Have any of you considered (or done so) changing from weekly to bi-weekly (every 2 weeks) collection of garbage as a cost-saving measure? What are the pros and cons of doing so?

Please call or email me if you have any questions or need further information.

John W. Carpita, P.E.
Public Works Consultant
Municipal Research and Services Center
2601 Fourth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98121-1280
206-625-1300
Fax: 206-625-1220
jcarpita@mrsc.org
www.mrsc.org
Right now we are negotiating with WM and have thought about it. The only reason we can see to do it is to keep the overall costs down. We need better commercial recycling and to get that the costs go up. To offset that you can reduce collection days. We’re thinking about it but likely will pass on any increase to everyone overall. Thanks

Steve Leniszewski, PE  
Public Works Director  
City of Duvall  
425-788-3434x 225

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Richland is currently conducting a pilot test program that includes this feature. Our pilot involves implementing single stream curbside recycling for about 2,500 of our 15,000 residential customers. About half (1250) get curbside in addition to weekly garbage. The other half get every other week service for recycling and garbage. We’re in the first month of the pilot and are still working out the bugs.

**Pete Rogalsky, P.E.**  
*Public Works Director*  
*City of Richland*  
*P.O. Box 190, MS #26*  
*505 Swift Blvd.*  
*Richland, WA 99352*  
*(509) 942-7558*  
*(509) 942-7468 - fax*  
progalsky@ci.richland.wa.us

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**From:** John Carpita [mailto:jcarpita@mrsc.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 21, 2009 7:46 AM  
**Subject:** Refuse Collection

Have any of you considered (or done so) changing from weekly to bi-weekly (every 2 weeks) collection of garbage as a cost-saving measure? What are the pros and cons of doing so?

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jcarpita@mrsc.org  
www.mrsc.org
Hi John,

Asotin County's collector offers a bi-weekly service as an option, though I don't know how many take advantage of it – I'm thinking not many even though they could save a few bucks. I think the whole issue is tied to a combination of factors including family/household size, size of collection bin, personal habits, and aggressiveness of a recycling program. But remember, recycling is not a money saving program. It's a right-thing-to-do program. FYI-I also used to work as an engineer for Waste Management.

Joel M. Ristau, PE
Asotin County Public Works Director
P.O. Box 160
Asotin, WA 99402
509-243-2074

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We have not.

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Thanks, John!

Have any of you considered (or done so) changing from weekly to bi-weekly (every 2 weeks) collection of garbage as a cost-saving measure? What are the pros and cons of doing so?

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No the City of Selah has not looked at that. I would think it would double the number or size of containers and odors would be an issue during the summer.

Joe Henne

-----Original Message-----
From: John Carpita [mailto:jcarpita@mrsc.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2009 7:46 AM
To: undisclosed-recipients:
Subject: Refuse Collection

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jcarpita@mrsc.org
www.mrsc.org
We have not considered a bi-weekly collection of garbage. Approximately 69% or 15,800 of our customers utilize a 96 gallon cart. We have a 32 gallon cart available for those who produce less garbage. We would have to increase our number of carts to accommodate the needs of our customers. This would not only require the need to purchase additional carts, but it would take much longer to collect the increased number of carts. Storage space could be a problem for both the customer and us. We provide weekly yard waste collection, and our customers seem to prefer that. The private hauler, Yakima Waste Systems, Inc. provides bi-weekly collection of yard waste in the unincorporated areas of Yakima and alternates yard collection with curbside recycling.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Nancy Fortier
Refuse Manager
509-576-6421
nfortier@ci.yakima.wa.us

-----Original Message-----
From: Zabell, Dave
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2009 7:47 AM
To: Fortier, Nancy
Subject: Fw: Refuse Collection

Dave Zabell
Assistant City Manager

Message sent by Blackberry, please forgive the brevity.

-----Original Message-----
From: John Carpita <jcarpita@mrsc.org>
Sent: Thu May 21 07:45:59 2009
Subject: Refuse Collection

Have any of you considered (or done so) changing from weekly to bi-weekly (every 2 weeks) collection of garbage as a cost-saving measure? What are the pros and cons of doing so?

Please call or email me if you have any questions or need further information.

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2601 Fourth Avenue, Suite 800
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206-625-1300
Fax: 206-625-1220
jcarpita@mrsc.org
www.mrsc.org <http://www.mrsc.org/>
Mr. Carpita-

The City of Kent is currently advertising a Request for Proposals for the Solid Waste, Recycling and Yard & Food Waste contract for the City of Kent. We have several alternatives to “base” proposal. One of the alternatives is every other week garbage collection, which if selected by the City, would likely include weekly recycling and yard & food waste collection.

