Downtown Solid Waste & Recycling Curbside Collection

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City of Portsmouth
Department of Public Works
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Downtown Solid Waste & Recycling Curbside Collection

- Why update the Solid Waste Ordinance?
- Portsmouth DPW’s curbside collection services
- History of downtown business district collection
- Current downtown collection challenges
- Public input on downtown collection solutions
Solid Waste Ordinance Update

- Revision of the ordinance fall 2016
- Last updated in 2003
- Update the maximum weight and volume of acceptable curbside containers
- Review solid waste and recycling volume limits
- Modernize the definitions classifying waste and how they are handled
- Consider adjustment of Downtown Business District curbside collection hours
DPW Solid Waste & Recycling Program Components
Portsmouth Recycling Success

Five year average diversion rate over time

- Sum of Net Landfill %
- Sum of Net Composting %
- Sum of Net Recycling %
DPW Recycling & Solid Waste Program Components

1. **Collection** of waste and recyclables by the DPW
   - Recycling Center drop off collection
   - Residential curbside collection of waste and recyclables
   - Downtown curbside collection of waste and recyclables

2. **Transportation** of waste and recyclables by the DPW

3. **Processing and Disposal** of waste and recyclables by outside vendors
DPW Curbside Collection

- Every weekday curbside routes are picked up by the DPW
  - Mixed recycling
  - Solid waste
  - Yard waste and brush
  - Bulky waste items per scheduled appointment

- Curbside collection is a service for residential households
  - DPW does not collect properties containing five or more units
  - DPW does not collect non-residential commercial properties

- Monday night pick up for downtown business district
  - Only exception for commercial properties that receive DPW service
DPW Curbside Collection

5,244 residential household’s trash, recycling and yard waste is collected weekly.
History of DPW Downtown Collection

- 1972 Monday evening pickup
  - Switch to morning pickup at some point
- Late 90’s switch from morning pickup back to evening pickup per businesses request
History of DPW Downtown Collection

Portsmouth has evolved but our trash routes haven’t

DPW Collection is a separate service from private haulers which many businesses use for on demand collection
DPW Downtown Collection
Challenges

• Challenges
  • Service a mix of residential and commercial properties
  • Trash and recycling sit on sidewalks all day after residents leave for work
  • Large volumes of waste and recycling to collect
  • Trash and recycling trucks block traffic on narrow streets
DPW Downtown Collection Challenges

- **Fall 2015 Survey Results**
  - Residents prefer morning collection
  - Businesses prefer evening collection
DPW Downtown Collection Solutions

• Suggestion
  – Collect residential waste in the morning
    • If collection is moved to Tuesday, DPW can add a morning collection for residents only while still providing the Tuesday afternoon collection for businesses
      » *Double downtown pickup is not possible on Mondays due to larger number of residential households serviced that day
    • Businesses keep waste and recycling off sidewalks till 2:30 pm
    • Increase commercial trash volume limit from 200 gallons to 300 gallons

• Your Input
  – Questions, Comments, Ideas, Solutions?
    • Email to jalevenson@cityofportsmouth.com
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