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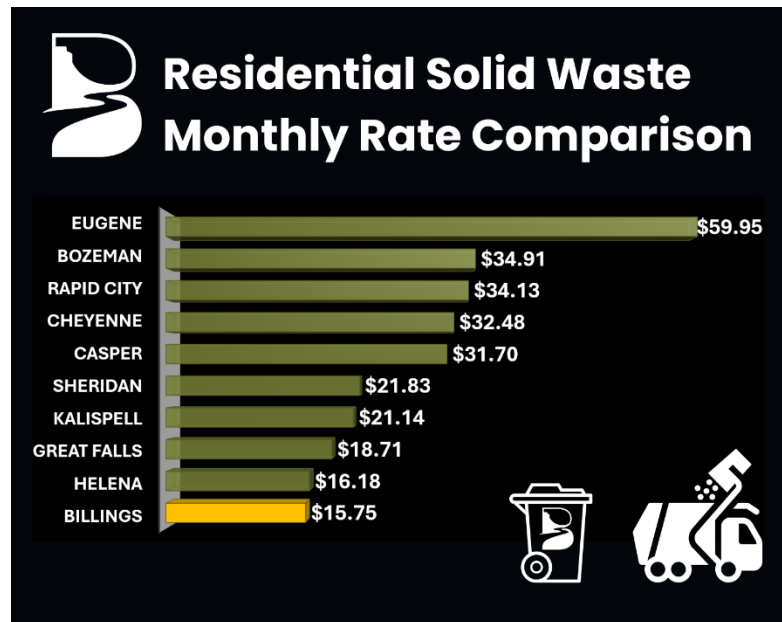
August 12, 2026

Cardboard Collection Ends September 24 & Bin Lid Closed Requirement Begins to Support Affordable Garbage Service & Cleaner Neighborhoods

Billings, MT – Beginning **September 24, 2026**, the City of Billings will discontinue its residential cardboard collection program. The change will save approximately **\$312,000 annually** in labor, equipment, and cardboard recycling costs while helping keep residential garbage service at **\$15.75 per month**, one of the lowest monthly rates in the region.

Why the Change is Being Made

The City recognizes many residents have made cardboard collection part of their routine, and this decision was not made lightly. After carefully reviewing the program's costs, the **10% participation rate**, and long-term sustainability, City Council determined that ending the program is the most responsible way to help keep garbage service affordable for all residents.



The program was launched three years ago to provide a convenient recycling option while reducing the amount of cardboard sent to the landfill. While it expanded recycling opportunities for residents, participation remained well below original projections as collection and recycling costs continued to increase.

Today, the program costs approximately **\$319,000 annually** to operate while generating an estimated **\$6,300 in annual landfill airspace savings**. Ending the program will save approximately **\$312,000 each year**, helping offset rising costs for labor, fuel, equipment, fleet maintenance, and other operating expenses without making garbage service more expensive.

Our Commitment to Keep Garbage Service Affordable

Like other Public Works utilities, Billings Solid Waste operates as an **enterprise fund**, meaning it is funded entirely through service fees rather than tax dollars and is operated to recover the cost of providing service, not to generate a profit.

Revenue generated by the Billings Regional Landfill also helps offset the cost of residential garbage service, allowing the City to maintain affordable rates. For comparison, households outside the Billings city limits often pay **two to three times more** for residential garbage service, depending on their provider, level of service, and location.

What to do with Cardboard after September 24

Residents can continue recycling cardboard with **Earth First Aid** at 458 Charles Street. When placing cardboard in the black garbage bin, please break down boxes to maximize space and ensure the lid is **completely closed for timely collection**. Residents who need additional capacity may add a second black garbage bin for \$5.25 per month.

Bin Lid CLOSED Rule Enforcement

To help keep neighborhoods clean and ensure reliable collection, please make sure all material fits inside your cart with the lid completely closed. **Bins with lids that cannot fully close will be tagged and skipped starting the week of September 28.**

Keeping Residents Informed

Residents will be notified and reminded through postcards, phone messages, email, and social media throughout August and September. The City will also host two public meetings to answer questions and address community concerns:

- **6 pm, Tuesday, 9/1** — City Council Chamber
- **Noon, Wednesday, 9/9** — Billings Public Library Community Room

A recording of the library meeting will be made available for residents who are unable to attend.





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For more information including frequently asked questions please visit:

www.billingsmtpublicworks.gov/183/Garbage-Collection

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