Boston’s Trash and Recycling Contracts
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
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
**New Contract Timeline**

- **Fall 2013**: Public Meetings & Survey
- **Jan 2014**: Disposal Contracts Bid Out
- **Mar 2014**: Collection Contracts Bid Out
- **April 2014**: Bidding Process Closed
- **Summer 2014**: New Contracts Begin

**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.
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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Flow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A &amp; D:</strong> Charlestown, Chinatown, Downtown, Bay Village, Back Bay, Beacon Hill, South End, North End, Roxbury Fenway, Mission Hill/Fort Hill, Financial/Leather District, East &amp; South Boston</td>
<td>Covanta Transfer Station Lynn, MA</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C &amp; E:</strong> North &amp; South Dorchester, Mattapan, West Roxbury, Hyde Park, Roslindale</td>
<td>Covanta Transfer Braintree, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B:</strong> Jamaica Plain, Allston/Brighton</td>
<td>Waste Management – Waste Energy Plant, Saugus, MA</td>
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Where Boston Recycling Goes

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<td>Direct haul to Casella - Charlestown, Ma.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B &amp; E</strong>: Jamaica Plain, Allston /Brighton, West Roxbury, Hyde Park, Roslindale</td>
<td>Haul to transfer station in Charlestown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C</strong>: North &amp; South Dorchester, Mattapan</td>
<td>Direct haul to Waste Mgt Recycling Plant, Avon Ma,</td>
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### Economics of Recycling

Municipal Solid Waste management incurs both collection & disposal costs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trash</th>
<th>Recycling Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Collection Cost per Ton</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$89/ton</td>
<td>$116/ton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Disposal/Processing Cost or Revenue</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$82/ton</td>
<td>+ $1/ton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Waste Management Costs per Ton</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$171/ton</td>
<td>$115/ton</td>
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</table>

*Each ton of waste diverted from the trash and into recycling saves the City $56/ton.*
Boston’s trash and recycling contracts are an important part of the City’s broader waste management and climate action strategy.

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: 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.
- Pubic 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.
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.)
2. Better Align Trash and Recycling Collection Schedules Downtown (Cont.)

Areas for Feedback

Waste Audit Results - Preliminary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Weekly Trash Collections</th>
<th>Weekly Recycling Collections</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charlestown</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South End</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back Bay</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beacon Hill, North End, Bay Village</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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* the percentage of recyclable materials in full waste stream that are recycled
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.
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.
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