



## Freedom of Choice in Waste Collection Threatened

For the past 10 years the city of Fort Collins has spent valuable time, and taxpayer dollars on the investigation into taking control of residential trash collection in the city limits. For 2008, they may be allocating as much as **\$135,000** toward the same cause. Does this sound like a good use of your tax dollars? Doesn't this sound like an excessive amount of money?

From past efforts, city officials concluded that the reports produced may have been biased, lacking factual proof, and did not take into consideration the effects on the waste collectors as businesses, who are major stakeholders in the process. After those studies they concluded it would be better to put the funds to use in more productive ways and let the current marketplace continue to improve through the efforts of stakeholders working together without the threat of take-over.



Under the current free market system, you have choices. You can choose what service type best fits YOUR household's needs, whether it's one small bag set out less than monthly or a large cart every week. You can choose what, how much and even if your household will participate in recycling. If we fail to meet YOUR service quality standards at any time, you can choose to be serviced by another hauler. Not to be forgotten, you can choose to get together with your neighbors or homeowner's association and pick, as a group, your desired hauler for your block or neighborhood, **without** the government telling you who it will be.

Fort Collins is supposed to be the "Choice City," but that status is continually threatened, especially when government aims to steal hard-earned business from private industry. They want to be known as a supporter of LOCAL business, but how is the threat created by districting supportive to the two remaining small waste collection businesses in our community? As business owners, we all face similar challenges. But having our business' future, our family's and employee family's futures threatened by **local government take-over** should not be one of them. What is it that makes **our** business of any less value than the landscapers, construction contractors or restaurants of our community, to the degree that the 49 years we have put into this business and community to build a respectable reputation and quality service should be threatened by government take-over?

The city officials and supporters have not been clear or honest in explaining the reason behind districting and this makes waste haulers very skeptical of supporting the concept. Supporters of districting have only brought PERCEIVED benefits to the table and are responsible for twisting opinions by asking questions that offer savings to residents. If the reason for districting is truly to improve recycling rates (% recycled), these funds should be spent helping the COMMERCIAL and construction waste sectors increase their programs for the fastest, most significant improvement. If the reason is to reduce street repairs in residential neighborhoods by decreasing truck traffic, then you should know that the number of trucks and companies is 1/2 of what it was 10 years ago, during the last study. (14 trucks to 6, now only 3 companies). You should also know that some of their ideas would actually INCREASE the number trucks in your neighborhood!

We ask you, is spending even more valuable resources on an issue that is working itself out through existing competition really necessary? If the study alone will cost \$135K, how much would the actual system cost? Is districting residential trash collection necessary? Why **really** is it being considered and are the desired results achievable through such a program? If government was more efficient than private industry, wouldn't everything be run that way? What *do* they call government that controls industry? If a districted system is put into place, residents will pay MORE, through increased monthly fees and taxes. After all, what does the government actually do that doesn't cost more than in the private sector?

For more information on this subject, please visit our website. We would encourage you to send your comments to us at [CustService@GallegosSanitation.com](mailto:CustService@GallegosSanitation.com)

or by mail to:

Districting Issue  
PO Box 1986  
Ft. Collins, CO 80522

## Local Waste Stream Breakdown

**D**o you know what makes up our local waste stream? Surprisingly, PAPER amounts to 24% of the total going into area landfills. Almost all paper is recyclable through your residential curbside recycling program or through our commercial service recycling program.

Construction material waste leads the pack at 31%. What about other waste generated at home? Well, yard-waste not recycled or composted is 16%, and food-waste amounts to 9%!

Undeniably, there is plenty all of us can do to improve our recycling habits, from participation at our home to our place of work.

You can find out more about what we have to offer in coming months on our website and can even download an updated copy of our recycle guide too. And remember everyone's effort counts!

## Christmas Tree Recycling

**I**nstead of "trashing" your tree after the holidays, why not recycle it? In the past, there have been several options for recycling this organic waste locally.

Every year the city of Fort Collins provides several drop-off sites for Christmas trees including Edora Park, Rolland Moore Park, City Street Utility yard, and Fossil Creek Nursery. These drop-off locations will be open to receive trees from December 26<sup>th</sup> thru January 20<sup>th</sup>. For information on the program for this year, contact the City of Fort Collins Natural Resources Department at 970-221-6264.

The City of Loveland has provided two drop-off locations for residents in prior years located at Barnes Park (by the batting cages), 401 S. Cleveland and Kroh Park, Highway 287 and 52nd Street. These sites are generally open from December 23<sup>rd</sup> thru January 31<sup>st</sup>.

You may wish to contact these entities closer to the holiday to ensure that all of these locations will be open for this season. We would encourage you to have your neighborhood leaders, HOA or management company contact our sales office if you are interested in receiving a Christmas tree recycling program customized to fit your neighborhood needs. We will still pick up trees at curbside on your collection day for a small fee, as in the past. Hageman's Earthcycle, located at 3501 E. Prospect Road also offers a drop-off, for a small fee.

## 2008 Service Rates

**A**s we enter a new year, we are excited about the progress we have made to improve our service quality and options. We have worked diligently at many areas of expense and feel confident that our customers are reaping the benefits of our efforts. And we will continue in our efforts to seek new avenues to service you more efficiently to minimize the changes to our service rates for 2008.

Over the past year, much consideration has been given to alternative fuel sources due to the rising costs of fuel and environmental impacts. We have utilized a fuel surcharge to offset some of the fluctuation we encounter in fuel markets. At this time we will attempt to settle this fee into existing service rates and will not reinstitute this charge unless it becomes necessary due to larger incremental changes in fuel prices in the future. This will limit our rate adjustment to a 6-10% increase for the coming year. This increase will allow us to roll in the fuel market changes and adjust for other inflationary factors.

We want to thank you in advance for your continued patronage and we want you to know that we are committed to seeking other options that will contribute to reducing our expenses and the cost of service to our customers.

## HOLIDAY ALERT!

Area Landfills are closed every year on the following holidays:

**New Years Day - Memorial Day - Independence Day  
Labor Day - Thanksgiving Day - Christmas Day**

For **2007/2008**, if your pickup day falls **ON** or **AFTER** the following holiday **during the regular work week**, your normal pickup will be **delayed by one day**:

**Thanksgiving Day** Thursday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007  
**Christmas Day** Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
**New Year's Day** Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>  
**Memorial Day** Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>  
**Independence Day** Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>  
**Labor Day** Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup>

Please visit our website for more detailed holiday information



1941 Heath Parkway #2

Fort Collins, CO

Phone: (970) 484-5556

Fax: (970) 484-0662

Comments? Mail to:

P.O. Box 1986

Fort Collins, CO 80522

Visit us @ [www.GallegosSanitation.com](http://www.GallegosSanitation.com)