



City of New Bedford
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

City Prepares for New Automated Trash and Recycling Collection System

New Bedford, Massachusetts – Beginning June 23, 2014 the City of New Bedford in partnership with ABC Disposal will implement a new automated curbside collection system for trash and recyclables. The new collection program, which is designed to increase citywide recycling, reduce litter, and decrease the amount of trash sent to the Crapo Hill landfill, will lengthen the life of our landfill, increase recycling and result in cleaner city streets.

Under the new curbside collection system, City residents and business owners will place trash and recyclables in uniform wheeled carts. The carts will be emptied by ABC Disposal's automated trucks which are equipped with mechanized arms. These trucks are fueled by compressed natural gas, making them more eco-friendly.

The Program

During May and June, ABC Disposal will distribute 65-gallon and 95-gallon trash and recycling wheeled collection carts to City residents and businesses. Carts will be provided to properties with 1, 2, and 3 dwelling units at no cost to the property owner. Owners of properties containing 4, 5, and 6 dwelling units, mixed use buildings, businesses and nonprofits will be required to pay a one-time fee for the use of the carts. The one-time fee for the use of a 65-gallon cart is \$59.18 and the one-time fee for the use of a 95-gallon cart is \$66.82. In addition, owners of any property type may pay a one-time cart fee for the use of additional recycling carts.

Owners who are required to pay the one-time cart fee must make their payment to the Department of Facilities and Fleet Management by April 25, 2014 in order to be included in the initial cart delivery in May and June. After that date, a delivery fee will be added to the cost of each cart. For payments or payment questions please contact the Department of Facilities and Fleet Management, at 294 Liberty Street, 508-961-3008, or trashandrecycling@newbedford-ma.gov. The office is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 a.m. and Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Dwelling units and businesses will receive the following number of trash and recycling carts:

Category	Trash <i>Carts have a blue body & a blue cover</i>	Recycling <i>Carts have a blue body & an orange cover</i>
1 dwelling unit	one 65-gallon cart	one 65-gallon cart
2 dwelling units	one 95-gallon cart	one 95-gallon cart
3 dwelling units	two 95-gallon carts	two 95-gallon carts
4 dwelling units*	two 95-gallon carts	two 95-gallon carts
5 & 6 dwelling units*	three 95-gallon carts	two 95-gallon carts
Businesses and nonprofits*	One 65-gallon or one 95-gallon cart	Recycling cart must be the same size or larger than the trash cart
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Starred categories (*) are required to pay a one-time fee for the use of the carts. <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed use buildings must pay the cart fees for both the business and the residential parts of the building. <input type="checkbox"/> Carts for properties with one, two and three dwelling units will be automatically delivered. <input type="checkbox"/> Any property owner can pay the fee for additional recycling carts. 		

Benefits

The transition to a new automated trash and recycling collection system is a very important and positive step for the City of New Bedford. It will provide many benefits to City residents, workers, and local businesses.

One such benefit is that use of the new wheeled carts will make City streets and neighborhoods cleaner and neater. Each cart comes with an attached lid that keeps trash and recyclables inside the cart and off of the streets. Furthermore, trash that is placed outside of the cart will not be collected by ABC Disposal, meaning that resident must contain their trash to their carts. Leaving trash outside of the cart could result in a fine. The cart design and this policy should reduce odor and the amount of loose litter. Bulky items such as couches, wooden furniture, mattresses, refrigerators, washing machines, air conditioners, televisions and computer monitors can be collected at no charge. However, residents and businesses must schedule an appointment with ABC Disposal in order for the bulky item to be collected.

The new collection program also seeks to reduce the amount of trash sent to the Crapo Hill landfill by increasing recycling. Under the program, recycling is made easier for residents and business owners. Customers will no longer need to separate recyclable materials into multiple bins. Instead, recyclables such as bottles, cans, paper, and cardboard can all be place in the same recycling cart, distinguished with an orange lid. By eliminating this separation requirement and providing residents and businesses with larger recycling carts, the City hopes to boost recycling and decrease trash.

Putting out and collecting trash is also made easier for residents, businesses, and ABC Disposal workers. The wheeled cart design is easy to maneuver and allows users to wheel out their carts with less strain. Additionally, the new automated trucks with mechanized arms eliminate the need for trash collectors from ABC Disposal to lift trash barrels. This will result in improved worker safety.

Even though many aspects of the trash and recycling system will change under the new program, it is important to note that the collection schedule will not. Residents and businesses can expect the trash and recycling collection schedule to remain the same. Similarly, no changes will be made to the yard waste collection program.

Once the collection program has begun, old trash barrels and recycling bins can either be kept and used for yard waste or recycled at the Shawmut Avenue Transfer Station.

For more information please contact the Department of Facilities and Fleet Management at 508-961-3008 or trashandrecycling@newbedford-ma.gov.

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