

# **Boston's Trash and Recycling Contracts**

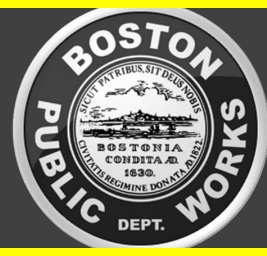
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Fall 2013



City of Boston  
Public Works Department

# Agenda



1. Overview
2. Current Operations
3. Contract Structure/Timeline
4. Where Boston's Trash & Recycling Goes
5. The Importance of Recycling & Diversion
6. Goals in New Contract
7. Feedback

# Overview



***Boston's trash and recycling contracts are going to be rebid in spring 2014. We are meeting today, to:***

## ***Understand***

How the waste reduction system works.

What the City's goals are in the new contract.

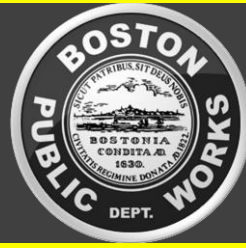
## ***Give feedback***

What do you think would help meet the City's goals of **service reliability, street cleanliness and increased recycling/diversion?**

# Current Operations



# Current Operations



## *By the numbers*

**20%** of Boston's residential refuse is recycled

- **15%** – single stream recycling (32,000 tons)
- **5%** - yard waste & special collection recyclables, such as CRTs, electronics, tires, white goods

**\$40.2** million in annual costs in FY2013

- \$22.1 million for collection expense
- \$18.1 million for disposal expense

# Current Operations



## *By the numbers (continued)*

**300,000** households served weekly

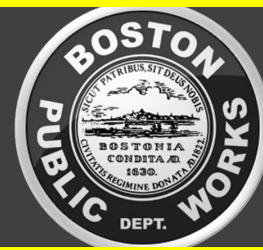
**240,000** tons of Municipal Solid Waste managed each year

**60** trash/recycling trucks working daily in the city

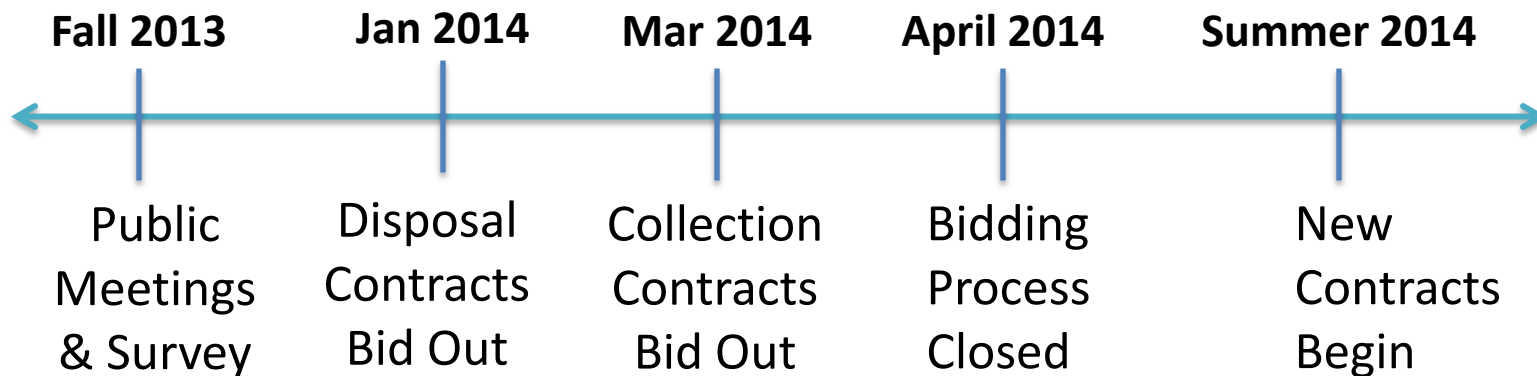
**100** staff performing collection of trash and recyclables

**33** City staff inspect and oversee collection citywide

# Contract Structure/Timeline



## *New Contract Timeline*



## *Bidding Process*

- The City secures disposal/processing fees at all available facilities first.
- These are provided to collection vendors, who provide prices to haul to each.
- This is the most cost-effective way for the City to get services.
- Collection of both trash & recyclables is performed by same hauler in each district.

