



Public Comment Form

City of Columbia Solid Waste Utility public input meeting

The City of Columbia Solid Waste Utility is seeking customer input as it considers making changes to residential curbside refuse collections.

The Solid Waste Utility has recommended that the City Council amend the City Code to no longer require the use of City logo bags as well as the provision that requires the City supply refuse bags to customers.

Comments (additional space for more comments on the following page)

The pay by bag program was a bad idea. I would advocate that we return to the prior system allowing the citizens of Columbia to place their trash in bags they purchase on the curb. When the ^{pay} bag system started and from that point on illegal trash dumping and litter increased exponentially throughout the city. People had no way to get rid of big items that didn't fit in bags or didn't have enough bags to meet their disposal needs. The east coast contractor was not responsive to bag problems such as not enough bags & poor quality bags. All of this created a bottle neck of trash disposal for the community. The pay by bag program needs to be abandoned!

The personal information request below is not required and could be made available to the public.

Name Jim Inpy Email iman2425@aol.com

Mailing address 4660 Southampton Court

City Columbia State Mo. Zip 65203

Signature James Inpy



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I SUPPORT DOING AWAY WITH THE LOGO BAGS
AND GO BACK TO THE PREVIOUS GUIDELINES FOR
TRASH BAGS.

The personal information request below is not required and could be made available to the public.

Name _____ Email _____

Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____
John Kohl



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SEE ATTACHED

The personal information request below is not required and could be made available to the public.

Name JM. HOEFERLIN Email mike.hoeferlin@gmail.com

Mailing address 1902 DUNBAR DR

City Columbia State MD Zip 21043

Signature [Handwritten Signature]

SO, YOU WANT TO FORCE ROLL CARTS ON THE CITIZENS OF COLUMBIA?

How many expensive, environmentally-questionable, ugly, cumbersome and potentially hazardous plastic carts should we buy and deal with each week?

One for trash?

One for yard clippings, etc?

One for recycling cans?

One for recycling glass?

One for recycling plastic?

Hmmmm. THAT'S A LOT OF PLASTIC ROLL CARTS. How many do YOU want?

So, you don't want plastic bags? Well, roll carts still require plastic bags within which you will have to place your trash and recyclables. Who will pay for the bags? And, again, who will pay for the numerous fossil fuel/petroleum-derivative carts?

Think about it. You will load various bags of trash and recyclables and put them into the multitude of carts that will then have to be hauled to and from the curb – over and over again. These tedious chores are not necessary if you use ***CONVENIENT AND STURDY BIODEGRADABLE ONE-WAY BAGS***. You simply load them, take them out and they're gone! No need to push or pull dirty and unsightly roll carts to and from the curb each week. Oh, where will you store all of the carts until you have to again fill the plastic bags, put them in the various plastic carts, and then take all of those plastic carts out and retrieve them again and again?

C'mon. Do you really want to haul all of those "plastic bag-filled plastic roll carts" to and from the curb each week? What about during rain, snow/sleet/ice and/or blistering heat? Roll carts often stink and must be regularly cleaned and/or sanitized (of course, all Columbians will judiciously clean and sanitize their roll carts and ensure that all of those carts are promptly removed from the curb after they are emptied each week. Right?). What if people neglect to retrieve their carts? Should they be arrested or fined? Stinky roll carts are breeding grounds for insects, bacteria and possible viruses and they can be "meals on wheels" for domestic and wild animals, birds and reptiles. Bags are much more convenient. Don't be misled.

SOB (SAVE OUR BAGS)

So, You Want Roll Carts?

(Apologies for the length of this message. But, it is essential that Columbians know the truth)

Consider this: In the United Kingdom a few years ago, Daily Mail readers were urged to "Join the Mail campaign to stop monstrous Wheelie Bins [from] engulfing our streets." The campaign became known as "Not in My Front Yard" and was designed to prevent ugly, unsanitary, reprehensible and expensive Wheelie Bins (aka Roll Carts) from encroaching on the beauty of Britain's streets and neighborhoods; not to mention the adverse financial, ecological and health considerations.

