



## Racial Equity Assessment Lens (REAL)

**NAME OF INITIATIVE PROGRAM/PROJECT:** Public Works

**Department:** Public Works

### ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Carrboro Public Works Department provides Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), also referred to as trash or garbage collection, to multi-unit residential properties, and businesses.

MSW from residents is collected in 95-gallon roll-out containers. The Town provides roll-out containers to residents, at cost. The cost of the solid waste collection and disposal services are included in the Town's general tax funds.

Multi-unit residential properties are typically serviced with front-load dumpsters (2 cy, 4 cy, 6 cy, or 8 cy). The Town does not provide front-load dumpsters. According to the [Town Code, Chapter 11](#), the Public Works Director shall determine the size, number and type of solid waste receptacles and property owners must provide serviceable dumpsters that are compatible with Town equipment. The size of the dumpster(s) and frequency of collection is based on the volume of waste generated. The cost of the solid waste collection and disposal services are included in the Town's general tax funds.

Businesses are typically serviced by front-load dumpsters (see Businesses Serviced by Roll-out Containers and Mixed-use Properties below). According to [Town Code, Chapter 11](#), business owners must provide serviceable dumpsters that are compatible with Town equipment. Businesses are charged a fee for MSW collection services based on the size of the dumpster and frequency of pick up. See Attachment B – Non-residential Dumpster Fees

### What is the specific desired result statement –

Ensure commercial businesses and multi-unit 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.

### BENEFITTING INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS

1. Reduce pollution and protect natural resources.
2. Multiunit residential property owners are not charged a fee by the Town to collect and dispose of MSW generated at the apartment complex; however, they are required to provide a serviceable container (see burdens).
3. 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.<sup>7</sup>

### BURDENED INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS

1. The collection and disposal of MSW is a financial burden on businesses. Businesses must either purchase or rent a serviceable waste container. In addition, the Town charges a fee for the collection and disposal of MSW. See Attachment B – Non-residential Dumpster Fees.
2. Time involved in learning MSW collection guidelines.
3. Language barriers. May have difficulty understanding the collection guidelines.
4. Accessibility barriers. Businesses and employees may have difficulty accessing the waste containers or accessing the property when the waste containers are serviced.
5. Time involved in the developing educational materials, responding to calls and emails, completing annual state reports, and the collection and disposal of MSW.
6. The collection and disposal of MSW is a financial and environmental burden on local government.
7. Noise, traffic, or other disturbances during the collection.
8. Commuters may experience noise or traffic delays during the collection. In addition, travel may be impacted when using routes frequented by solid waste trucks.

<b>Type</b>	<b>Potential Unintended Consequence</b>	<b>Mitigation Strategies to Prevent Consequences and Advance Racial Equity</b>
<p><b>SOCIAL</b> Consider native and long term residents, rural residents, transit, trust in government, education, etc.</p>	<p>Negative perception of the program/service.</p> <p>Perceived favoritism or bias.</p>	<p>Transparency. Provide accurate and timely information that is accessible to all community members.</p>
<p><b>ECONOMIC</b> Consider wages, competition, tourism, unemployment, small businesses, etc.</p>	<p>Costs associated with solid waste management may burden some businesses, multi-unit residential property owners and tenants. Multi-unit residential property owners and businesses may pass on the costs to residents/ customers.</p> <p>Negative perception of the program/service.</p> <p>Perceived favoritism or bias.</p>	<p>Waste collection fees charged by private companies are substantially more expensive than Town fees.</p> <p>Continue to provide efficient solid waste collection services which allows fees to remain low.</p> <p>Transparency. Provide accurate and timely information that is accessible to all community members.</p>

<p><b>HEALTH</b></p> <p>Consider impacts on pollution, health access, existing health disparities, etc.</p>	<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. A 2013 study revealed that solid waste collectors in the US experienced 33.0 fatalities per 100,000 workers, and that these employees work in the occupation with the fifth highest fatality rate in the US".<sup>6</sup></p>	<p>Continue to comply with state and local solid waste regulations.</p> <p>Continue to monitor and evaluate solid waste collection and disposal services.</p> <p>Transparency. Provide accurate and timely information that is accessible to all community members.</p> <p>Carrboro utilizes an automated collection program which enhances worker safety, and all employees participate in OSHA safety training programs.</p>
<p><b>ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p>Consider impacts on pollution, natural resources, transit, etc.</p>	<p>Proper waste disposal is crucial for the environment. It helps to reduce pollution and conserve natural resources.</p> <p>All MSW collected by the Town is brought to GFL Environmental, Inc. in Durham and transferred to Sampson County Landfill in Roseboro, NC.</p> <p>Landfilling is the most common method of waste disposal in the United States, but also the least environmentally friendly option. <a href="#">Landfills generate harmful methane emissions and can contribute to the pollution air and water pollution.</a></p>	<p>Increase access to information about Public Works solid waste collection services.</p> <p>Continue to evaluate solid waste services.</p> <p>Continue to promote waste reduction tips and recommendations.</p>
<p><b>OTHER</b></p> <p>Consider how a resident might interact with this measure "start to finish."</p>	<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. Complete analysis of fees for businesses serviced by roll-out containers, increased communication with businesses and multi-unit residential property owners, work with Orange

County Solid Waste to implement a source-separated food waste collection program and continue to research and promote waste reduction tips.

2. The Town is working with Orange County Solid Waste, the Town of Chapel Hill, and the Town of Hillsborough to finalize and implement the *Solid Waste Master Plan: Road to Zero Waste* first presented to the Solid Waste Advisory Group (SWAG) on September 18, 2023.
3. A new waste audit, to determine volume and weight of MSW materials, is currently being planned with Orange County Solid Waste, the Town of Chapel Hill, and the Town of Hillsborough.
4. Eliminating food waste and other compostable items such as non-recyclable cardboard will reduce the number of MSW dumpster collections, reduce financial burdens associated with MSW collection and disposal, reduce GHG emissions, and if managed properly, would reduce odors typically associated with waste containers.
5. Public Works completed an analysis of fees charged to businesses serviced by roll-out carts. Recommendations were submitted to management with the FY25 Budget Submittals.
6. Public Works continues to work with Orange County Solid Waste, the Town of Chapel Hill, and the Town of Hillsborough to finalize and implement the *Solid Waste Master Plan: Road to Zero Waste*.
7. A new waste audit, to determine volume and weight of MSW materials is currently being planned with Orange County Solid Waste, Town of Chapel Hill, and Town of Hillsborough.
8. On April 29, 2024, the Solid Waste Advisory Group held a meeting to continue discussions on the *Solid Waste Master Plan: Road to Zero Waste*. During the meeting, Robert Williams, the Director of Orange County Solid Waste Management, stated the Orange County Board of Commissioners did not endorse the proposed solid waste plan. A revised plan will be presented to SWAG in September 2024 and will focus on ordinance enhancements, education, outreach, and expanding food waste diversion.
9. Evaluate in one year.