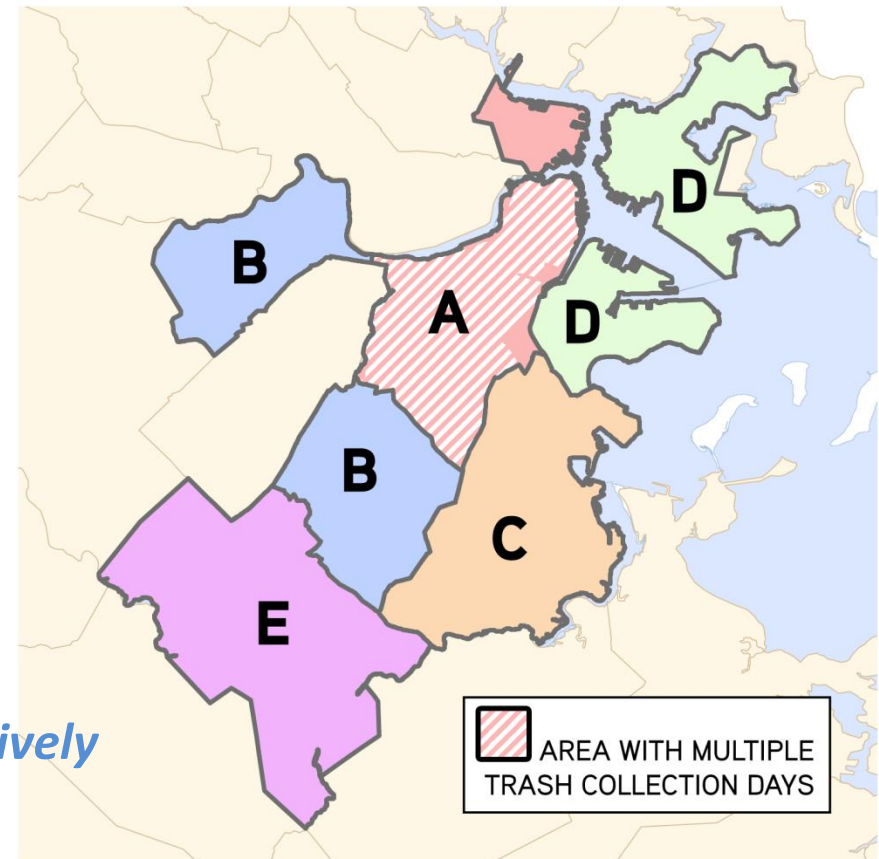
# Contract Districts



## Collection/Disposal Services Divided into Five Districts

- District A: Charlestown, Chinatown, Downtown, Bay Village, Back Bay, Beacon Hill, South End, North End, Roxbury, Fenway, Mission Hill/Fort Hill, Financial/Leather District
- District B: Jamaica Plain, Allston/Brighton
- District C: North & South Dorchester, Mattapan
- District D: East & South Boston
- District E: West Roxbury, Hyde Park, Roslindale