You can view the City RFP and draft contract at:

www.ci.kent.wa.us/procurement

Please let me know if there is any additional information I might be able to provide.

Sincerely,

Kelly B. Peterson, AICP
Environmental Conservation Supervisor
City of Kent
(253) 856-5547 ph.
(253) 856-6500 fax

Kelly;
You may want to get in on this conversation.
Thanks

Larry R. Blanchard
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Public Works Director

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Fax: 206-625-1220
jcarpita@mrsc.org
www.mrsc.org
John, We offer that, and other flexible options. Three can sizes and pick-up weekly, semi-weekly, and monthly. This is to best serve the needs of the customer and seems to be working well.

Mike

----- Original Message ----- 
From: John Carpita

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2009 7:45 AM

Subject: Refuse Collection

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Fax: 206-625-1220
jcarpita@mrsc.org
www.mrsc.org
John Carpita

From: Buckenmeyer, Fred [fredb@cityofanacortes.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2009 1:11 PM
To: John Carpita
Subject: RE: Refuse Collection

Good question John we are still at weekly
I am interested in your findings

Fred Buckenmeyer
Public Works Director
City of Anacortes, WA
360-293-1919

From: John Carpita [mailto:jcarpita@mrsc.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2009 7:46 AM
Subject: Refuse Collection

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206-625-1300
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jcarpita@mrsc.org
www.mrsc.org
John, the City of Renton, starting with our new 2009 Solid Waste contract with Waste Management, has moved to biweekly garbage collection for single family residential customers. The program, basically, is biweekly garbage collection with customers choice of 20, 35, 45, 64, or 96 gallon roll away carts, unlimited bi-weekly recycling (96 gallon roll away cart), and unlimited weekly yard waste (96-gallon cart). Food products can be placed in the yard waste carts which are collected weekly, and recycles now placed in single-stream combined carts instead of 3 bins. Scope of materials that can be recycled significantly expanded. Some pros and cons (from my perspective).

**Pros:**

1) This was a negotiated contract and end of 8-year previous contract that held solid waste rates artificially low. Renton was going to deal with a significant rate increase because of this, and the bi-weekly service option significantly reduced the amount of the increase. However there was still a rate increase.

2) Green program – removes a great deal material from the garbage stream heading for the landfill.

3) Less wear and tear on streets and less atmospheric pollution..

4) Single stream recycling (rather than separation of recyclables into 3 toter bins) was in demand and well received. Also less litter in neighborhoods due to lidded recycling carts.

5) Added recycling materials will help Renton meet our recycling diversion goals. Also this contract provides proactive recycling services to the commercial customers, which was not available before.

**Cons:**

1) The changed service required behavior change from all residential customers – different sorting, expanded recycling list, different collection schedule, and adjustments to make essentially half of the garbage capacity than they were getting before suffice by full use of recycling and food disposal options. We found that our outreach and education efforts had not been sufficient – a lot of confusion and frustration. This was short termed, but very painful while it lasted.

2) A lot of perception among customers that they were paying more for less service – i.e. moved to bi-weekly, but rates still went up.

3) Concerns about disposable diapers – can’t be included in yard waste carts, therefore only picked up bi-weekly, leading to odor concerns. However, we have not had many specific concerns about this yet.

Some of the cons are transitional or perceptual items and are improving as time passes. Hope this helps.

Gregg

Gregg Zimmerman
Public Works Administrator
City of Renton
1055 South Grady Way
Renton, WA 98057
Phone: (425) 430-7311
Fax: (425) 430-7241
E-mail: gzimmerman@rentonwa.gov **Note new e-mail address***
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Hi John,

As an old sanitarian with a certification from the CDC, there are some challenging public health issues with holding garbage for two weeks, mainly in the summer. It really gets rank and can start to produce flys, etc. So more people would take to storing the cans outside instead of in their garage. This could lead to more problems with rodents, pests.

Other than that, most folks would need either a much larger can or two cans.

As habits change so that less and less stuff is tossed and putricible waste goes more into the yard waste toter or down the garbage grinder or into the backyard compost heap, then it might work for a percentage of the population that “does things right”

Larry

Larry Waters, P.E.
Public Works Director
City of Mukilteo
11930 Cyrus Way
Mukilteo, WA 98275
425-263-8080
waters@ci.mukilteo.wa.us
Fax 425-212-2068

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jcarpita@mrsc.org
www.mrsc.org
John,

You’d probably have to go to larger containers, and this transition would be an additional cost.

