

City of Columbia Council Work Session

Monday, November 7, 2022



COUNCIL WORK SESSION NOVEMBER 7, 2022



Solid Waste Division

Review of Current Curbside Collections
and Recommendations for Council
Consideration

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Current Refuse Collection Operation

- Approximately 35,500 Customers serviced each week.
- 8 routes for garbage each day
- 5 routes for recycling each day if provided weekly
- Currently due to low staffing the recycling is being collected with three routes each day and customers being served every other week.

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Current Refuse Collection Operations

Manual curbside collection

- 104 City Logo Bags provided per year.
- Additional bags purchased for \$2 / bag.
- Bulky items
 - One free item per year
 - \$21.50 per individual item, \$5.00 for each additional item at the same collection time
- Major Appliances
 - \$21.50 per appliance without refrigerants
 - \$29.50 per appliance with refrigerants

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Current Residential Curbside Refuse Program

- Manual collection with 8 refuse routes per day, Monday – Friday, approximately 890 stops per route.
- One bulky item route per day, Monday – Friday, 20 stops per day.
- One major appliance route per day, Monday – Friday, 20 stops per day.
- In addition, each vehicle services approximately 10 – 2 yard rear load containers each day.



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Current Recycling Collection Operation

Manual curbside collection

- Blue Bags - no bag limit
 - Rigid plastics #1-#7
 - Aluminum cans
 - Metal food cans
 - Glass bottles and jars
- Fiber – no limit
 - Cardboard
 - Chipboard
 - Office paper
 - News paper
 - Junk mail

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Recommendation 1:

Residential Curbside Recycling Program

Defer consideration of changes to the method of collection of curbside recycling pending results of study. Council approved an engineering services agreement with RRT Design & Construction to evaluate the City's current recycling operations. This project will ultimately advise the City on changes to both improve the operations and to meet goals in the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

Recommendation 2:

Consider elimination of the Logo Bag Program and stop providing black bags for refuse collection.

This is a subject of many complaints from customers, such as:

- Defective bags.
- Bags not available in stores.
- \$2.00 per additional bags is too high.

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Recommendation 2:

Consider ending the requirement to use City Logo Bags for refuse on January 2, 2023.

- Still require all refuse to be placed in bags with a maximum weight of 50 pounds.

Stop providing black bags for refuse.

- Continue to provide vouchers until current inventory of bags is consumed.

Reduce expenses by approximately \$1,154,146 annually if bags are no longer provided by the City.

Recommendation 2:

Consider no longer providing blue bags for recycling.

- Continue to provide vouchers until current inventory of bags is consumed.
- Require the use of a blue or transparent bag for container recycling.

Reduce expenses by approximately \$398,927 annually.

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Recommendation 3: Consider Conversion to Automated Residential Curbside Refuse Program

Convert to an automated collection system. This should improve working conditions by reducing the number of staff required to ride on the back of trucks and manually loading materials, the most hazardous portion of the operations.



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Automated Residential Curbside Refuse Program

- Automated collection with 9 CDL required routes per day, Monday – Friday, approximately 710 stops per day.
- Automated collection with 2 non CDL routes, approximately 355 stops per day.
- One major appliance route per day, Monday – Friday, 20 stops per day.
- Two bulky item and container routes per day, Monday – Friday, 40 container and 10 bulky items per day.



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Automated Residential Curbside Refuse Program - Carts

- Recommend providing a single size of cart to all curbside customers, either a 65 gallon or 95 gallon cart.
- Customers needing an additional cart would pay an additional monthly fee.
 - \$8 per month for an additional 65 gallon cart.
 - \$12 per month for an additional 95 gallon cart.
- Would also need to look at provisions for collecting for one time excess volumes as part of special pickup or bulky item collections.



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Collection Staff Comments and Concerns

- Add Pays for manual collections may go away.
 - The City is currently performing a comprehensive classification and compensation study. When this study is complete, if implemented, the rates of pay will be market based and add pays will not be necessary for Refuse Collectors.
- Hiring Process is slow and difficult.
 - There is always opportunities to improve on any process. Human Resources and staff work well together. The hiring process for individuals required to have a Commercial Drivers License is longer due to the requirements of the position. It requires additional background checks, medical physical, etc.

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Collection Staff Comments and Concerns

- Logo Bag Requirement
 - Staff is concerned that customers may put out many more bags. The requirement that all refuse be in bag and the bags weigh less than 50 pounds would remain in place. It is doubtful additional garbage would be created due to this.
- Efficiency
 - Collections staff is concerned that the automated collections may not be as efficient and it may take more than eight hours to complete routes. This is valid however, the industry has demonstrated automated collections is more efficient.

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Cost of Implementation – Carts

- 95 gallon carts approximately \$65
- 65 gallon carts approximately \$60.

Purchase 36,200 carts

Budget based on the larger cart total funding required is \$2,400,000.

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Cost of Implementation – Trucks

- Lease 10 automated side loading trucks with 28-31 yard capacity (CDL required to operate). 5 year lease is approximately \$65,000 per truck.
- Lease 3 automated side load trucks with 12-14 yard capacity (CDL not required to operate). 5 year lease is approximately \$50,000 per truck.

Total annual expense for lease of vehicles is approximately \$800,000.

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Funding the Conversion

- FY22 budget included replacement of four collection vehicles as normal replacements at \$1,300,000. Purchase was deferred pending decisions on whether changes to collection methods would be implemented and funding carried to FY23 budget.
- FY23 budget has \$1,420,000 for replacement of four collection vehicles as normal fleet replacements.
- FY23 budget has \$1,154,146 available if the City no longer provides refuse bags.

Total available funding for FY23 is \$3,874,146.

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Funding the Conversion- Continued

- FY23 cost of implementation totals approximately \$3,200,000.
- FY23 available funding is \$3,874,146.

Cost is approximately \$674,146 less than what is included in the budget.

Annual expense increase and decreases in future years.

- Truck lease and additional cart approximately \$823,000 per year.
- Reduction of \$1,154,146 due to no longer providing bags.

Net reduction in expenses of approximately \$331,146 annually.

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Next Steps - continued

Pending Council direction, staff will work with Purchasing, Law and Fleet to bid and award vehicle lease contracts and to bid and award purchase of carts.

Develop a communication plan to educate and make customers aware of any changes to curbside collections approved by Council.

Continue communications with collections staff to receive feedback for program improvements and keep them informed.

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Next Steps

Pending Council direction, staff can draft ordinance revisions to eliminate the logo bag requirement and for the requirement for the City to provide trash bags.

Pending Council direction, staff can draft ordinance revisions to convert to automated curbside refuse collection. This would include items such as:

- Time carts are allowed at the curb.
- Cart storage.
- Provisions for additional cart(s).
- Special collections, etc.