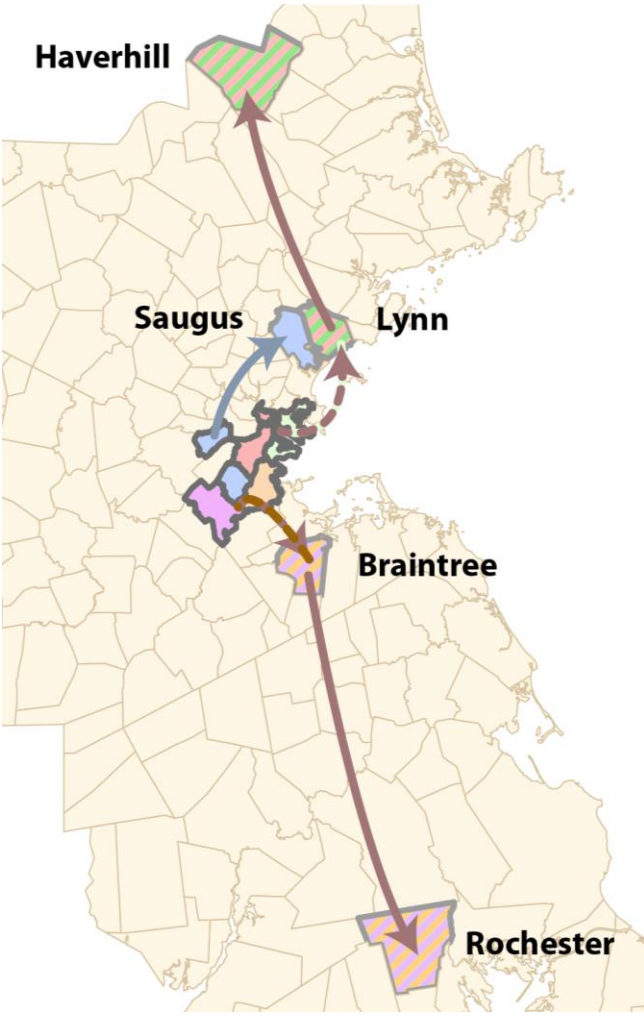
*Districts are structured to ensure a relatively even distribution of collections between 7am-4pm Monday-Friday, which yields lowest overall collection costs for taxpayers.*







