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SOLID WASTE ELEMENT

Introduction

The City of North Port Solid Waste Division, which is part of the Public Works Department, is responsible for providing residential and commercial solid waste collection. City oversight began in 1960 when the then City of North Port Charlotte issued a franchise for the collection of garbage within the city limits. The City of North Port then took over collection in the mid 1970's and in 1989 created a Solid Waste District.

In the early days, solid waste disposal was handled by the City of North Port. The City leased land from General Development Corporation to permit and operate a landfill. The landfill was located southwest of Sumter Blvd. and Price Blvd. Landfill operation ceased in 1984 and a transfer station, also permitted and operated by the City, was utilized at this site until the late 1980's. The garbage was then taken directly to Sarasota County's Jackson Road Transfer Station. A closure permit for the landfill was issued by the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation in 1990. When the County opened the Central County Solid Waste Disposal Complex in 1998, garbage was no longer accepted at the Jackson Road Transfer Station but taken directly to the new facility located on Knights Trail Road in Nokomis.

Collection

Ensuring the safety and health of North Port citizens through the proper and efficient collection and disposal of solid waste is the Division's mission and is accomplished through the weekly collection of garbage, recycling and yard waste plus special bulk collection as scheduled. Each residence is provided a 95-gallon automated garbage container for household garbage with additional garbage containers (AGC's) offered for a fee. Automated garbage trucks collect the AGC's every week on specified route days. For larger items, each residence is offered two free bulk pick ups per year, each limited to 5 cubic yards. These collections are scheduled and the material is handled according to type of waste. Appliances and electronics are recycled and general garbage landfilled.

Curbside weekly recycling and yard waste collection also occurs on the same day as garbage collection. Recycling bins are furnished to residences who sort materials into two categories: Paper products which consist of cardboard, paperboard, newspaper, brown paper bags, magazines, catalogs, brochures, mail and telephone books; and commingled material which consists of glass, tin, aluminum and steel food and beverage containers, and number 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 plastics. Vehicle and recyclable batteries, as well as used motor oil are also collected curbside for recycling. Residents separate out yard waste such as palm fronds, shrubbery, leaves, and grass clippings and either bundle, bag in paper bags, or put it in citizen-owned garbage cans for collection.

The City also collects commercial garbage and recyclables. Businesses choose from 2, 4, 6, or 8 yard front load containers for both garbage and cardboard. Other recyclables are collected using either 95-gallon totes or 18-gallon bins. Collection frequency is offered from one time to five times per week.

For the management of emergency debris, a disaster debris monitoring contract and a disaster debris removal, reduction and disposal contract have been secured. Solid Waste will work closely with these private companies to ensure the timely and responsible removal of storm debris.

The Solid Waste Division has 34 employees who serve 25,930 residential units and 221 businesses. It currently has a fleet consisting of 12 automated garbage trucks, nine recycling trucks, two claw trucks, four rear-load yard waste trucks, two hook trucks and five mid-sized trucks.

Disposal

The City of North Port Solid Waste Division utilizes Sarasota County's disposal facilities for all garbage and recyclable materials and at times, yard waste. The 2008 disposal rates are \$48.34 per ton for garbage, \$6.98 per ton for recycling materials and \$32.53 per ton for yard waste. Solid Waste also uses Thomas Ranch Chipping and Mulching for yard waste and is charged \$7.00 per cubic yard.

Following are the tonnages and costs for fiscal year 2007:

Table 4-10

Material	Tonnage	Disposal Cost
Recyclables	3,588.00	\$24,864.63
Appliance	193.33	\$2,944.10
Total Recycling	3,781.33	\$27,808.73
Yard Waste	1,794.65	\$56,826.21
Solid Waste	25,609.07	\$1,239,225.22
C&D	72.20	\$2,637.14
TOTAL	31,257.25	\$1,326,497.30

Source: City of North Port

Education

The natural beauty of North Port and the surrounding area is something to be preserved. To help in this effort, the Solid Waste Division promotes the proper management of garbage along with waste reduction and recycling. The Division's web site provides useful information to citizens on how they can best manage their waste. Informational guides to solid waste services are also mailed to each residence as well as distributed at various locations throughout the City. Participation in community events, school and organization visits and media programs are some public outreach tools Solid Waste uses to promote waste reduction and recycling. In addition, Solid Waste works with the Property Standards division on illegal dumping and code compliance issues. These educational activities help reinforce how the community can work to protect its natural resources.

