



## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

### PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ON APRIL 4, 2023**

ATHENS, TENNESSEE – April 4, 2023 – The City of Athens Public Works Department announces the following:

Due to continuing increases in residential garbage collection volumes, the Public Works Sanitation Division is updating its garbage collection policy. This change is amending the existing policy that all garbage totes must be placed to the road **NO LATER THAN 7:00 AM THE DAY OF YOUR SCHEDULED PICK-UP** to all garbage totes must be placed to the road **THE NIGHT BEFORE YOUR SCHEDULED PICK-UP DAY**. This will allow garbage pick-up earlier in the morning to ensure collection is completed before landfills close.

As a reminder to residential customers, please review the following brief overview of our collection policies:

- Garbage totes are intended for storing non-recyclable household garbage intended for disposal. Hazardous materials, construction debris, and ashes/embers are not permitted in totes.
- Garbage must be in tightly secured bags and placed inside the garbage tote to prevent potential scattering of debris during automated collection. Crews will not pick up spills or litter resulting from unbagged garbage, overfilled garbage totes, or scavenging.
- Do not overfill the garbage tote or place trash on the ground or on top of the garbage tote. Call the Sanitation Division at 423-744-2749 to inquire about getting a 2<sup>nd</sup> tote.
- The lid to the garbage tote should be able to close completely. If your lid is cracked or warped, contact Public Works for a free replacement. Residents will be responsible for replacement costs of totes damaged due to misuse.
- For your safety, never approach the collection equipment while it is being operated.
- The arrows on the lid and front of the garbage tote should point towards the street.
- Garbage totes must be at least 3 feet from obstructions such as mailboxes, vehicles, utility poles/wires, fences, landscaping, walls, and brush/junk piles.
- Garbage totes are to be removed from the street within 24 hours after collection.

Visit [www.athenstn.gov](http://www.athenstn.gov) to learn more about the Athens Recycle Center.

For more information, please contact the Office of the Public Works Department at 423-744-2745.