

OPEN HOUSE

Proposed Automated Garbage Collection Program

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

**Please take a few minutes to complete a
questionnaire before you leave**

A New System for Garbage Collection

What is being proposed?

The City is proposing to move to an automated collection system for garbage and Clean Green waste. This would replace the existing manual collection service.

The new collection vehicles use a mechanical arm attached to the truck to lift specialized garbage carts and dump them into the truck. These types of trucks are becoming standard in the waste collection industry.



Current manual collection service

Did you know....

Many places in BC already use automated collection systems, including Port Coquitlam, Prince George, Kamloops, Kelowna and Vancouver. Port Moody and Burnaby are also in the process of making this change.

How will these changes affect Garbage Collection?



Automated collection truck

The new system will affect garbage collection in the following ways:

- Automated collection service will be provided for garbage and Clean Green to all **single family households** in the City
- Your existing garbage cans will be replaced with standardized carts in a choice of sizes
- In the future, the program may be expanded to collect recyclables and possibly food waste

No service changes are proposed for townhouses, condos, apartments or commercial customers.

Why is the City Proposing This Change?

The current garbage collection fleet is nearing the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced. The new automated collection trucks provide significant advantages over the traditional rear load garbage packers:

- Truck operators no longer need to manually lift cans and bags into the truck. This greatly reduces the potential for serious back, arm and shoulder injuries.
- Lower operating costs, since only one operator per truck is required, instead of the current 2-person crews.
- The collection system is faster and more efficient.



The truck approaches 2 carts



The mechanized arm lifts a cart



The mechanized arm returns the cart

Why do we need Carts?

Because the containers are lifted by a mechanical arm, the containers all need to be a standard shape. The standardized carts that will be used have advantages over regular cans:

- Range of sizes to meet different needs
- Attached lids that reduce litter & blowing garbage
- Lids prevent birds & animals from getting into waste
- Sturdy wheels make carts easy to move around and roll out to the curb, eliminating the need to lift cans
- Stable bottoms which mean no empty cans rolling around, and no more lost lids!

In addition, because the carts are uniform in shape and colour, many residents in other cities with this kind of program say that their streets look tidier and neater on garbage day!



A tidy street on garbage day

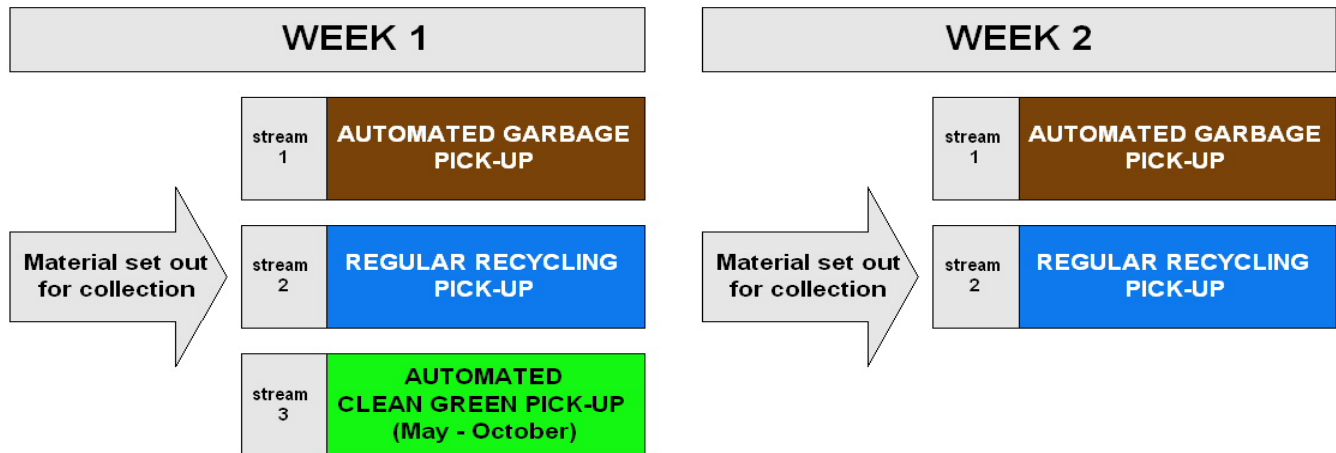
How Will the New System Work?

Two Carts, Two Types of Waste

- Each household will receive two carts, 1 for garbage and 1 for Clean Green
- Garbage collection will still be every week
- Clean Green collection will be once every two weeks from May to October (the same as it is now)
- There will be no change to the recycling service at this time

Collection Cycle

- The diagram below illustrates when garbage, recyclables and Clean Green will be collected from your household



What Will Residents Need to Do?

