

Proposed Municipal Garbage Collection: Frequently Asked Questions

Why are the Town and Village Governments taking a look at how garbage and recycling is collected in our community?

Reviewing how trash and recycling are collected in our community is the responsible thing to do. According to the NYS comptroller's 2009 annual report on local governments "In localities where residents contract individually with private refuse haulers, numerous audits and reports indicate that local governments can realize substantial savings for their residents by contracting for refuse collection on their behalf. If all municipalities statewide contracted for refuse collection, the savings to residents could be as much as \$100 million."

Am I obligated to sign up for curbside trash and recycling collection?

No. The selected hauler will only collect your trash and recycling if you sign up for their service and they will bill you directly. Residents can still bring garbage and recycling to Clearwater Rd if they desire, but you will no longer be able to sign up for curbside service from any company other than the selected hauler.

Is the Franchise Agreement a done deal?

It is not. We recently published a Request for Proposals and sent it to all of the licensed haulers in Ulster County. At the bid opening we received three bids, one of which (County Waste) contained pricing that would represent a significant discount for those currently paying for curbside trash and recycling. **The Town and Village boards still need to accept the bid, finalize a contract with the hauler and take legislative steps to officially create municipal waste districts, which will include a Public Hearing so that residents' views can be heard.**

Why can't we institute our own municipal trash collection system?

While creating our own municipal trash system is possible, doing so would require investing millions of dollars. The City of Kingston spent over 2 million dollars in 2007 to institute their own municipal sanitation department. This would create a financial burden that would be spread across all taxpayers, regardless of whether they have a need for curbside collection.

Does this apply to me if I live somewhere with a dumpster?

No, this only applies to the curbside collection of trash and recycling containers.

What recourse will I have if I don't like the service being provided by the hauler that is selected?

Individual customers will be able to cancel service with the selected hauler at any time if they so choose. While we are still in the process of negotiating the final contract, the Town and Village are focused on negotiating terms that will ensure the highest level of service, and look to include penalties and/or out clauses so that we will have recourse in the event our residents are displeased with the service that is being provided. We believe that our collective voice will allow us to hold the contracted hauler accountable should service issues arise.

Will this put local trash haulers out of business?

The most prominent local hauler has confirmed that this will not put them out of business as they did not have a large enough share of the New Paltz market to be significantly impacted. Near the end of the contract term we will rebid, so hopefully local haulers will choose to bid the next time around.

Background Information

There are 5 permitted haulers servicing the Village and several more providing service in the Town. What is the impact of having so many garbage trucks within our community?

- The average side loader produces over 186,666 pounds of CO2 per year. With the current volume of trucks patrolling our community, this plan is a chance to significantly reduce our community's environmental impact.
- It is estimated that communities with up to 6 haulers operating can experience an equivalent of 6000 extra car trips per week.
- Overall weight combined with regular starting and stopping (especially stopping) of heavy trucks increases damage to streets by 50 to 100%.
- Considering the number, axle weight and starting and stopping nature of garbage trucks local roads are vulnerable to accelerated deterioration.
- Garbage trucks are not only destructive to our roads, they also create destructive vibrations that damage the foundations of our homes. The Village recently closed a section of Huguenot Street to protect our most precious historic buildings from further damage. Reducing the volume of trucks will help minimize damage to all of our homes.

Pricing FAQs

Prices are locked in for a 5 year period so New Paltz residents would gain cost certainty for the lifetime of the deal.

Without a contract, current customers are subject to price increases anytime a hauler desires to raise the rate.

With that in mind, the projected savings for years 2-5 are based on current pricing so there is significant potential for additional savings beyond what is detailed.

Service Costs

Weekly Curbside Collection of: One 95-gallon rolling toter for trash & one 95-gallon rolling toter for mixed recyclables	Base Price		Proposed Total Monthly Cost (includes sales tax & flow fee)	Current Total Monthly Cost (same hauler, same service, includes sales tax & flow fee)	Estimated Cost Savings
Year One	\$21.87		\$26.45	\$41.20	\$19.33 monthly savings \$231.96 yearly savings
Year Two	\$22.31		\$26.99	\$41.20	\$18.89 monthly savings \$226.68 yearly savings
Year Three	\$22.75		\$27.51	\$41.20	\$18.45 monthly savings \$221.40 yearly savings
Year Four	\$23.21		\$28.07	\$41.20	\$17.99 monthly savings \$215.88 yearly savings
Year Five	\$23.67		\$28.63	\$41.20	\$17.53 monthly savings \$210.36 yearly savings

Customers save \$1106.26 over the life of the proposed agreement (5 years), compared to the current rate from the same hauler. Actual savings will vary based upon your current cost.