

**From:** [Streamline](#)  
**To:** [Haley Dodson](#)  
**Subject:** New form submission received: Written Public Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, January 16, 2025 9:42:38 AM

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## Written Public Comments

<b>Full Name:</b>	Jason Lopez
<b>Email Address:</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Phone Number:</b>	[REDACTED]
	<p>I don't object to Waste Connections specifically citing rising costs as a reason for increasing customer rates. I get it. My concern is that their annual rate hikes consistently exceed the inflation rate over multiple years. While anomalies can happen, a pattern like this raises serious questions about the business model of a shareholder-driven company operating as a monopoly operating in the interest of customers. If Waste</p>

**Written  
Public  
Comment:**

Connections faced competition, it would be motivated to improve services—such as hauling fire hazards like logs and brush, a basic expectation for a hauling company (why isn't the county requiring this?)—and operate more efficiently. My question to Waste Connections is simple: If forced to choose, would you prioritize raising rates above inflation or become more efficient and not risk losing a customer to a competitor? I protest these excessive rate increases and, more importantly, urge our elected leaders to begin exploring ways to introduce competition in the trash hauling industry in Cambria and the county.

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**From:** [Jeff Wilson](#)  
**To:** [BoardComment](#)  
**Subject:** MCD Rate Increase  
**Date:** Sunday, January 12, 2025 2:34:34 PM

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Hi.... I want to go on record as opposed to the 2025 rate increase of 12% (who really would want this?), and I'm not supportive of the rate increase methodology for years beyond, it's pretty convoluted consultant speak. But I'm resigned to it all being approved since we appear to have no options for service.

However, what I don't see from MCD in the proposal is data related to **key industry performance and operating metrics**, in particular efficiency metrics. A simple chat GPT search yielded the below key industry metrics... **metrics we should contractually demand from MCD annually in concert with their rate increase proposals**, in particular cost per ton disposed, a key measure of operational performance and efficiency.. These metrics can then be tracked over time to demonstrate how MCD and the community are improving... or not.

Thank you, Jeff Wilson

Key metrics used in the municipal solid waste industry include: per capita waste generation (kg/person/day), waste diversion rate (percentage of waste recycled or composted), capture rate of specific waste streams (percentage of a particular recyclable collected), impurity rate in recycling streams (percentage of non-recyclable materials), amount of waste sent to disposal (kg/resident), and the proportion of waste sent to energy recovery facilities; all of which help evaluate the efficiency and environmental impact of waste management systems.

Breakdown of important metrics:

**Waste generation per capita:**

Measures the average amount of waste generated by each person in a given area, providing a baseline for comparison across regions.

**Waste diversion rate:**

Represents the percentage of waste that is diverted from landfills through recycling, composting, or other waste-to-energy methods.

**Capture rate:**

Indicates the percentage of a specific recyclable material (like paper, plastic, or glass) that is actually collected from households and

businesses.

**Impurity rate:**

Measures the percentage of non-recyclable materials present in a collected recycling stream, impacting the quality of recycled materials.

**Waste sent to disposal:**

The amount of waste that is ultimately disposed of in landfills per resident, highlighting the effectiveness of waste reduction strategies.

**Waste-to-energy generation:**

The amount of energy produced from waste through incineration, demonstrating the potential for energy recovery from waste.

Other relevant metrics:

- **Collection efficiency:** The percentage of waste containers collected on a scheduled day.
- **Landfill capacity:** The remaining space available in a landfill, indicating potential future disposal needs.
- **Cost per ton of waste disposed:** The financial cost of disposing of a ton of waste.
- **Recycling program participation rate:** Percentage of households actively participating in a recycling program.

To: CCSD Board members and staff

Re: Mission Country contract negotiations

16 January 2025

All,

I have several questions regarding the proposed contract for the extension of the Mission Country Disposal Services. First, I understand that costs are rising, and all businesses need to be compensated for them to stay in business. However, in looking at the documentation provided, numerous questions arise, and whose answers will probably lead to additional questions.

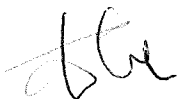
I apologize in advance for coming late to the party, but I enjoy numbers, and I'm having trouble making some of these numbers make sense and work.

Some general questions:

- 1) Will future rate increases be based on **actual** expenses up to the CPI with the 2%/5% limits, or will the CPI just be tacked onto the prior year's rates?
- 2) Is there a reason why Chicago Grade Landfill in Templeton does not show a rate for "Garbage Truck Rate per Ton"? Their standard rate is \$62/ton which is 11% better than the adjusted \$70 rate of Cold Canyon Landfill. Additionally, they are closer (43 vs 56 miles) which would drive down the other collection costs (labor & vehicle expenses).
- 3) From the July 3, 2024, letter to CCSD GM:
  - a. On page 2 of 3, table at the top, I have the following questions:
    - i. It appears the "% Increase" is that of the entire budget (my math says that's roughly \$8.4M). What would be relevant is how much these increases represent in their particular line item.
    - ii. Starting at the bottom, General Inflation, why? All these adjustments are being used to set the NEW rate base. I would assume they would include inflated costs for 2025, hence, in 2026 I would expect to see an inflation adjustment.
    - iii. To the HZI digester, a couple of questions:
      1. If the \$247,634 is 30% (as suggested in 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph), then the whole annual budget for the digester must currently be ~\$825K – is that correct?
      2. And if so, on which line of page 2 of 6 in the "Base Year Rate Adjustment Application" is that expense parked?
    - iv. To the "Tipping fee", the CPI change is listed as 35%, but the actual "adjusted cost" increase is 70.1%. Did you challenge that? Also, still interested in knowing about Chicago landfill in Templeton.
    - v. Finally, wages. In looking at that on page 2 of 6, the difference between the projected wages for 2024 and 2025 is only \$245,634 (an increase of 2.8%). Why does the "Wages" line on page 2 of 3 in the letter show \$457,145?

Sincerely,

Keith Hinrichsen



(Approaching 26 years in Cambria, not that it should matter in the least.)