



PROPOSED PILOT PROGRAM TO OFFER OPTIONAL SMALLER RESIDENTIAL TRASH BINS

Public Works Department

City Council
April 8, 2025

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CURRENT RESIDENTIAL SERVICE AND RATES

Residential Service Type	Type of 96-gallon bin	Monthly Rate	
Single-family residences, curbside/disabled, weekly service*	1 trash, 1 recycle, 1 green waste / organics	\$37.32	
Mobile Homes / Apartments with no more than 4 units**	1 trash, 1 recycle	\$21.30	Green waste and Organics provided as a commercial service (dumpster service) to the HOA/property owner by private hauler
Condo/Townhouse	1 trash, 1 recycle	\$23.03	

*For qualifying disabled residents, drivers pull all carts to the curb for service and then return the carts to the driveway/side of the house

**Apartment complexes with 5 or more units receive commercial refuse service (dumpster service)



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CONSULTANT ANALYSIS

- R3 Consulting Group, Inc. worked with staff to design a potential pilot program to offer 64-gallon trash bins
- The following slides summarize the Consultant's recommendations



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THE BASICS

- Conduct the pilot over 12 months
 - Sufficient time to gather data during all 4 seasons
- Select 2 trash routes for the pilot
- Offer opportunity to 300 participants (150 on each route)
- Customers attest that they are willing to adhere to City's overage and contamination rules (RMC 6.04.040)
- Participants may voluntarily leave pilot at any time
 - Switch back to 96-gallon trash bin and equivalent monthly rate
- Participants may be removed from program if they violate overage and contamination rules



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THE BASICS

- Consultant recommends a 15% incentive to participants:

Service	Current Rate	15% Program incentive	Prorated Rate for Pilot Program
Curbside/Disabled	37.32	5.60	31.72
Mobile Home/Apartment	21.30	3.20	18.11
Condo/Townhouse	23.03	3.45	19.58

- 10% incentive to participants for comparison

Service	Current Rate	10% Program incentive	Prorated Rate for Pilot Program
Curbside/Disabled	37.32	3.73	33.59
Mobile Home/Apartment	21.30	2.13	19.17
Condo/Townhouse	23.03	2.30	20.73



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PARTICIPANT SELECTION

- Select 2 trash routes for the pilot
- Offer program to all customers on route who currently have only one 96-gallon trash cart
- Program acceptance is first-come, first-served
- If many routes seem equally acceptable, consider using demographics to select routes such as a high number of seniors
- Limit pilot to 300 customers (approximately 15% of two typical trash routes)



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PROGRAM INTAKE, NOTIFICATIONS, OUTREACH

- City must setup process for customers to sign-up
- Send both hard-copy and email announcements to eligible customers
- Accept inquiries for 1 month before beginning to respond to inquiries
- Setup process to notify customers of acceptance



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DATA COLLECTION

- Opportunity to collect data on current behavior and how change in trash bin size might influence behavior
 - Observation
 - Customer surveys
- Document interest levels throughout the duration of the pilot
- Conduct SB 1383-required route reviews before and during pilot
- Closeout survey



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TIMELINE	
Implementation Steps	Proposed Timing
Pilot Design Development	November 2024
Inquire with Bin Supplier re Availability and Timeline	December 2024
Bring Proposal to City Council Committee	January 2025
Compile / Start Tracking Baseline Data on Contamination and Coverage Confirm whether data on contamination and overage is being tracked Assess whether tracking / documentation systems are sufficiently robust Begin implementing any improvements to tracking / documentation systems	December 2024
Plan and Design Program Components Place order for bins Design and build program intake systems Design and build program notification systems Draft hard-copy and email communications Set up interest tracking log	February – March 2024
Begin Outreach and Education Send hard-copy announcement and offer to all potential participants Send email announcement and offer to all potential participants	April 2025
Customers Start Signing Up for Pilot Participation	May 2025



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TIMELINE	
Implementation Steps	Proposed Timing
Bin Delivery and Additional Outreach Receive bins and confirm plans for delivery to participants Send hard-copy and email reminders to all potential participants	June 2025
Final Preparations for Pilot Implementation Undertake SB 1383 Route Reviews for 2025 (if not already completed)	June – July 2025
Deliver Bins and Start Pilot Program	August 2025
Undertake SB 1383 Route Reviews for 2026	June – July 2025
End Program Send Out Post-Program Survey via Mail and Email	July / August 2026
Collect Survey Results	August / September 2026
Analyze Results from Pilot Program Compile and analyze survey responses Analyze 2026 vs 2026 route review data Analyze any additional contamination and overage data from 2025-2026	September / October 2026
City Studying Residential Service in Advance of New Rate Plan Incorporate results of analysis of pilot program	Early / Mid 2027
New Rate Plan Proposed to Council	Late 2027



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CONTAMINATION

- Expected to be low, but unlikely to be “zero”
- RMC 6.04.040 – prohibits contamination and permits fee equal to an extra bin (currently \$15.89) charged to customer account after observing contamination for 3 consecutive service weeks



Truck contains 10 tons of material from recycling bins
 Cost to process residential recycling at MRF = \$73.17/ton
 Expected cost for this recycling truck = \$731.70

During processing, MRF staff identifies 1 ton of trash mixed in with the recycling
 MRF staff separates out this 1 ton of trash and it's processed as trash and goes to the landfill
 Cost to process residential trash at MRF = \$66.17/ton
 MRF billing for this recycling truck = \$797.87

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FISCAL IMPACT

- 12-month 64-gallon pilot cost of \$44,000
 - Purchase cost for 300 bins of \$23,000
 - Revenue loss for 15% pilot incentive of \$21,000
 - If an Athens-service route is selected, Athens will be compensated at the full trash rate (no pilot program discount applied)
- June 2024 – Consultant analysis of SW Fund shows City cannot afford to implement citywide 64-gallon offering if current rates are not adjusted to backfill revenue reduction
- Current residential rate plan expires June 30, 2028
 - Proposed pilot program timeline will inform development of new rates scheduled for 2027

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STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT



Strategic Priority 5 – High Performing Government

Cross-Cutting Threads



Community Trust



Fiscal Responsibility



Sustainability & Resiliency



Equity



Innovation



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RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council approve a 12-month pilot program to offer an optional 64-gallon residential trash bin.



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