The campaign against Wheelie Bins captured the fancy of many UK subjects – particularly in the city of Leeds, where 73% of respondents indicated that they were against the "monstrosities." They wanted to know what was wrong with "green" environmentally-friendly [aka biodegradable] bags within which to temporarily store and dispose of rubbish [aka trash]? In addition, they viewed the bins as being ugly, intrusive, too cumbersome, potentially dangerous, unwieldy, and a health threat -- particularly to senior citizens. Furthermore, bins were described as being too expensive while also detracting from the "flavour" of the various communities into which they were mandated. Another main concern was that foxes and other pests often broke into and dumped the bins, scattering rubbish all over the streets and yards. Plus, the wheelie bins were being stolen and vandalized while floods and winds sometimes carried them away.

Finding suitable storage for the bins was becoming increasingly difficult. The cost of acquiring and maintaining and/or replacing the bins was alarming. Tragically, once the various city councils dictated that the bins were a “fait accompli,” the irate citizenry thought they had no recourse; until, that is, the NOT IN MY FRONT YARD campaign surfaced more than a decade ago.

Sadly, the Wheelie Bin controversy has become political in nature. It is often referred to as “Wheelie Bin Blight” and it is rampant throughout countries with ties – historic or otherwise – to the United Kingdom. According to the *Guardian*, it appears that many people resent having to deal with the bins for, in many instances, purely political purposes. Apparently, liberals tend to favor the bins; whereas more conservative, independent and libertarian-leaning people are said to mostly prefer the bag option that had been in place for decades. Many Britons and former commonwealth dwellers just do not want the government to dictate even more restrictions and constrictions on them.

Those with Wheelie Bins have, on occasion, had to find ways to lock or otherwise secure their bins because unscrupulous individuals sometimes steal them and often scatter the rubbish along the streets and alleyways. Some Wheelie Bins are set ablaze by pranksters and arsonists. Vandalism is so blatant in some communities that they’ve resorted to hiring quasi police/vigilantes to guard their bins. It seems to be one expenditure after another when it comes to Wheelie Bins.

According to a 2017 Australian study cited in a WBCM (Wheelie Bin Cleaning Man) post:

<https://wbcm.services/wbcm-environmental-australia/facts-wheelie-bin-cleaning-hygiene/>

The odours cause by Wheelie Bins are not only offensive, but hazardous for the health of the people around the area...

"Businesses in Melbourne are finding that the area around their Wheelie Bins or Commercial Bins often breaches rules and regulations enforced rigorously by their local councils. They are also finding that attempts to clean their own bins often also cause unlawful pollution of water – which can also incur significant penalties. In addition to this, Wheelie Bins or commercial bins in business and retail spaces can also cause offensive odours which at best leave an undesirable impression on clients and customers, at worst, deter patrons and customers from entering!"

To tackle the issues caused by offensive and unhygienic bin area, hundreds of businesses throughout Melbourne are calling on the [expensive] service of a professional Wheelie Bin and commercial bin cleaning company."

Thousands of communities in the United States have adopted the rolling trash carts and the backlash against them is reportedly growing. Roll carts have become a way of life and some people mistakenly think that they are the only way to dispose of trash. Once roll carts become part of the landscape, it is almost impossible to get rid of them despite the fact that they are expensive, often unsanitary, unsightly and potentially dangerous.

In addition, hauling multiple roll carts back and forth to the curb each week is much more labor-intensive than using one-way bags. The negatives far outweigh the positives. In Columbia, it is estimated that the upfront costs of going to roll carts would initially cost upwards of \$12 million. Again, there are recurring costs: liner and/or other plastic bags, cleaning and sanitizing, replacement costs, etc. Question: Who will ultimately bear those costs? Yep, it'll be the taxpayers.

Where will the carts be stored? In garages, along the sides of houses, apartments, manufactured homes, condos or along streets or in alleyways? What about storage in congested and student and/or urban housing areas? Maybe using sturdy biodegradable bags is the obvious and more ecologically prudent answer?

