

## Trash, Recycling, Organics: Public Meetings & Survey

### As appearing in Front Porch Forum 8/19/2021

We want to hear from you. Come share your thoughts directly with DPW and learn more about the consolidated collection proposal (method of picking up trash, recycling, organics) going to City Council in September. We'll be hosting two "listening sessions" where we want to hear your thoughts, answer questions and respond to your concerns about this proposal.

#### Public Meetings Details:

- Held virtually via Zoom or by calling in. Details can be found at <http://burlingtonvt.gov/dpw/maintenance/cc>.
- Thursday 8/26, 6PM
- Tuesday 9/7, 6PM

The City Council passed a resolution in 2018 directing DPW to study the consolidation of trash, recycling and organics pick-up. Based on our study, we believe there are economic, environmental and quality of life benefits to consolidation.

We have recommended a Hybrid Model and will be asking Council to support this at a September meeting. For Burlington, this option would have recycling remain a municipally-collected service; trash and compost services would be franchised to private haulers in different zones. All pick-ups would occur on the same day in each zone, thereby reducing neighborhood truck traffic throughout the week. This model received support at the DPW Commission in a 5-1 vote. A different scenario would be the Municipal Operation Model. This option would have the municipality providing all aspects of trash, recycling, and compost collection, including oversight, customer service, scheduling, and billing - though it does come with a ~\$6M+ upfront capital cost. The Transportation, Energy & Utilities Committee supported this approach in a 2-1 vote.

We know there are other important details you're interested in - including the possibility of "opting out" of this service. While some of these details will be ironed out during implementation (if the City moves forward with consolidation), we hope you'll join us at one of these meetings to share your thoughts and ask any questions you have. You can visit the project website to learn more about consolidated collection and how to join the meetings: <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/dpw/Maintenance/CC>.

We also ask that you complete a brief survey to let us know your thoughts on consolidated collection and what service levels should be offered. Find the survey at the top of the project page: <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/dpw/Maintenance/CC>.

One-on-one interpretation is available to ask us questions, share concerns and offer feedback on consolidated collection and to take the survey verbally (we are using a service that offers interpretation in up to 350 languages). To use this service, please call 802-863-9094.

We encourage you to share your thoughts with us and your City Councilors. If you prefer not to fill out the survey or if you can't make the meetings above, you are welcome to call or email us at 802-863-9094 or [dpwcommunications@burlingtonvt.gov](mailto:dpwcommunications@burlingtonvt.gov). Thank you.