



Council Receives Staff Recommendation on Districting

On September 23, city council met during a scheduled work session to further discuss the results of the trash services study and districting of trash collection in Fort Collins. At this meeting, city staff presented council with five options for going forward. Option 1 was to implement a city-wide contract for residential trash collection that utilized only one or multiple waste haulers for all residential waste and recycling collection in the city. Option 4 was a combination of Options 2 & 3 that included creating additional licensing requirements for haulers and implementing recycling strategies outlined in the study without districting trash collection. Option 5 was to make no changes to the existing system.

Over the past few months, city staff conducted a public outreach program that generated 306 responses through a website designed to take comments on the districting issue. Of the 306 people who left responses only 85, less than a third, were in favor of a districted model. 162 opposed the districting concept and another 59 sought other means for reaching goals such as increased recycling programs, increased pay-as-you-throw strategies and HOA agreements, and former experiences with other trash systems. The city also received around 3,500 postcards from one hauler's customers, with 3,400, or 97% indicating their opposition to the city's proposed districting of residential trash collection and/or their desire to continue to be able to choose their own hauler.

As a part of this council work session, city staff made a recommendation to council to go forward with Option 4 and discontinue the discussion and pursuit of a districted residential trash collection system. The Council discussion that followed identified some impacts of the study. It was identified that the estimated savings for street repairs (\$170,000) amount to less than a 2% savings and could even be less. While the reduction in estimated carbon emissions could amount to 271 tons of CO₂e, it was determined to be too minuscule to measure as a part of the city's overall **carbon footprint (2.65 million tons - Climate Task Force Report)**. These estimated savings may erroneously assume that every trash company travels down every street.

Despite the recommendation from city staff, the minimal savings on street repair and improvement to air quality; and not to mention public opinion against districting, council remained divided on the issue. Mayor Hutchinson, Councilmember Brown, and Councilmember Wade were in favor of dropping a city-wide trash collection system in pursuit of increased licensing requirements and the pursuit of more recycling strategies (Option 4). Councilmembers Brown and Wade showed their consideration of public opinion by indicating that the feedback was clearly in favor of freedom of choice and that residents don't want to do it, so neither do they. Other council members requested the pursuit of both Options 1 and 4. Councilmember Manville indicated that he wanted to continue to have the districting issue pursued, yet he made comments supporting both sides of the issue throughout the evening. Councilmember Poppaw made few comments, other than her recommendation to move forward, recognizing a need to improve the current system. Councilmember Roy was least influenced by the public opinion, naming districting as the solution. Councilmember Olsen was not present.

Based on these Council recommendations, city staff will write complete implementation plans for both Options 1 and 4 to be discussed at yet another council work session in December or early January. These plans should be inclusive of all methods and cost of implementation. The consulting firm will recommend to city staff to model only a SINGLE service provider plan, rather than multiple districts. This hauler recognizes a need for improving the current system, but believes all substantial and measurable benefits can be accomplished without taking away the public's rights to choose by implementing a city-wide contract for waste collection.

You can view the work session by following the link below and selecting the September 23, 2008 work Session at:
<http://fcgov.com/cable14/video.php> (begins at 1:45:55)

CHEAPER RATES?

Portland, OR has a district system, and pay:
\$26.50/month = 35-gallon cart service
\$31.25/month = 60-gallon cart service
\$36.50/month = 90-gallon cart service
The city's trash rate increase for last year was more than \$3.60/month!

Where are Service Rates Going?

As the US economy continues along an unpredictable course, we share your concern over future costs. This year has been an unprecedented year for instability in fuel and steel markets around the world.

Your cost for service is greatly affected by the prices we pay our suppliers. If suppliers throughout the chain increase their prices substantially, we are forced to make adjustments to our fees to cover the increase in our costs.

You can anticipate an increase in your standard monthly service fee of 8-12% for 2009, based on today's forecasts. Non-standard fees that do not impact everyone, such as extra trash, delivery, container exchanges, and the like, may see larger rate increases.

This past year it became a transportation industry standard practice to assess a fuel surcharge for delivery or collection of just about everything, since fuel prices have become so unpredictable.

For this reason, we will continue to assess a small fuel surcharge to cover the fluctuations in diesel fuel costs, adjusting it up or down based on market changes. Be aware that some companies are charging an additional 20% against the bill total, even charges that are unrelated to fuel (i.e. Rental fees).

We are making every effort to reduce our costs and thus any pass-thru expense to our customers. We are making some cost improvements through routing efficiencies that reduce miles traveled and idle time, joint and volume purchasing, and our safety program. We are always open to our customers for recommendations.

Carter Lake & Rural Recycle Changes

In the coming months, we will be making reductions to services offered to rural areas around Larimer County.

Effective, **November 3, 2008**, we will no longer be able to service customers in certain parts of the Carter Lake area. We will continue to service customers living along Cty Rd 18E west to Cty Rd 31, but will not service and road off of and including Cty Rd 31. On the south end, we will service customers living along Cty Rd 8E, west up to Cty Rd 27.

We have made this decision for several reasons. After studying the terrain of the area, it has been determined that many of the roads pose a threat to the safety of our personnel, equipment, and resident properties. Most roads do not have adequate space available for our trucks to turn around. Any effort to assess service fees inclusive of these added costs would result in exorbitant monthly fees.

Recycling has become one of the most noticeable ways residents can make a difference to the environment. However, this must be weighed against other impacts and the costs associated with the service. Locally, the cost of collecting recycling at roadside far exceeds the revenue created by the sale of mixed stream recyclables. To cover the cost of this service the monthly fee for trash collection would nearly double, under current participation and recycle market conditions. So, effective **January 1, 2009**, we will no longer provide recycling collection north and west of Hwy 287 to Cty Rd 17 to Cty Rd 58 to Hwy 1 to Cty Rd 66 unless you live in a qualified neighborhood or inside Wellington town limits. Recycling will also be discontinued for areas surrounding Laporte north of Hwy 287 and west of Cty Rd 25E.

For customers affected by these changes and your recycling convenience, we are providing recycling drop-off sites at Main Street Market in Wellington, and Overland Foods in Laporte. To ensure the longevity of these drop-off locations, please pay attention to all signage and preparation instructions and do not leave any materials on the ground.

We apologize for any inconvenience the changes may cause you, and hope you recognize our need to ensure efficiency and safety for the benefit of all customers and the future of GSI.

A map of affected areas will be available on our website, and we will mail letters to affected customers as we approach the dates of these changes.

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 **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**:

Independence Day	Friday, July 4 th
Labor Day	Monday, September 1 st
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 27 th
Christmas Day	Thursday, December 25 th
New Year's Day	Thursday, January 1 st , 2009

Visit our website for more information about holiday scheduling



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