

Recycling Factsheet #5

Collection System

Automated Curbside Collection

Many communities across the country are transitioning from manual residential garbage and recycling collection in order to realize time and cost-saving benefits of automated curbside processes. Automated refuse collection is becoming the standard of service nationwide, making curbside trash collection cleaner, safer and more efficient.

Automated collection requires special equipment, including trucks and carts (as shown). The most distinguishing feature of automated collection trucks is the robotic arm that swings out, lifts the container, and dumps materials into the compactor bin. Automated collection also requires specialized containers be placed in the proper direction and position.



Automated Collection Vehicle with robotic arm

Each household will be provided a new 96 gallon recycling and 64 gallon refuse container. Most collection contracts maintain an every week refuse collection with and every-other-week recycling collection. Depending on the service your local municipality selects, these new carts will be delivered in late 2014 and early 2015. The new carts will be delivered to your home with the educational materials attached with instructions on items such as where to place you carts and what can be recycled.

Benefits of Automated Collection Systems

- **Cleaner Communities**

- ◇ Carts have closed lids, are designed not to tip over and efficiently empty into trucks

- **Reduced Costs**

- ◇ Improved efficiencies and every-other-week collection translates into reduced collection costs
- ◇ Cost savings vary from 20-50% with an automated system versus manual collection
- ◇ Reduction in waste disposal costs

- **Higher Recycling Rates**

- ◇ Automated recycling collection provides residents with a convenient, larger wheeled cart that make it easier to recycle more materials.
- ◇ Recycling rates with the larger carts are anticipated to increase 25-50%

- **Improved Safety**

- ◇ Greatly reduces physical injuries and accidents for workers which increases productivity and lower turn over rates

- **Sustainability**

- ◇ More homes can be serviced with fewer vehicles, making it more fuel-efficient with less greenhouse gas emissions
- ◇ Increases diversion from landfills