Special Events

The City of North Port Solid Waste Division, along with other agencies offers special events to promote proper solid waste management. Household hazardous waste collection days are coordinated with Sarasota County Solid Waste and held in North Port for citizen convenience. Participation on the Keep Sarasota County Beautiful advisory board targets ways to improve North Port’s environment with activities such as the Florida Coastal Cleanup and the Great American Cleanup. Solid Waste also works cooperatively with Partners for a Clean Charlotte to address illegal dumping.

Future Growth

With high growth projections, the Solid Waste Division will have increases in both personnel and equipment to meet the established service level of one time per week garbage, recycling and yard waste collection and bulk collection as scheduled. [Table 4-11](#) below indicates the residential developments projected over the next five years and Solid Waste’s corresponding capital needs. These capital needs are based on 1 garbage truck for every 3,000 residential units, 1 recycling truck for every 3,750 residential units, 1 yard waste truck for every 5,400 residential units and 1 claw truck for every 12,500 residential units.

Table 4-11

Development	Residential Units	Garbage Trucks	Recycling Trucks	Yard Waste Trucks	Claw Trucks
NE Quadrant (Toledo Village/H.M.T.A. only)	1,999	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.2
West Villages Improvement District	15,000	5.0	4.0	2.8	1.2
Panacea DRI	3,600	1.2	1.0	0.7	0.3
Platted Lots	1,674	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.1
TOTAL	22,273	8	6	4	2

Source: City of North Port

Commercial solid waste services are based on the category of space, the amount of waste generated and capital needs of 1 garbage truck for every 2,805 tons/year (see [Table 4.12](#)):

<u>Category</u>	<u>Annual lbs/sf generated</u>
Hotel/lodging	4.28
Office	2.52
Retail	5.34
Industrial	4.58
Government Use	2.52

Table 4-12

Commercial Developments	Sq Ft	Annual Tons Solid Waste Generated	Garbage Trucks
West Villages Improvement District			
Office	1,707,552	2,152	0.8
Retail	2,744,000	7,326	2.6
Industrial	871,200	1,995	0.7
Government Use	196,020	247	0.1
Panacea DRI			
Office	365,000	460	0.2
Retail	987,000	2,635	0.9
Industrial	871,200	1,995	0.7
General City			
Office	49,809	63	0.0
Retail	210,845	563	0.2
TOTAL	28,612,626	51,388	18

Source: City of North Port

*Note: Northeast Quadrant not included in Table 4-12 as the Toledo Village/H.M.T.A. project does not include a non-residential component.

Sarasota County also tracks growth projections in planning future solid waste disposal needs. Their current disposal site, the Central County Solid Waste Disposal Complex, is expected to service the County's solid waste disposal needs for at least the next 40 years.

Solid Waste Concerns

Concern 1: **Maintaining service levels as growth increases.**

With the City of North Port projecting significant increases in growth, the Solid Waste Division will need to work closely with the Planning Department to adequately maintain the established level of service. Capital acquisitions take a considerable amount of time and budget forecasts will need to anticipate equipment and personnel requirements.

Concern 2: **Adjusting with changes in material management.**

Solid waste management is an ever changing field with new technologies and diverse waste materials shifting how waste is collected and managed. Solid Waste will need to work with Sarasota County and other disposal facilities on changes in how the waste will be handled. This will impact what types of collection equipment will be needed, what new commodities may be accepted and how the waste will be segregated.

Concern 3: **Transportation costs**

With increases in fuel and maintenance costs, Solid Waste will need to continue to explore ways to operate more efficiently. Use of alternative fuels and more efficient equipment, changes in how material is collected, and the feasibility of a transfer station are all areas that will need to be investigated.

Concern 4: **Public Outreach**

As changes occur in how waste is managed, the public will need to be kept abreast of how they will be affected. Their support of and participation in proper waste management is critical to having a successful program.