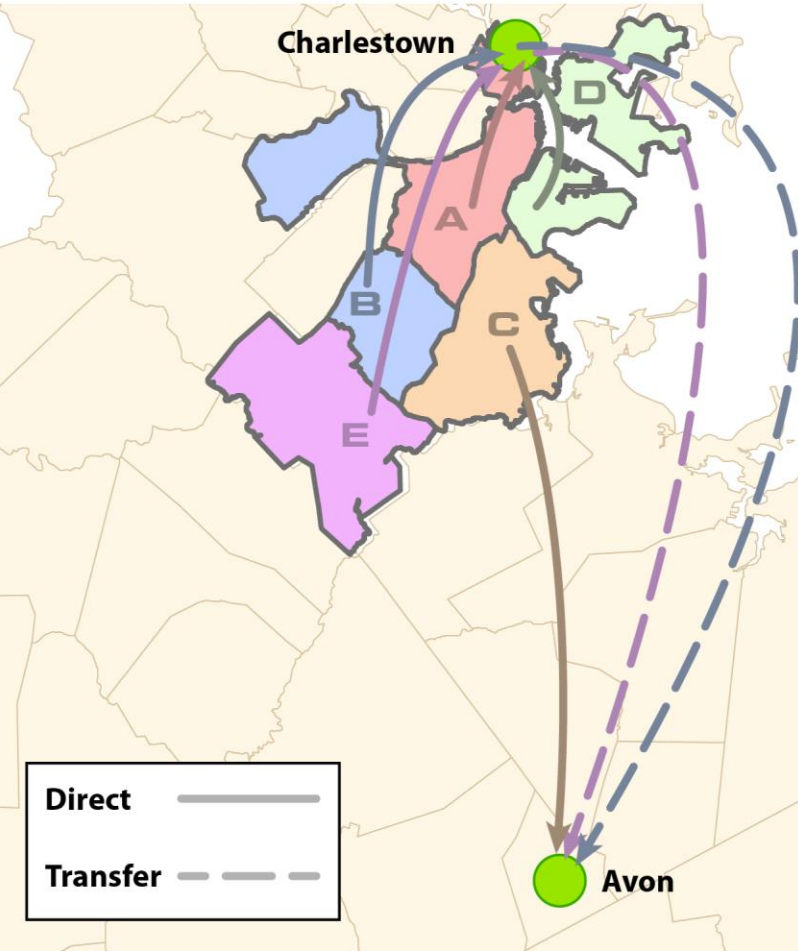
# Where Boston Trash Goes



District	Flow
<b>A &amp; D:</b> Charlestown, Chinatown, Downtown, Bay Village, Back Bay, Beacon Hill, South End, North End, Roxbury Fenway, Mission Hill/Fort Hill, Financial/Leather District, East & South Boston	Covanta Transfer Station Lynn, MA ↓ Covanta Waste to Energy Plant – Haverhill, MA
<b>C &amp; E:</b> North & South Dorchester, Mattapan, West Roxbury, Hyde Park, Roslindale	Covanta Transfer Braintree, MA ↓ Covanta Waste to Energy Plant – Rochester, MA
<b>B:</b> Jamaica Plain, Allston/Brighton	Waste Management – Waste Energy Plant, Saugus, MA



# Where Boston Recycling Goes



District	Flow
<b>A &amp; D:</b> Charlestown, Chinatown, Downtown, Bay Village, Back Bay, Beacon Hill, South End, North End, Roxbury Fenway, Mission Hill/Fort Hill, Financial/Leather District, East & South Boston	Direct haul to Casella - Charlestown, Ma.
<b>B &amp; E:</b> Jamaica Plain, Allston /Brighton, West Roxbury, Hyde Park, Roslindale	Haul to transfer station in Charlestown <div style="text-align: center;">↓</div> Waste Mgt Recycling Plant - Avon, Ma
<b>C:</b> North & South Dorchester, Mattapan	Direct haul to Waste Mgt Recycling Plant, Avon Ma,

# Economics of Recycling



Municipal Solid Waste management incurs both collection & disposal costs.

<b>Trash</b>	<b>Recycling Program</b>
Collection Cost per Ton	
\$89/ton	\$116/ton
Disposal/Processing Cost or Revenue	
\$82/ton	+ \$1/ton
Total Waste Management Costs per Ton	
\$171/ton	\$115/ton

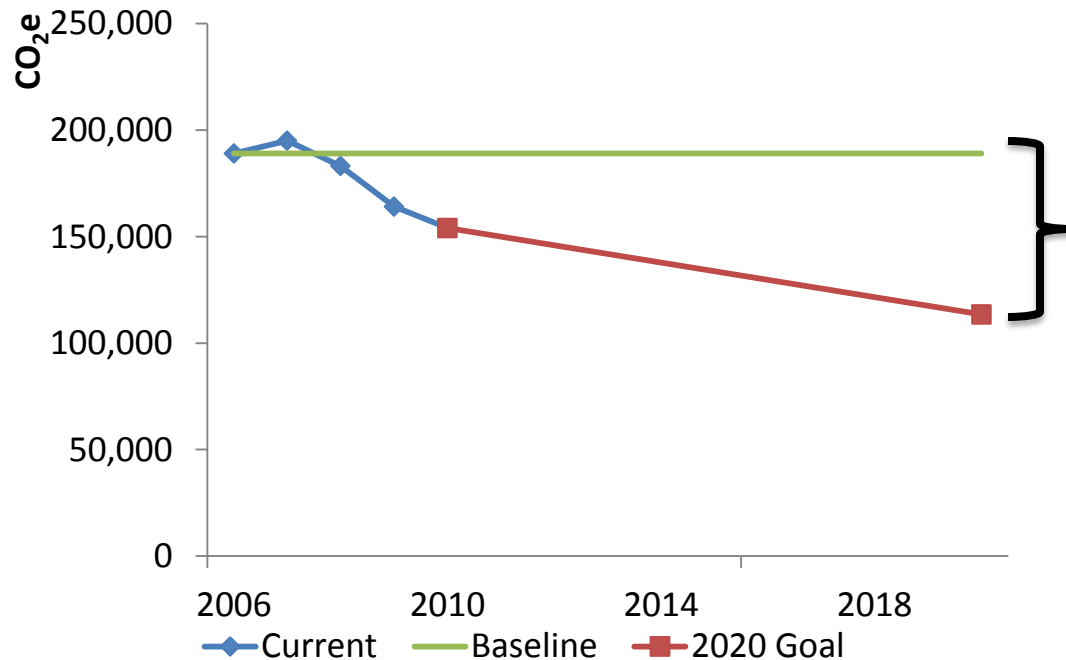
*Each ton of waste diverted from the trash and into recycling saves the City \$56/ton.*

