



**CITY OF BURLINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

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*ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
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**Memo**

January 23, 2018

To: City Council Transportation, Energy & Utilities Committee

From: Rob Green, Assistant Director DPW

Re: Residential Consolidated Collection

Burlington Public Works is working with Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD) and our neighbor South Burlington in exploring the potential of a Residential Solid Waste Collection System. Consolidated collection is a system in which a municipality contracts with one or more haulers to provide curbside collection service for specific routes within that community, rather than having multiple haulers serve a scattering of customers in each neighborhood. CSWD has been wrestling with consolidated collection for years. In 2009 they formed a study committee, comprising haulers, CSWD board members, and CSWD staff, to direct a study. Unfortunately, after years of input, the committee was never able to reach an internal consensus or all its members to pursue. In response, in 2014 the CSWD Board decided to pause the process and provide technical assistance to individual communities interested in exploring consolidating collection.

As the CSWD Commissioner representing Burlington and the Assistant Director of DPW managing the recycling program, I believe Burlington should explore the possibility of having a consolidated solid waste collection system.

It does bring up many questions that I have, and having conversations with our neighboring municipalities and CSWD will likely bring up more. I look forward to hearing your questions and will keep the TUEC and City Council informed of any future progress.

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### **Why does DPW want to see a Residential Consolidated Solid Waste Collection System?**

- To reduce the cost to the residents
- To reduce the heavy truck traffic in the neighborhoods by having all wastes and recyclables picked up on the same day
- To reduce the environmental and infrastructure impacts of truck traffic
- The possibility of increasing the amount residents recycle by having all residents with larger capacity covered wheeled carts
- By having consolidated collection, it could make the costs of organics collection reasonable
- It is time for Burlington Public Works to get out of the recycling collection business
  - Cumbersome Burlington recycling tax
  - High employee turnover rate
  - Expensive equipment to maintain

### **Questions DPW will be bringing up;**

- How much should it cost the residents of Burlington to have weekly curbside pickup of trash, recyclables, and organics?
- Could the hauler offer a bi-annually yard waste collection?
- Could the hauler offer a heavy waste service?
- What is the definition of a residential customer?
- Where recycling routes are already established, could they continue for consolidated collection?
- What size carts should be offered to residents?
- Who bills the residents? Hauler directly? City GF?
- How do we design an RFP for all licensed haulers to have an equal and fair share of Burlington?
- How long should the city contract with a hauler?
- When could we start consolidated collection?