



THE SUNRISE CITY  
**FORT PIERCE**  
PUBLIC WORKS  
DEPARTMENT

**FORT PIERCE**  
*Florida*



TO : Nicholas C. Mimms, City Manager

FROM : Mike Reals, Director of Public Works *MR*

RE : **Solid Waste Collection Evaluation & Recommendation**

DATE : November 1, 2017

Please see attached report indicating the residential solid waste and single stream recycling tonnage collected for FY16/17. During the August 21, 2017 Commission meeting, the possibility of going to a 1-1-1 collection schedule was discussed. The 1-1-1 schedule consist of one day of garbage, one day of horticulture, and one day of recycling pick up per week. This method of collection is thought to increase recycling participation and reduce the operational cost of the organization through avoided disposal.

Communities across the country that have successfully implemented this schedule have done so when 60-70% of their residents were actively participating in their recycling program and their recycling tonnage totals were at least 40% of the total residential waste collected. The City of Fort Pierce has approximately 30% of residents participating and recyclable materials account for roughly 8% of the total tonnage collected.

The avoided disposal savings is \$38.00 per ton for materials that are diverted from the landfill and into the recycling stream. Utilizing FY16/17 numbers, if 40% of our waste collected was clean recyclable material and routed to the Materials Recycling Facility (murf), the Solid Waste Division would have realized approximately a \$300,000.00 reduction in disposal fees. Operationally the savings would be less because even though trucks would not be picking up green carts on the second day, the majority of recycling carts would be placed at the curb requiring additional resources to collect. It is anticipated that two trucks could be removed from circulation with an annual maintenance and fuel cost of approximately \$20,000.00 per truck.

Those numbers may seem appealing, but at this time the 1-1-1 schedule is not a viable option for the City of Fort Pierce. With 70% of our community not actively recycling and the tonnage from those that do only being at approximately 8% of the total material gathered, rolling this initiative out prematurely will be met with challenges. Without community buy-in, residents will over fill their green carts allowing trash to litter the streets and rights of way. Many will view this as forced recycling participation. Forced participation will lead to contamination when the recycling cart becomes another garbage can. All loads delivered to the recycling facility are monitored for contamination



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and once contamination levels reach a certain percentage the loads can be rejected. At the time loads are rejected, the facility is going to bill Solid Waste for disposing of the material at a rate of \$42.00 per ton. To ensure that green carts are not overfilled and recycling carts contain clean material would require resources that this department currently does not have. Additionally, because the green cart will only be serviced once a week, this may be perceived as a reduction in the level of service.

The Public Works Department is recommending maintaining our current collection schedule and enhancing education efforts to encourage greater participation from the community. Conversations have taken place with colleagues at St. Lucie County about the possibility of partnering on compliance, education, and marketing. Our Team will also enlist the help of our partners at Waste Management to assist with helping us achieve our goal. As participation grows the avoided disposal savings will be realized and once the majority of the residents are on board, implementation of this initiative can be successful. With buy-in and support, 1-1-1 collection is possible. Staff will continue to monitor monthly and annual tonnages to track the progress of the program.

Please contact this office if you have any questions.

cc: Derrick Johnson, Deputy Director of Public Works  
Robbie Creswell, Solid Waste Division Manager  
Tysha Williams, Solid Waste Operations Manager

**REFUSE & RECYCLING REPORT**

10/1/2016 - 9/30/2017

<b>LANDFILL DISPOSAL SUMMARY</b>	<b>Total Tickets</b>	<b>Total Tons</b>	<b>Total Charges</b>
MIXED BULK (MB) Residential	3693	19,632.27	742,568.21
<b>REFUSE TOTAL</b>	<b>3693</b>	<b>19,632.27</b>	<b>\$742,568.21</b>
RECYCLED MATERIALS	465	1,591.69	0.00
<b>REFUSE &amp; RECYCLING TOTAL</b>	<b>4158</b>	<b>21,223.96</b>	<b>\$742,568.21</b>

  

<b>MUNICIPAL TONNAGE SUMMARY</b>	<b>Loads</b>	<b>Total Tons</b>	<b>Cost</b>
RESIDENTIAL REFUSE	3693	19,632.27	742,568.21
MATERIALS RECYCLED	465	1,591.69	0.00
	<b>4158</b>	<b>21,223.96</b>	<b>742,568.21</b>

  

<b>CURRENT % OF RECYLED MATERIAL</b>	<b>Tickets</b>	<b>Total Tons</b>
RESIDENTIAL	3,693	19,632.27
RECYCLE	465	1,591.69
	<b>4,158</b>	<b>0.08</b>