



CITY OF RALEIGH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

News Release

www.raleighnc.gov

222 West Hargett Street • P.O. Box 590 • Raleigh, NC 27602-0590
ph.919.996.3100 • TDD.919.996.3107 • fx.919.996.7621

Jayne Kirkpatrick, Director, Public Affairs
Prepared by: Christopher Riley, Senior Public Affairs Specialist

For more information: Fred Battle, Director, Solid Waste Services, 996-6890

Jan. 25, 2012

SOLID WASTE SERVICES ACHIEVING MORE THAN ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Since 2003, the City of Raleigh's population has grown from 321,985 to more than 403,000 residents. The area of the Capital City has increased from 127 square miles to more than 143 square miles.

A comparison that clearly illustrates the economies the Solid Waste Services Department has implemented is offered by a look at 1947. That year Solid Waste Services was the City's largest department with a staff of 120 - more than double the number of firefighters and police officers. Also consider this was to serve a population of around 60,000 and less than 10 square miles. Today's staff of more than 220 employees serves a population in excess of 400,000 and over 143 square miles.

To keep up with the demands for service the City of Raleigh Solid Waste Services has implemented service efficiencies while maintaining high quality customer service to residents and businesses.

In fiscal year 2005, the City of Raleigh transitioned from twice-a-week back yard garbage collection to once-a-week curbside collection. The City also began automated collection. At the same time, recycling collection was increased from every other week to weekly. The changes resulted in an estimated savings of \$4.03 million and a reduction of 72 positions for fiscal year 2006.

The fiscal year that began in July 2011 saw the implementation of the second of the four phase bi-weekly automated recycling collection transition. The first two phases have produced savings of approximately \$700,000 and a reduction of 15 positions. The estimated savings at the end of the conversion to automated recycling is \$2.2 million with a reduction of 27 positions and eight collection vehicles.

The new Solid Waste Services operations center location is near the Wake County transfer station, the City of Raleigh Yard Waste Recycling Center and the recycling material recovery facility. The close proximity to the facilities will save approximately seven miles for more than 70 collection vehicles at an average cost of \$2.52 per mile each day or approximately \$250,000 per year.

The modified contract between the City of Raleigh and Sonoco Recycling allows for single-stream collection of recyclable materials. Because materials no longer need to be sorted as they are collected, the City has started replacing the compartmentalized recycling trucks with rear-loader trucks. The rear-loader trucks accommodate a greater volume than the compartmented trucks and require fewer trips to the material recycling facility. The changes in how recycling is collected, coupled with route analysis has resulted in eight fewer trucks being needed to perform the daily collection. For fiscal years 2008 and 2009, recycling collection miles driven were reduced by 4.3 percent and fuel consumed by 2.73 percent.

	Tons Garbage	Tons Recycling	Tons Yard Waste	Employees	Collection Vehicles	
FY03	73,837	14,069	21,914	260	86	
FY04	77,301	14,428	19,615	260	86	
FY05	80,400	15,719	20,600	189	102	(1)
FY06	83,612	17,052	17,362	199	104	(2)
FY07	84,538	18,808	21,042	193	107	(3)
FY08	85,139	18,740	11,759	237	114	(4)
FY09	87,054	19,325	19,691	237	122	(5)
FY10	87,562	20,104	17,271	234	122	
FY11	85,217	22,370	17,262	223	120	
(1)	16 recycling trucks added for weekly recycling collection					
(2)	Two knuckleboom trucks added for bulky/special load collection and support of City of Raleigh Community Oriented Government					
(3)	Pup trucks added for more efficient Need Assistance collection and support of trash cans at Capital Area Transit bus stop					
(4)	Added to support growth and pup trucks for Need Assistance collection and support of trash cans at Capital Area Transit bus stop					
(5)	Support growth and specialized trucks for Central Business District and Glenwood South collection					

#####