



Climate Action Pocket Questions

Title: Resolution Authorizing the FY27 Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Contract with Waste Management, Inc.

Purpose: To request Town Council approval of the FY27 municipal solid waste (MSW) disposal contract with Waste Management, Inc.

Department: Public Works

1. How will this action impact municipal or community greenhouse gas emissions?

This action will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

2. Please explain.

Transitioning from GFL Environmental to Waste Management for municipal solid waste disposal will change transportation distances at two points in the waste-handling process.

At the municipal level, the Town's collection vehicles will travel approximately 2.4 additional miles per round trip from the Public Works facility to the Waste Management transfer station. This increase in vehicle miles traveled will result in a modest rise in fuel consumption and associated GHG emissions from Town operations.

However, the long-haul transport from the transfer station to the landfill, performed by the disposal contractor, will be significantly shorter under the new contract. Waste Management's landfill is approximately 65 miles from the transfer station, compared to 92 miles for GFL. This 27-mile reduction per haul will indirectly reduce regional GHG emissions associated with long-distance waste transport, even though these emissions are not part of the Town's municipal inventory.

Overall, the action results in a minor increase in municipal emissions and a larger decrease in contractor-controlled, non-municipal emissions.



3. How will this action impact the Town's environment?

This action will impact minimal environmental effects, with small changes related to waste-transport distances and associated vehicle emissions.

4. Please explain.

Under the proposed FY27 contract, the Town will deliver municipal solid waste to the Waste Management transfer station rather than the GFL facility. This change results in a 2.4-mile increase per round trip for Town collection vehicles, leading to a modest rise in fuel use, localized air pollution, and GHG emissions within Carrboro. These impacts remain limited in scale and consistent with routine municipal operations.

However, the long-haul transport from the transfer station to the landfill, performed by the disposal contractor, will be significantly shorter under the new arrangement. Waste Management's landfill is approximately 65 miles from the transfer station, compared to 92 miles for GFL. This 27-mile reduction per haul decreases regional transportation-related emissions and reduces the broader environmental footprint associated with long-distance waste hauling.

The contract does not change the amount of waste generated, the Town's collection practices, or the method of disposal. As a result, the overall environmental impact remains largely consistent with previous years, with only minor shifts in transportation-related effects. The Town experiences a small increase in local operational impacts, while the regional waste-transport system experiences a larger reduction in long-haul emissions.

5. How is your department planning to mitigate any climate or environmental impacts? NOTE: This does not reflect a formal commitment by the Town of Carrboro.

The Public Works Department will continue implementing strategies to reduce the climate and environmental impacts associated with waste collection and hauling. These efforts focus on operational efficiency, intergovernmental coordination, and long-term waste-system improvements.

To mitigate impacts, the department will:

- Continue optimizing collection routes to reduce fuel use, vehicle miles traveled, and associated emissions.



- Maintain the Town’s fleet in accordance with best practices to minimize idling, improve fuel efficiency, and reduce localized air pollution.
- Strengthen collaboration with the Orange County Solid Waste District to support regional planning efforts, data sharing, and coordinated waste-system improvements.
- Participate actively in the Triangle Solid Waste Consortium to evaluate emerging technologies, regional hauling efficiencies, and opportunities for shared infrastructure that could reduce long-term environmental impacts.
- Continue monitoring disposal practices and regulatory changes at regional facilities to ensure environmental compliance and identify opportunities for future improvements.

These actions help limit the environmental footprint of the Town’s current waste-handling system while supporting regional partnerships that can lead to more sustainable waste-management options over time.