

## Weigh in on Potential Changes to Waste Collection

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As a reminder, we hope you can take our survey about potential changes to trash/recycling/organics pickup. We are also hosting another virtual public meeting to discuss "consolidated collection" on 9/7 at 6PM and are bringing this item to City Council for a decision in September. We will also be using Telelanguage which offers real time interpretation in up to 350 languages for over the phone discussion on this effort or to help take the survey verbally. Please call 802-863-9094 or visit <http://burlingtonvt.gov/dpw/maintenance/cc> for information on the proposal, survey or public meetings. More background is available below!

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In 2018, the City Council requested Public Works evaluate how residential trash, recycling and organics are collected in our community – and consider "consolidated collection". Consolidated collection is a coordinated method of picking up waste streams by neighborhood zone where the City or a selected private hauler picks up all of the trash, recycling and organics from each household in that zone on the same day of the week.

As a community, we could choose to consolidate or keep the existing system (where the City picks up recycling and homeowners contract with private haulers for the rest). Our study indicated several benefits of consolidation including same day pickup, reduced truck traffic, and lower aggregate costs for the community. Additionally, consolidated collection is by far the most used system for waste stream pickup across the country according to our consultant's survey. The projected monthly cost per household for all three waste streams would be \$34-41 depending on service level and model selected.

After 2 years of study and a year of public engagement, Public Works anticipates going to City Council on September 13th for a decision and next steps. If we choose to consolidate, we'll need to determine whether to establish a public-private partnership with multiple private haulers or whether the City should handle everything (all waste pickup, billing, customer service).

There are two main models by which to consolidate. There is what we refer to as the Hybrid model. Under this scenario, the City would continue picking up recycling. Trash and compost would be franchised to private haulers by 'zone'. All pickups would happen on the same day in each zone. The current recycling program is under-resourced often leading to street maintenance employees (pothole, sidewalk, plow crews) being diverted to recycling duties. Therefore, 3-4 additional Union positions with the City would be created to ensure oversight of the new system and adequate staffing.

Under another model - the Municipal model - the City would handle all waste pickup, billing and customer service. The City retains more control in this full municipal operation, though it does come with an expected \$6M+ upfront capital cost, construction of a new building, additional risk and an estimated 14 additional employees (mostly Union positions).

If the Council decides to consolidate – under either scenario - the implementation timeline will be 2-5 years. Other decisions will be ironed out, including the provisions to allow "opting out" of this service, the frequency of pickup for each waste stream and more. Please reach out to us with any questions at 802-863-9094 or [DPWCommunications@burlingtonvt.gov](mailto:DPWCommunications@burlingtonvt.gov) and feel free to let us and your City Councilor know how you feel.