

Solid Waste

Program Description

The City's Solid Waste program provides a variety of services to residential customers, which include Automated Curbside Household Trash Collection, Automated Curbside Recycling, Drop-off Recycling, Curbside Large Items (items such as couches that do not fit into garbage containers), Curbside Yard Waste & Leaf Collection, Drop-site Large Items & Grass and Landfill.

Quick Facts

- In FY2015, the Solid Waste Program is expected to be **\$2.4 million** short of covering its costs for the year. The total cost of the Solid Waste Program in FY2015 is **\$8 million**.
- The Solid Waste Program was designed by the City Council to operate as an **Enterprise Program** which typically means that the fees cover the costs of the programs expenses.
- The City collects one front-end loader of bulk waste (or 2.25 cubic yards) weekly at no charge to residents. At best estimates, the cost to the City for collecting **1 bucket of bulk waste** is **\$106.92**.
- Distributing staff labor hours amongst the services provided within the Solid Waste Program, **bulk waste** collection represents **60% of the total cost** of the program, garbage collection represents 24%, recycle collection is 10%, yard waste is 4%, snow removal is 1%, and street sweeping is 1%.
- The Solid Waste Program has **40 full time employee** equivalents.
- The average cost of one Solid Waste **Truck Driver** is **\$86,598**. This figure includes salary, benefits, and pension.
- The cost of one automated **refuse truck** is **\$336,569**.
- The City's recycle participation rate is exceptionally **high at 78%**.

Special Considerations

- The City's current rate structure is as follows:

Fee Structure for Bloomington Garbage Collection	
Effective May 1, 2014	
35-gallon cart	\$16 per month
65-gallon cart	\$18 per month
95-gallon cart	\$20 per month

- In 2013, the City conducted a postal survey which revealed a majority of citizens only use the City's Bulk Waste services **0-1 times per month**.
- Midwest Fiber pays the City for collected recycled material based on the commodity markets at the moment. Prices fluctuate widely, but the curbside program typically provides some revenue to offset costs and spares the city and residents the **\$46.46 per ton landfill fee** for that material.
- The city collects recyclables from drop sites at more than 40 locations. They are school, government offices, the downtown and Illinois Wesleyan off-campus fraternities and sororities.
- At the current disposal rate of about 425 tons per day and barring expansion, the landfill is expected to run out of space in 2016.
- City staff which collects trash and recycling are also responsible for assisting with **snow removal** on City streets.

Group Question

- It is anticipated that the fees for Solid Waste services will **only cover 70%** of the program costs (or \$5.6 million of \$8.0 million). How would you address this budget issue?