



Racial Equity Assessment Lens Summary

Department: Public Works

Title: Residential MSW Collection and Disposal Services

Section I: Origin and Description

Carrboro Public Works Department provides municipal solid waste (MSW) collection and disposal of garbage, yard waste (including loose leaves) and bulk waste items such as upholstered furniture to single family dwellings, duplexes and some condominiums. In addition, the Solid Waste division responds to requests to remove dead animals from the right-of-way within town limits on town roads and sidewalks. The Town does not collect dead animals from private property or wooded areas. Recyclable materials such as plastic containers and cardboard are collected and managed by Orange County Solid Waste Management.

Household garbage is collected weekly from residents using 95-gallon roll-out containers. Roll-out containers are provided to residents at cost. Yard waste is collected twice a month in 95-gallon roll-out containers, paper bags, or in piles at the curb. Yard waste containers are optional and may be purchased online, at Town Hall during normal business hours, or residents may download and complete the Roll-out Cart Order Form to mail with a check to Town Hall. Bulk waste items are collected curbside twice a month. Dead animals are collected as they are reported.

Section II: What is the specific desired result statement -

Ensure residential properties receive efficient and equitable municipal solid waste (MSW) collection services, and MSW is disposed of properly in accordance with North Carolina statutes and Orange County ordinances. Enhance communication and engagement with residents to inform them about waste collection schedules, recycling programs, and proper disposal methods, fostering a community-oriented approach to waste management.

Benefitting Individuals or Groups

1. Reduce pollution and protect natural resources.
2. Decreasing the amount of MSW and ensuring proper disposal may reduce the number of dumpster collections and trips to the transfer station to dispose of the waste. Carbon dioxide makes up 95% of all transportation related GHG emissions. Cars and trucks running on gasoline, diesel, and other fuels account for approximately two-thirds of transportation-related emissions. Transportation as the second largest source of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.²

Burdened Individuals or Groups

1. The collection and disposal of MSW is a financial burden on residents, businesses, and local government.
2. Property owners are required to purchase a 95-gallon roll-out container for the collection of household garbage. (See burdens)
3. Time involved in learning MSW collection guidelines.
4. Language barriers. May have difficulty understanding the collection guidelines.
5. Noise and other disturbances during the collection.
6. Travel may be impacted when using routes frequented by solid waste trucks.
7. Time involved in the developing educational materials, responding to calls and emails, completing annual state reports, and the collection and disposal of MSW.
8. The collection and disposal of MSW is a financial and environmental burden on local government.

Type	Potential Unintended Consequence	Mitigation Strategies to Prevent Consequences and Advance Racial Equity
Social	<p>Negative perception of the program/service.</p> <p>Perceived favoritism or bias.</p>	<p>Ensuring transparency by delivering accurate and timely information that is accessible to all members of the community.</p>
Economic	<p>Costs associated with solid waste management, including the purchase of roll-out containers, may burden some residents.</p> <p>Negative perception of the program/service.</p> <p>Perceived favoritism or bias.</p>	<p>The Town purchases roll-out containers in bulk and sells them to residents at cost. Town Code Section 11-21(b) states “In cases where the purchase of such containers poses a severe financial hardship, the Town may provide an installment purchase option whereby a person may pay the purchase price over a period not in excess of twelve months.”</p> <p>Continue to provide efficient solid waste collection services which allows fees to remain low.</p> <p>Ensuring transparency by delivering accurate and timely information that is accessible to all members of the community.</p>
Health	<p>Proper waste disposal is crucial for human health. It helps to reduce pollution and prevent the spread of diseases.</p> <p>Solid waste collection is often viewed as one of the more dangerous jobs According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, refuse and recyclable material collection was ranked as the seventh deadliest job in the United States in 2021. The fatality rate for this occupation was 27.9 fatal work injuries per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers in 2021.⁸</p>	<p>Continue to comply with state and local solid waste regulations and educate residents.</p> <p>Continue to monitor and evaluate solid waste collection and disposal services.</p> <p>Ensuring transparency by delivering accurate and timely information that is accessible to all members of the community.</p> <p>Carrboro utilizes an automated collection program which enhances worker safety, and all employees participate in OSHA safety training programs.</p>
Environment	<p>Proper waste disposal is crucial for the environment. It helps to reduce pollution and conserve natural resources.</p>	<p>Increase access to information about Public Works solid waste collection services.</p>

	<p>All household waste and bulk items collected by the Town is brought to GFL Environmental, Inc. in Durham and transferred to Sampson County Landfill in Roseboro, NC. Yard waste is composted at Orange County's yard waste compost facility, and the loose leaves are composted at Carrboro's yard waste compost site located at 7917 Old NC 86, Chapel Hill, NC.</p> <p>Landfilling is the most common method of waste disposal in the United States, but also the least environmentally friendly option. Landfills generate harmful methane emissions and can contribute to the pollution air and water pollution.</p>	<p>Continue to evaluate solid waste services.</p> <p>Continue to promote waste reduction tips and recommendations.</p>
Other	<p>Impact of community members time involvement.</p> <p>Influx of unrelated municipal concerns.</p>	<p>Focus on distribution of written materials in addition to in-person events.</p> <p>Provide resources to refer residents to proper channels for non-Public Works concerns.</p>

Recommendations

1. Enhance communication and engagement with residents by translating solid waste educational materials. Continue collaborating with Orange County Solid Waste to implement the Solid Waste Master Plan: Road to Zero Waste, which includes a source-separated food waste collection program. Additionally, continue researching and promoting waste reduction tips. Finally, conduct an audit to determine the current number of roll-out containers being serviced.
2. Evaluate in one year.
3. Review and confirm that languages that the educational material will be translated into.
4. Confirm the cost of the containers are \$55. Think about options for those who can not afford containers.