Gary

Have any of you considered (or done so) changing from weekly to bi-weekly (every 2 weeks) collection of garbage as a cost-saving measure? What are the pros and cons of doing so?

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jcarpita@mrsc.org
www.mrsc.org
Hi John -

We are currently negotiating some changes to our Solid Waste contracts. We have been looking at the every other week garbage option (as well as other potential streams) since fall of last year and observing recent changes in the City of Renton (Linda Knight, with Renton, would be a good contact for information - 425-430-7397, lknight@ci.renton.wa.us).

Our primary interest is a shift away from garbage as a primary form of waste management to recycling of both cans/bottles/paper/etc and compostable materials (food and yard waste, compostable food soiled paper). Waste stream studies show food waste and compostable paper to comprise 25-30% of the waste stream currently going to the landfill. As programs increase penetration and improve diversion, the remaining material is more inert and of a significantly smaller percentage of material generated by households. There are potential cost of service savings, although we have found these much more difficult to quantify given the contractual relationships with the solid waste haulers, as well as GHG emissions reductions. Note that less than weekly collection of recycling and yard debris is not uncommon (Seattle, for example).

King County has been conducting studies for several years on both food waste recycling and every other week garbage collection, which have allowed DOH (Seattle-KC) approval of both.

Pros - strong incentive for customers towards recycling services (foodwaste service is very important), potential rate savings, reduced collection vehicle trips, reduced GHG and other emissions, improved recycling

Cons - perceived service LOS change, potential for impacting other waste streams depending upon how they are designed (ie: need to have appropriately sized recycling and food/yard waste containers), investment costs for new containers, potential container size/storage issues.

Renton, Olympia and Bellingham all have alternating week garbage collection programs in place.

David
John Carpita

From: Glenn Cutler [GCUTLER@cityofpa.us]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2009 2:36 PM
To: John Carpita
Cc: Tom McCabe
Subject: Re: Refuse Collection

John,

Yes. The City of Port Angeles has an option for every other week service along with weekly service. The cost is cheaper for the customer and it promotes greater recycling. Container need to me marked initially. If a customer switches back their is a fee.

The service was in response to customer requests especially those that have smaller house holds.

It was nightmare to set up the records and billings. After the initial implementation things have calmed down and it is now routine.

For more info please contact the City of Port Angeles, Solid Waste Superintendent, Tom McCabe, 360-417-4872 or e-mail tmccabe@cityofpa.us.

Thx...Glenn

Glenn A. Cutler, P.E.
Director of Public Works and Utilities
City of Port Angeles
321 East Fifth Street
P.O. Box 1150
Port Angeles, WA 98362-0217

Voice: 360-417-4800
FAX: 360-417-4542
E-mail: gcutler@cityofpa.us

>>> John Carpita <jcarpita@mrsc.org> 5/21/2009 7:45 AM >>>
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John,

We haven’t given much serious consideration to changing from weekly to bi-weekly service since our contract is not due to expire until 2012 (or 2014 if a second extension is exercised). We, along with many other King County jurisdictions, are certainly watching the City of Renton’s recent change to bi-weekly collection to determine if it’s a viable and reasonable alternative to the status quo.

Bi-weekly collection may encourage further waste prevention and recycling although, in my opinion, it should be paired up with weekly recycling collection to be most effective (in Renton’s case, they opted to go with bi-weekly recycling collection). Furthermore, bi-weekly collection does result in a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and wear and tear on City streets. Being a City of Renton resident myself, I know that there was initially a great deal of unhappiness on the part of many residents used to weekly collection and a great deal of time (and money) was spent on education and outreach. I’m sure that there would be a similar response in any other communities that elect to go to bi-weekly collection.

In Kirkland, our City Council, in lieu of seriously considering bi-weekly collection, has opted to further encourage waste prevention and more recycling through an incentivized rate structure implemented for 2009/2010 that encourages customers to reduce their cart size. We are tracking the effects of our new rate structure and the first five months of data is very encouraging. Furthermore, reductions in greenhouse gas emissions will continue to be increased in all communities as waste haulers begin to purchase and use more hybrid or CNG collection vehicles which may achieve the same reduction in emissions in continued weekly collection relative to that realized by going to bi-weekly collection with diesel-powered vehicles.

Please feel free to call or email if you need anything else.

Best regards,

John MacGillivray
Solid Waste Coordinator
Public Works
City of Kirkland
Office: (425) 587-3804
Email: jmacgillivray@ci.kirkland.wa.us
Please call or email me if you have any questions or need further information.

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