# Recycling & the Environment



***Boston's trash and recycling contracts are an important part of the City's broader waste management and climate action strategy.***

Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Waste



***Within the waste sector alone, Boston's Climate Action Plan aims to achieve the following goals by 2020:***

- *Reduce GHG emissions by 40%*
- *Divert 50% of both commercial and residential waste*
- *Capture 2/3 of organics*

# Recycling - Where are we now?

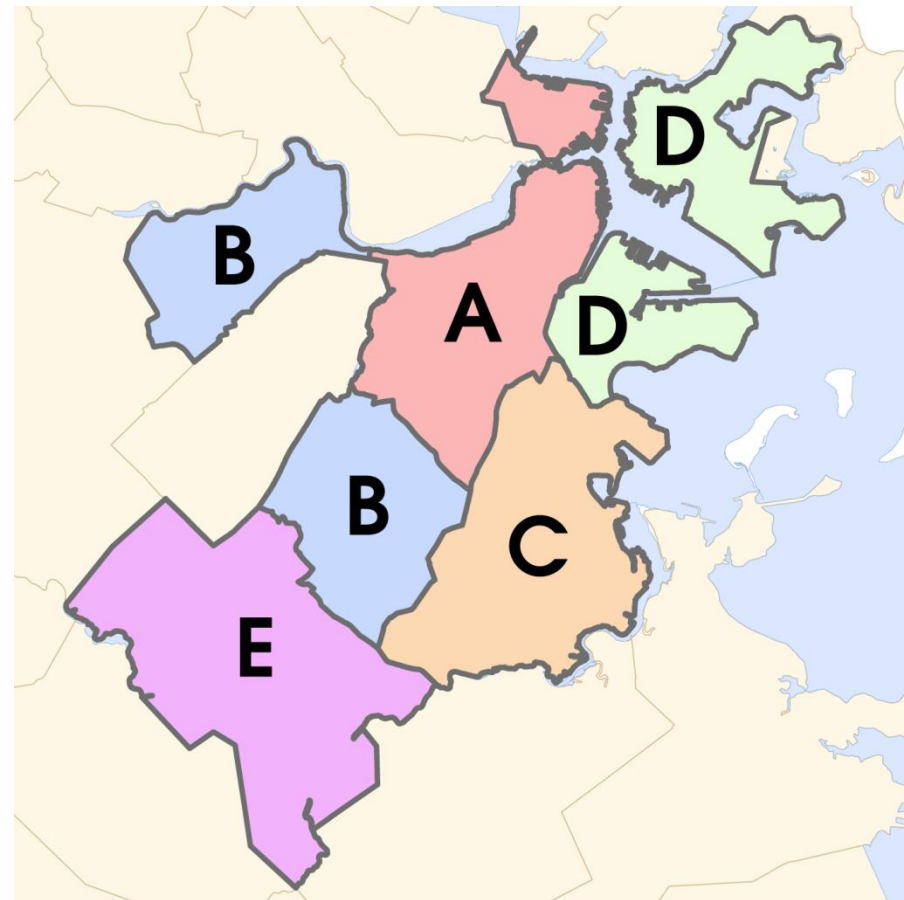


## ***Boston's Waste Profile***

### ***Districts with Highest Diversion Rate (Single Stream Only)***

- District E: 20%
- District B: 20%
- District A: 13%
- District D: 11%
- District C: 10%
- **Citywide: 15%**

