

Garbage Collection Fact Sheet

This Fact Sheet has been prepared to answer the most commonly asked questions regarding the new Solid Waste Collection Contract approved by Council April 12, 2010.

Why the change?

The current contract with Waste Management ends this year, and the contract was sent out for bid.

When does the new contract go into effect?

The new contract goes into effect October 1, 2010.

What will change?

The waste hauler will be Waste Pro, replacing Waste Management. The method of collection will move to an automated process, which means that workers no longer will manually dump the containers into the trucks. The automated process should improve the aesthetics with the use of standardized containers. Improved safety and a reduction in costs also are benefits.

What about horticulture pickup?

Horticulture will be picked up the same as it is now.

How much of a savings will I see?

Customers may save \$1 each month on collection expenses (est. of \$1 million citywide). The actual savings will depend on other annual fees associated with administration of the contract and dumping fees, which are calculated during the year.

What should I expect to happen?

You will be provided two new containers by Waste Pro – one for garbage and one for recycling. There is no charge for the containers. These containers will need to be placed properly at curbside on your current, scheduled pickup day. Additional placement instructions will be provided via door hangers and with containers, which will be delivered in the fall.

What size is the new garbage container?

The garbage containers are large – 96 gallons. The larger size container should eliminate the need for customers to use plastic, garbage bags and sit them curbside. The containers have wheels and hinged lids, which are harder for animals to open.

What if I do not have room in my garage for this large container? Will I be able to keep them outside?

In most cases, containers stored outside should not be visible from the street; however, because new containers are required, Code Compliance will allow containers provided by Waste Pro to sit adjacent to the side of the house.

What size is the new recycling container?

Recycling containers will hold 65 gallons of recyclables – twice as much as the current blue totes. Larger recycling containers typically result in more recycling.

Do I still need to sort my recycling?

No. The City is moving to a single-stream recycling process. Lee County's Recycling Facility will have new equipment in place by October 1 to handle the new process.

Can I get a smaller container for my garbage?

No. There is only one size container provided.

Can I get a smaller container for recyclables?

No. There is only one size container available for recyclables.

If I live alone and have a doctor's note about moving any size container, can I get assistance?

Yes. With an annual doctor's excuse, the hauler will bring your container to the street and return it.

Who maintains the container?

The containers will be delivered and maintained by Waste Pro.

What do I do with my old garbage can or recycle container?

Old containers can be used for horticulture, storing Christmas decorations or destroyed.

Who do I contact when I have questions?

The containers will have Waste Pro's phone number. We also will have a Waste Pro representative located in City Hall starting in August. Flyers will be provided at your door with information during the summer.