



Santa Fe County Proposed Residential Solid Waste & Recycling Collection Districts

June 2015



County Commission Public Hearing on Proposed Ordinance: Tuesday, June 30th - At or after 5:00 p.m. Commission Chambers, 102 Grant Ave. (behind the Lensic Theater)

The Collection District Ordinance and maps of the 3 Collection Districts can be obtained from the County's web site: http://www.santafecountynm.gov/public_works/solidwaste

Overview

Santa Fe County is interested in more comprehensively managing solid waste and recycling activities throughout the County. As part of that objective, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) is considering an ordinance to establish three curbside "Residential Solid Waste Collection Districts" in the more urbanized areas surrounding the City of Santa Fe. Each Collection District will be exclusively served by a single private hauler selected by the County using a competitive process. The County will oversee private haulers' operations via a contract that will include: rates, provision of recycling service, levels of service (frequency of collection, types of containers, etc.), accommodating special needs customers, and reporting of solid waste and recycling data.

Residents in each Collection District will be able to voluntarily choose whether they want to use the curbside services of the selected private hauler or whether they prefer to self-haul to one of the County's solid waste convenience centers. Residents will not be able to retain the services of a private hauler that is not the County-identified hauler for the Collection District.

The June 30th public hearing on the ordinance is intended to obtain the public's interests and concerns as we move forward with this initiative. The County values input from citizens affected by this proposal. The current proposal may be revised based on the public's input.

For More Information Contact: Craig O'Hare, Public Works Department, (505) 992-3044 cohare@santafecountynm.gov

Frequently Asked Questions

Note: Many of the program and service details (e.g. monthly rates, types of recyclables to be collected) will be determined as part of the public input process, the specifics included in the "Request for Proposals" (RFP) to the haulers, and, ultimately the contracts the County signs with the haulers.

What is the County trying to accomplish with this initiative?

. In establishing residential solid waste collection districts, the objectives are to:

- Reduce private haulers' monthly rates for refuse service by taking advantage of economies of scale. (Note: The actual rates in a given collection district won't be known until proposals are received in the fall of this year.)

- Increase waste diversion and recycling rates by: 1) instituting a “pay-as-you-throw” refuse rate structure by requiring that at least two different-sized and priced container choices be offered. 2) require at least every other week recycling service that is automatically provided with the refuse service. One rate would “bundle” both services.
- Reduce wear-and-tear on County roads by minimizing the amount of heavy truck vehicle miles travelled on the road.
- Ensure private haulers provide safe solid waste operations and accountable, responsive customer service by instituting County oversight.

Other counties and communities around the country have been able to achieve these objectives by establishing exclusive solid waste franchise areas like the ones Santa Fe County are proposing.

What is the schedule for adoption and implementation of this proposal?

The Collection District Ordinance, scheduled for a public meeting and possible BCC action on June 30, further defines the procedures, roles, and responsibilities of residents, the County, and private haulers with respect to establishing and administering the collection districts. If the BCC adopts the Collection District Ordinance, staff will issue the Request for Proposals in late July or early August with proposals being due from private haulers a couple of months after that. Adoption of the Collection District Ordinance is not the final action the BCC will take to implement the program. The BCC will need to approve the contracts with each of the selected haulers in order for the initiative to proceed. This is expected to occur in January 2016.

Collection and Container Questions

Why is the County issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for solid waste and recycling collection?

Currently, garbage and recycling collection in unincorporated areas of the County is performed by several different haulers. The haulers do not offer a full range of service (e.g., garbage, recycling, and bulky waste collection) to all residents in the County. By issuing an RFP, the County expects that a more uniform level of service will be provided, in particular curbside recycling will be made available to all residential units that choose to make use of this service. The agreement with the selected hauler and the County will assure full services (garbage, recycling, and bulky waste collection) are available to all residents in the County.

- **What will be the frequency of my collection?**
It is anticipated that garbage collection will be once each week; recycling collection may be weekly or every-other-week.
- **What day of the week will my collection take place?**
That will be determined once a vendor is selected. That is not known at this time.
- **Will my regularly scheduled collection day change?**
If you currently receive curbside collection it may or may not change. The County will work with the selected vendor to minimize the disruption in collection days.
- **What are the pick-up hours?** *Typically set as no earlier than 7am and no later than 6pm.*
- **Will refuse and recyclables be picked up on the same day?** *That is the goal.*
- **Will I receive a new container?** *If you currently have a container and service is provided by a different vendor, it will most likely be exchanged for a container provided by the selected vendor for your district (if it is a different vendor).*
- **Will collection be automated, or manual?** *It is expected that collection will be automated.*

- **What type of recyclable material will be accepted?** *All of the materials currently accepted at BuRRT, except for glass. However, additional materials may be added in the future, if/when the recyclables processing system changes. Free glass drop-off recycling will still be available at County convenience centers.*
- **What size container(s) will be offered?**
Garbage service will be offered with either a 96 or 64 gallon cart option (and possibly a 32 gallon option as well).
- **Will there be a limit to the amount of trash picked-up?**
Yes, all garbage must be placed in the cart. The customer will have the option to pay for a second cart.
- **Can I use carts from a third party that are compatible with the new hauler's equipment?**
TBD. It is envisioned the selected vendor will provide their own containers to customers.
- **What type of special services will be offered (back door, bulky pick-up, etc.)?** *TBD.*



General Program Questions

- **Who will handle billing?**
The vendor will handle all billing, and residents will pay the hauler directly.
- **Will this program be mandatory?**
This program is completely voluntary. However, if the customer selects to use the service, they must use the vendor selected to provide service in the district where the customer resides.
- **Who will handle complaints?**
Complaints will be addressed by the vendor, with the County receiving a monthly report of complaints, etc.
- **What is the timing on this project?**
We expect the program to be operational sometime in the latter half of 2016.
- **Will more than one hauler service a district?**
Only one hauler will service each district.