***Less dense portions of the City tend to recycle more.***



# Goals



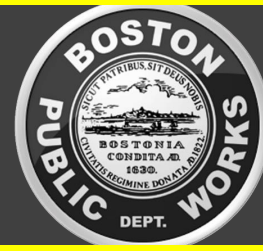
***Goals: To provide high-quality services, keep the streets clean and promote recycling, while providing flexibility to pursue other diversion efforts in coming years.***

***Service Quality*** – Continue reliable collection of trash/recyclables expected by Boston residents, with a seamless transition to new contract on July 1, 2014.

***Cleanliness*** – Keep streets clean and free of litter.

***Promote Recycling & Reduce Waste*** – Continue efforts to increase diversion of trash.

# Actions to Date



## *Service Quality –*

- **Management of Missed Trash/Late Put-Outs Complaints: over 99% resolved within 1 business day**

## *Cleanliness –*

- **Efforts to Promote Containerization: Big blue recycling carts, clear plastic recycling bags.**
- **Alignment of Street Sweeping Schedules: Streets are now swept *after* trash collection**

## *Promote Recycling & Reduce Waste –*

- **Single Stream Program : Roll citywide has doubled recycling tonnage since 2009. In FY13, single stream recycling tonnage increased 3% over prior year, with trash volumes down 2%.**
- **Boston Public Schools: System wide recycling will be in place by November 2013.**
- **Public Realm Recycling: 400 public recycling containers placed on-street in 2012/13 and new containers installed in Parks this fall.**
- **Reducing food waste: Composting via drop off pilot and household composting; Insinkerator pilot**



# Areas for Feedback



## 1. *Timing of Additional Yard Waste Collections*

- The 2014-2019 contracts will allow for four additional weeks of yard waste collection.
- PWD has some flexibility in when these additional weekly collections occur and would like your input.



