



Automated Waste Collection Cart Program at a Glance



Easier • Cleaner • Greener

WHO?

- Local governments in the Central Okanagan are implementing automated collection for all homes that currently receive curbside garbage, yard waste and recycling collection service.

WHAT?

- Automated collection is a system that uses wheeled carts that are designed to be emptied using a mechanical arm on the garbage truck instead of workers lifting by hand.
- Each home will receive three easy-to-use carts for curbside collection of garbage, recyclables and yard waste (one for each type of waste).
- The three carts will have color coded lids: grey for garbage, blue for recycling, and green for yard waste.
- Each cart will be marked with a unique serial number that corresponds with the resident's address, for inventory tracking purposes.
- The standard cart for garbage holds roughly two regular-sized garbage bags. The base of the garbage cart is about the same as a regular garbage can and stands just over three feet high.
- The standard carts for recycling and yard waste hold roughly the amount equal to four large bags each. The carts for recycling and yard waste are slightly larger at the base and stand about three and a half feet high (visit our website to view cart sizes:
<http://www.regionaldistrict.com/docs/waste/AutoPilotProject/Automated%20Waste%20Cart%20Sizes.pdf>.)
- Recycling and yard waste simply goes directly into the carts – no more bagging needed. Residents will save on the costs to buy bags –estimated at \$30-\$55 per year.
- Carts are specific to each property, and will stay with that property should the resident move.

WHEN?

- Distribution will be phased in starting in late January 2009 and will be completed by late spring.

WHERE?

- It's anticipated that the distribution will begin on the Westside, followed by Peachland, Lake Country, the Regional District and Kelowna.

WHY?

- It's easier, cleaner and greener, more reliable, safer, smarter and proven!
- It's easier – no more bagging materials. Yard waste pick-up will be available for nine months of the year; you won't be limited to just three weeks in the spring and fall. This means you can include more yard waste, more often – with less going to the landfill in the garbage.
- It's cleaner – less litter in the streets.
- It's greener – less pollution, increased recycling, less yard waste in the trash, and no more bagging recycling or yard waste!
- It's more reliable – local labour shortages have resulted in many missed pick-ups. Automation means fewer missed pick-ups.

- It's safer – collection costs across North America are being driven up by fuel, labour, injury claims and sick-time (workers now lift about 10 metric tonnes a day into their trucks). With the new system, men and women of almost any age can enjoy life-long careers without fear of injury.
- It's smarter – the technology associated with the equipment (i.e. serial numbers and onboard truck readers) will give us detailed data on the regions waste management practices. This data will assist us in continuing to improve the waste management practices throughout the region.
- It's proven – communities such as Kamloops, Prince George and Port Coquitlam have switched to automated collection with great success. Locally, the system was piloted with 505 homes in Kelowna, Peachland and on the Westside. The pilot included homes with challenges such as limited storage, long driveways, steep terrain, narrow streets, mixed use, back alleys, large lot sizes and multi-aged and socioeconomic backgrounds. The result – 96% of people liked it!

HOW?

- Carts will be distributed in phases to neighbourhoods currently receiving curbside collection.
- Residents will wheel carts to the curb on their scheduled pick up day.
- Automated trucks with special arms will pick-up, unload and replace the carts at the side of the road.
- Collection days will remain the same.
- The yard waste cart will be used from March through November – pick-up will occur on non-recycling pick-up weeks (yard waste will no longer be accepted in the garbage).
- Residents won't have to buy bags anymore. Simply place recyclables and yard waste directly into the carts – no more bagging.
- We'll be mailing info to homes about how the new program works in advance, and when the carts are delivered to homes, we will stop by and show residents how they work. If we miss someone or there are questions, we can be contacted at any time.
- We are also looking for community groups and service clubs who can help with the roll out as a fundraiser! Contact garth.thomson@cord.bc.ca or call 250-469-6253 for details.

HOW MUCH?

- The cost to each resident will vary as each local government has a different system of passing these costs along to the resident (e.g., on utility bills or tax notice; spreading the cost of cart purchase over five or ten years, etc.).
- The cost of the service will continue to appear on tax notices, user fees and/or parcel tax or utility bills, the same as they do now.
- The new service will include collection costs – the cost of the truck to pick up the waste from each home – and one time start up costs, such as the reusable carts, shipping and handling and delivery to each home.
- The cost for automated collection is roughly the same as what we expected to pay for a manual system like we have now – a service that doesn't work well due to labour shortages and absenteeism due to worker injuries.
- The new contract provides more service than the old one – 19 yard waste collections a year instead of only six.
- Residents will also save on the cost of buying recycling and yard waste bags (estimated at between \$30 - \$55 a year!)
- Plus, research shows that automated collection will collect more recycling and send less garbage to landfills, extending the life of the Glenmore Landfill – thereby saving future tax dollars.

More Information?

The Regional District of Central Okanagan website has a page dedicated to the Automated Waste Collection Program. There are links to a video that's been produced to explain the program and show people how the cart system works as well as a Question and Answer sheet and a document explaining the different cart sizes.

You can find this information by going to www.regionaldistrict.com, clicking on Quick Links and selecting the Automated Waste Collection Program menu option.