Step 1: Choose Your Carts

The carts on display show the three sizes you will have to choose from for garbage collection:

- **Eco-size (120 L):** This cart is the smallest of the 3, best for small families or single residents. If your household does a great job of recycling and composting, this may be all you need!
- **Standard (180 L):** This is the middle size. It holds the equivalent of about 3 large garbage bags, and should be suitable for most households.
- **Family (240 L):** As the largest cart, this choice is best suited for larger families.

The City may offer a small financial incentive to those residents who select a smaller sized cart for garbage.



Your choice of cart size

The City may also be able to offer a choice of cart sizes for Clean Green. If this choice is important to you, be sure to let us know by filling out a questionnaire. Clean Green collection will be charged at a single rate, regardless of cart size.

Making Your Choice ...

If this proposal is approved, you will be asked to choose the size of carts that you think will best meet your needs.

The Standard size (180L) will be provided for garbage if you do not request a specific size.

The default size of the Clean Green cart will be Family size (240L) for all households.

What Will Residents Need to Do?

Step 2: Use your Carts

More detailed information will be provided to you if the proposed program is approved. For now, here are a few guidelines on how to use the new carts:

- **During the week:** Store your carts on your property, just like you would with your regular cans. Make sure to keep the lids closed to control odours, and to keep your waste dry.
- **For Garbage:** Place bagged garbage into the cart. Small bags are OK - there's no need to put all your garbage into a single large bag.
- **For Clean Green:** You can put grass clippings, leaves and other eligible materials right into your cart - no bags required. Make sure to keep brush clippings to a size that allows them to fit into the cart with the lid securely closed.
- **On collection day:** Wheel your cart(s) to the designated collection point, e.g. at the curb. Make sure to bring your cart(s) back inside at the end of the day.

There are no changes to the recycling program at this time.



How Will These Changes Affect Solid Waste Utility Rates?

Impacts from Purchasing Collection Trucks

The City proposes to purchase 3 automated collection trucks to provide the garbage and Clean Green collection services.

The City has been building up an Equipment Replacement Reserve over time to fund these purchases. There is sufficient funding in the Reserve to purchase all 3 trucks in 2009.

Impact of buying trucks on Solid Waste Utility rate:

None

Impacts of Automated Trucks on Operating Costs

Solid waste operating costs are projected to increase because of wage increases, fuel costs, and the rising costs of waste disposal through Metro Vancouver.

Even if the City were to buy the same types of trucks as the current ones, these increases would still affect utility rates.

Using automated trucks would help offset these impacts, since the City would be able to reduce the collection crew from 2 people to 1 person per truck. Since there are a number of vacant sanitation crew positions at the moment, the City would not need to lay off any existing employees.

Impact of operating new trucks on Solid Waste Utility Rates:

Helps offset other operating cost increases

Impacts on Solid Waste Utility Rates

Impacts of Purchasing Carts

The City will need to purchase the carts required for each household. With approximately 8,500 households each requiring 2 carts, the City intends to purchase 17,100 carts in total. The carts cost about \$65 each. Two options being considered to cover these costs:

Option 1

The City purchases the carts and **spreads the cost** to residents over 24 years. Utility rates would be increased to recover the initial costs, in addition to to build up a reserve for replacement carts in the future.

Option 2

The City purchases the carts and charges residents for the carts **up front** on the utility bill. Utility rates would be increased to build up a reserve for buying replacement carts in the future.

	Business as Usual	Option 1	Option 2
Type of Trucks	Same type as current	Automated	Automated
Initial Cost of Carts	No carts needed	Included in utility rate	Paid up front by residents ~ \$130
Reserve for Replacing Carts	No carts needed	Included in utility rate	Included in utility rate
2009 Rate	\$193	\$193	\$193
2010 Proposed Rate	\$203	\$209	\$205
2011 Proposed Rate	\$213	\$221	\$215

What Are the Next Steps?

For Residents ...

- Complete the questionnaire and hand it in this evening. We'd like to hear your thoughts on the proposed program.
- Refer to the Frequently Asked Questions handout for answers to some key questions.
- Check back on the City's web site and watch Citypage in The Record for updates over the next few months. The City will be providing more information as the time to start the program draws closer.



For The City ...

- Compile responses from questionnaire. Questionnaires will be accepted until March 27, 2009.
- Provide a final report to Council, including feedback from the public. Council will make a final decision on whether to proceed with the program.
- If the change to automated collection is approved, the City will proceed to:
 - ✓ Order trucks in Spring 2009, to be ready for program launch in 2010
 - ✓ Order carts in Summer/Fall 2009 so that they can be distributed in time
 - ✓ Begin an education campaign for residents to address any questions and concerns about the program, and explain how it will work
 - ✓ Launch the new program in early 2010

Do you know someone who couldn't make it to the Open House?

The information presented tonight and the questionnaire are available online at www.newwestcity.ca/automated_waste_collection. Questionnaires must be submitted by March 27, 2009. We want to hear from as many people as possible, so spread the word!