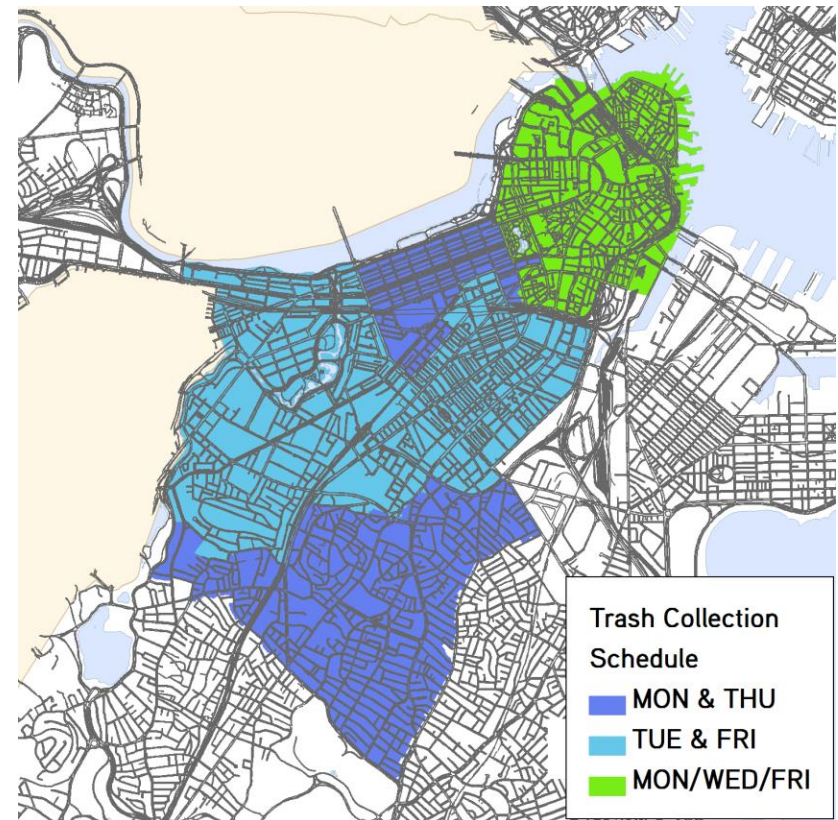


# Areas for Feedback



## 2. Better Align Trash and Recycling Collection Schedules Downtown

- Areas with 2-3 weekly trash collections, only receive recycling services 1x/week.
- Diversion rates in areas without recycling collected each time trash is collected are 13% lower than citywide average.



# Areas for Feedback



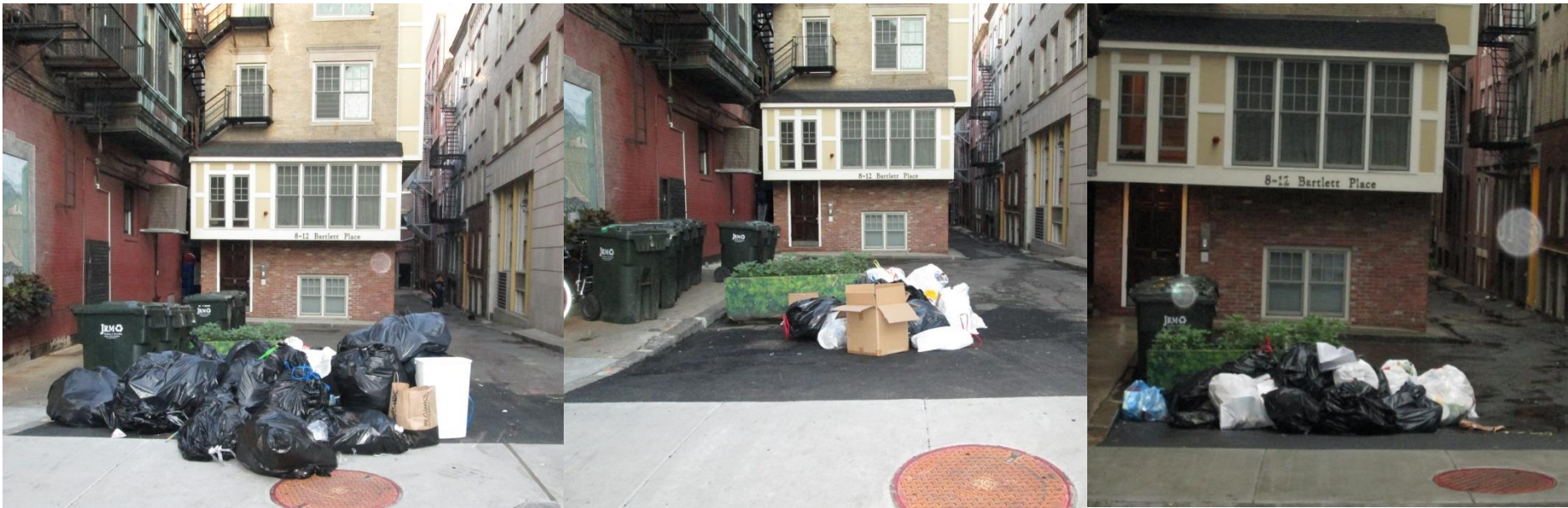
## *2. Better Align Trash and Recycling Collection Schedules Downtown (Cont.)*

- The Public Works Department is conducting a detailed waste audit of trash/recycling patterns in multiple collection areas in late September to guide decision-making. Results of this will be posted on the PWD website in early October.
- Moving these areas to trash and recycling collection 2x/week could increase diversion and street cleanliness.

