

CITY OF AUBURN

Public Works Division
296 Gracelawn Road



On Monday February 3, 2014 the Auburn City Council held a Public Hearing regarding Auburn's Solid Waste and Recycling program options and the recent recommendation to pursue an Automated Solid Waste and Recycling program. The following questions were asked and the answers follow each question.

1. A resident of New Auburn asked if businesses would be able to use the recycling service and wanted to know if there was an extra cost for the schools use of this service and what incentives were being explored for residents who recycle more?

Answer: In several other towns where the automated system is in place businesses are provided an option for recycling collection. Casella provides a cart, normally a larger 96 gallon one. The business sets it at the curb on the day the residential truck picks up that area. Pine Tree Waste collects the recycling and then charges the business a fee for that weekly service. The town gets credit for the weight of the recycling. Staff will review this option as the city moves forward with negotiations with Pine Tree Waste for the automated system.

2. A resident said PTW is doing a fine job, she was concerned with what the size of the containers were going to be, not sure where she would put them, and how we were going to train folks on the new system.

Answer: This is a very normal question. The carts that would be issued under this automated program have about the same footprint as one of those 25 gal Rubbermaid carts that most people seem to have. They fit next to the house or in the garage very easily. There are several sizes of carts but we strongly recommend the 64 gal carts. That gives each residence 130 gallons of space per week; 1/2 trash and 1/2 recycling. In other communities with an automated system most homes do not put both carts out every week since this is the equivalent of over 5 of the Rubbermaid carts.

Education is a combined effort of the City and Pine Tree. The Solid Waste and Recycling Committee along with Pine Tree Staff will work together to develop repeated notices, articles in the paper, e-mails, automated phone messages etc. Also, on the day the carts are delivered we would include a packet of information that the committee made up with Pine Tree's help. A hot line number could be established and a person manning it to answer questions. During the first week or so Pine Tree can provide extra supervision on the street placing carts correctly ahead of the truck and leaving guidance material on the cart. The drivers also routinely have gentle corrective action stickers that they use all the time to help residents understand the procedures for cart placement.

During the public hearing comments were also made on the current service levels provided by our solid waste contractor and those comments and concerns have been addressed. We will continue to monitor the service levels provided by our contractors to ensure Auburn residents get the best possible services.