be charged and shall pay the Solid Waste Service Charge as established by the Wadena County Board of Commissioners.

All properties having a dwelling unit located on the property (single unit dwelling, multiple dwelling unit, mobile/manufactured home, cabin, hunting shack, bunkhouse, or other dwelling unit such as campers, etc.) will be charged and shall pay the Solid Waste Service Charge as established by the Wadena County

Board of Commissioners, providing such dwelling is deemed habitable or usable by the Office of the Wadena County Assessor. Multiple dwelling units will be charged and shall pay a rate equal to the rate established by the Wadena County board of Commissioners times the total number of dwelling units.

NOTE: *all properties having a taxable value greater than salvage value and having two of three major utilities (a water source, a waste sewage disposal system, and a power source) shall be deemed habitable and likely to be used.* Multiple dwelling units will be charged and shall pay a rate equal to the rate established by the Wadena County Board of Commissioners times the total number of dwelling units.

Commercial/Industrial Properties:

The following is intended to identify the decisions used to determine if a property with a commercial and/or industrial classification is subject to the Solid Waste Service Charge. The Solid Waste Service Charge for all commercial/industrial properties is based on the quantities of waste generated by the activities located on the commercial/industrial property:

Wadena County licensed waste haulers are required as a part of their annual waste hauler licensing to provide Wadena County with information regarding the quantities or weight of solid waste collected from that property. The Wadena County Department of Solid Waste utilizes that information to determine the weight/volume based solid waste service charge to be assessed to each commercial/industrial property.

For commercial/industrial classified properties located in Wadena County which do not utilize the services of a licensed waste hauler, the Wadena County Department of Solid Waste will utilize information received from similar commercial/industrial properties located in Wadena County to extrapolate a weight/volume based solid waste service charge that is assessed to each of these commercial/industrial properties.

All commercial/industrial properties will be assessed and shall pay the Solid Waste Service Charge as established by the Wadena County Board of Commissioners. The rate for commercial/industrial properties established by the Wadena County Board of Commissioners shall consist of a rate for “up to the first ton of waste generated” and a rate for “each ton of waste generated after the first ton”.

Appeals:

A property owner wishing to appeal a decision in regard to the Service Charges assessed to a parcel of property that they own may first file an appeal by completing the form “Wadena County Solid Waste Management Service Charge Request for Solid Waste Department Decision” with the Wadena County Department of Solid Waste. If, upon receipt of decision and explanation from the Solid Waste Department, the property owner still feels that the Service Charge has been placed on their property in error the property owner may request a hearing according to Wadena County Solid Waste Ordinance Section 4.04 by completing the form titled “Wadena County Solid Waste Management Service Charge Request for Hearing”. Both forms can be found on the Wadena County website.