Load the bags, take them to the curb and they're gone. Who wants continuously put out, retrieve and clean smelly and potentially bacteria-laden roll carts every week while also finding a safe place to store them until the next trash day when they will need to be put out and retrieved and cleaned again. In the meantime, they will probably attract birds, reptiles, animals, insects and who knows what or whom else.

Malodorous implications: Roll Carts stink – literally. Odors emitted from them can be quite disagreeable and even toxic. Roll carts must be cleaned and sanitized frequently; not the case with biodegradable bags. In Australia, England and elsewhere, it is highly recommended that Wheelie Bins be cleaned professionally. That's another expenditure. Bins can be incubators for E.coli, mold and other harmful bacteria. Haven't we have had enough bad experiences with harmful viruses lately? What about maggots, flies, mosquitoes, wasps, etc? And, of course, everyone in Columbia will dutifully retrieve their numerous roll carts and get them off of the streets as soon as they are emptied each trash day, right?

Another consideration: Apparently, the City of Columbia already pays or plans to pay sanitation workers up to \$22.50 per hour to collect and haul off trash. Granted, for various reasons, some consider that type of work to be relatively "dangerous, "(if throwing bags into trucks is really dangerous) but it can also be relatively lucrative. Will we pay the same individuals the same amount when they're merely operating an expensive robotic trash collecting machine that does all of the "heavy lifting?" Might some jobs be eliminated if we "automate" our trash collecting?

In Los Angeles and elsewhere, where roll carts are a way of life, there are problems with animals, reptiles (snakes) and even birds getting into and scattering the contents of roll carts -- each living unit can have up to four carts). Sadly, in many cases humans are also involved in disrupting the carts and scattering and sometimes igniting the contents. Roll carts can be virtual magnets for homeless individuals and others who might want to see, sample or steal what is inside the carts. Some homeless people in LA steal roll carts; some actually sleep/live in them. In just about any LA neighborhood, you'll find roll carts in the streets or blocking sidewalks and bicycle paths. Roll carts have been blamed for contributing to numerous vehicular and bicycle accidents.

Imagine how much fun it would be here in Mid-Missouri to wash out roll carts when it's 15-degrees below zero? Plus, we have snow, rain, ice and violent wind storms that could scatter unprotected roll carts all over our neighborhoods. Hauling multiple carts to and from the curb each week will be tedious and could be dangerous -- particularly for senior citizens and for those with disabilities. What about 100+ degree summer heat?

In 30+ years of living in Columbia I have never experienced a compromised or ripped-open trash bag. Despite what the pro roll carts folks would have you believe, having trash bags ripped open just doesn't happen that often. And, if we used stronger and more durable biodegradable bags, it would almost never happen.

Dumpster Divers in Columbia: At every recycle area in town you'll find the ubiquitous "Dumpster Divers." These are enterprising individuals who sift through the recycled material looking for their treasures (one man's trash is another man's treasure, right?). Do you want these "divers" in your yard or in front of your house doing what they do? Don't laugh, it could happen -- and it does happen in some "roll cart communities."

So, considering the health, safety, environmental and aesthetic reasons to opt **for** durable biodegradable bags instead of expensive and smelly plastic roll carts, why in the world would we want them? The “pro” roll cart zealots say we need to have roll carts because workers are being injured on the job because they have to pick up heavy bags or they might get their hands smashed (that could happen in just about any similarly-situated job). If workers cannot or will not pick up trash bags, they should find other employment. Perhaps they should not have been hired at all.

In addition, if individual citizens want to buy roll carts within which to haul their trash bags to the curb each week, that’s ok. Go For It. But, it should be at **their** own expense; not mine and not yours. Bags are better!

Let’s face it, when you look at the facts, having expensive, unsightly, unsanitary and inconvenient multiple roll carts is just not a good idea. Many of my neighbors and I strongly prefer the safer, environmentally/aesthetically-pleasing, durable and economically-friendly biodegradable “**ONE WAY**” bags for our trash and recycle collection.

I will echo what subjects in the UK have espoused for years: “Not in my front yard.”

J.M. Hoeferlin