

Recycling Factsheet #4

Municipal Collection Contracts

Many Wisconsin communities contract for recycling and/or refuse collection services. Municipal collection contracts typically save money when compared to each resident subscribing for collection services on their own. Data from the 2014 Waukesha County coordinated collection request for proposals (RFP) process shows that municipal collection contracts are about **half the cost** of individual subscriptions. Companies offer lower costs for municipal contracts because these contracts secure the business for multiple years, improve efficiencies on hauling routes, and save administrative expenses for billing individual households and processing past-due accounts.

Reduced cost is not the only advantage of a municipal collection contract. A single contract avoids multiple hauling companies driving heavy trucks on local roads, avoiding excessive wear and tear on the streets, while reducing traffic, noise, and air emissions. A municipal contract for both refuse and recycling collection with the same hauling company can also:

- Save additional money in refuse disposal costs as recycling rates increase under a single sort recycling system. (Note: As long as the collection and disposal costs are not “bundled” in the contract.)
- Improve accountability by setting consistent performance standards, and leveraging the community contract to ensure compliance and resolve disputes.
- Coordinate collection days for refuse and recycling.
- Improve educational programs for residents on what is recyclable and what is not.

Note: In the Waukesha County recycling program, a municipality with a collection contract is also eligible for County Financial Assistance for recycling containers and direct hauling costs to Milwaukee for recyclable processing.

Advantages of Municipal Collection Contracts

- Lower costs for residents (50%)
- Less wear & tear on local roads
- Increased competition for contracts
- Improved accountability & dispute resolution
- Improved educational programs
- Reduced traffic, noise & pollution
- Improved efficiencies
- Eligible for County Financial Assistance



For More Information:
Contact the Land Resources Division at
262-896-8300 or
www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling



**Waukesha County
Department of
Parks and Land Use**