# Areas for Feedback



## *2. Better Align Trash and Recycling Collection Schedules Downtown (Cont.)*

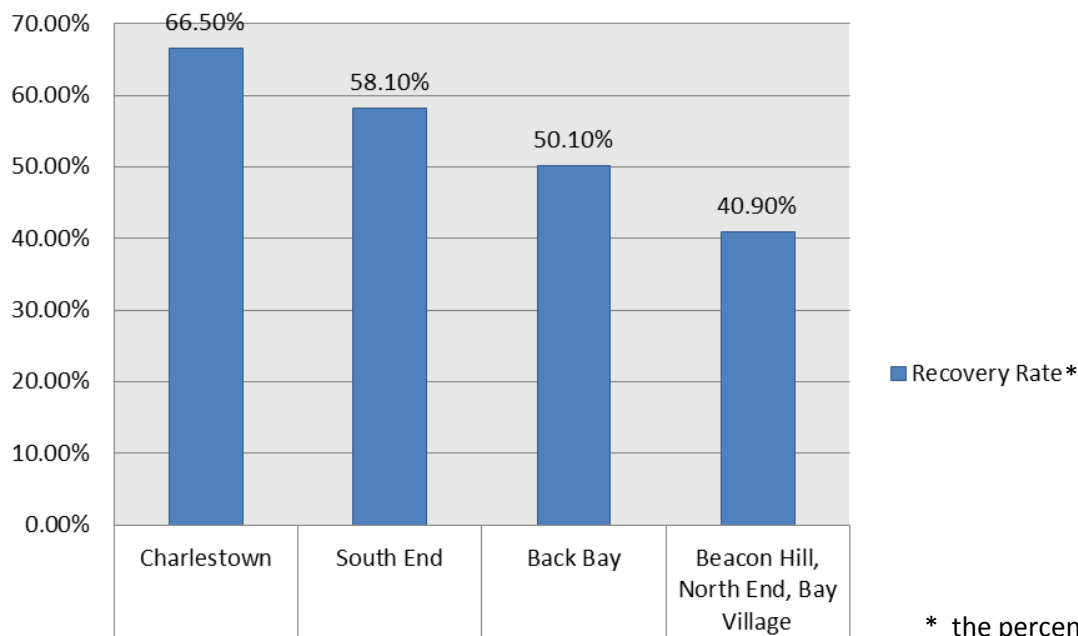


# Areas for Feedback



## 2. Better Align Trash and Recycling Collection Schedules Downtown (Cont.)

Waste Audit Results - Preliminary



Weekly Trash Collections	1	2	2	3
Weekly Recycling Collections	1	1	1	1

\* the percentage of recyclable materials in full waste stream that are recycled



# Areas for Feedback



## *3. Interest in Future Food Waste Diversion*

- Many cities have developed curbside food waste collection programs, or announced plans to do so. But the facilities needed to process the volume of organics potentially generated by a curbside collection program do not yet exist in the Boston region.
- State regulations requiring commercial food waste diversion begin in 2014, which may create the infrastructure needed to manage citywide residential organics collection in the future.



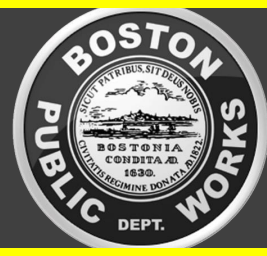
# Areas for Feedback



## *3. Interest in Future Food Waste Diversion*

- PWD's 2014-2019 contracts will include a provision ensuring the City has flexibility to explore food waste diversion programs in the future.
- PWD would like to know more about how you manage food waste today.

# How to get involved?



Your feedback is needed on these specific questions, as well as other ideas to help the City provide high-quality services, keep the streets clean and promote recycling, while providing flexibility to pursue other diversion efforts in coming years.

Get involved in the discussion at:

[www.cityofboston.gov/publicworks](http://www.cityofboston.gov/publicworks)