



## Marion Utilities

1540 N Washington St.

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[www.marionutilites.com](http://www.marionutilites.com)

## New Solid Waste rates to take effect August 1.

**PRESS RELEASE - July 17, 2024 - Please contact Sherry Loshnowsky at [communications@marionutilities.com](mailto:communications@marionutilities.com) for further information.**

New rates are getting ready to go into effect for trash collection and disposal services provided by Marion Utilities.

Marion Utilities officially assumed the task of trash pick-up for the City of Marion in 2014, and the rate established for the service at that time was \$13.80 per month. Since then, the utilities' Solid Waste division has seen a 38 percent increase in the amount of waste collected, according to Robin Shrader, Executive Director for Marion Utilities.

"In order for us to keep up with that level of increase, we had to add three full-time employees, three part-time employees, periodic temps and four more vehicles," she explained.

In 2018, expenses outweighed income for the first time at the new Solid Waste utility, and since then that gap has steadily widened. By 2022, all cash reserves were exhausted and the Solid Waste utility has twice now been forced to borrow from the city's other utilities to keep its operations afloat.

The new rate, approved by the Utility Service Board and Marion's Common Council, will be \$22.80 -- a \$9 increase. It will go into effect on August 1, but customers won't see the increase reflected on their bill until September, with payment dates due in October.

While no one wants to see a rate increase, Marion Utilities strives to provide the best possible service at the lowest cost. Just a few of the added services the utility provides include assistance for customers with physical disabilities, local large item removal and roll-off box rentals, an opt-in option for small businesses, and free waste removal at community events and neighborhood clean ups.

"Those who remember what trash collection was like prior to 2016 often attest to the improvement that's been made," Shrader said, pointing out that Marion Utilities has upgraded the overall trash experience for its customers.

The utility has consulted with financial advisers who project the new rate will be sufficient for the utility for at least three years. Shrader said moving forward, the utility will consider rate increases more often in order to not have such a large percentage increase all at once in the future.



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