

Benefits to Organizing Collection in Richfield

**in no particular order* (last updated 11/10/2020)*

- Improve the value of services, increasing equity and lessening the economic burden on marginalized populations (ESL, elderly, low or fixed income, etc.)
 - Increased efficiency results in lower costs for residents.
 - Pricing is straight-forward and easier to understand.
 - Helps increase waste reduction efforts by incentivizing the generation of less trash.
 - In the future, costs would be lowered even more when the city can go out for bid.
- Reduce environmental impacts
 - Less air and noise pollution with fewer trucks.
 - 3 trucks blew hydraulic lines in 2019 and the city had to clean the messes up. That damages the roads and can be very harmful if fluid gets into bodies of water or the stormwater system.
 - Reduced speed also reduces amount of blowing litter.
- Improve standardization of service options
 - A citywide contract can coordinate services like less frequent pick-up (with reduced costs) and cheaper curbside organics collection.
 - Haulers currently charge different amounts for the same service, even among customers of the same company (i.e. with new customer incentives or those who negotiate service).
- Increase rates of recycling, composting, and waste reduction
 - Richfield is one of two cities in the county that is not organized for recycling collection, which has negatively affected recycling efforts, and can be connected to a lower participation rate, increased contamination, and less consistent education for residents.
 - Curbside composting provides the incentive many residents want to have in order to separate their compostable waste from their trash.
- Improve safety
 - Each company gets a certain percentage of the city, so instead of trucks picking up from random houses, they would pick up each house from a block, which reduces speed and the number of trucks in an area.
 - Trucks will be driving at slower speeds around residential areas.
- Assure all residents have proper waste management services
 - This will help reduce illegal dumping in the parks and elsewhere in the city.
- Enhance coordination among government agencies
 - City will have an easier time meeting county ordinances and solid waste management plan goals.

- In November 2018, Hennepin County revised Ordinance 13 declaring that cities with 10,000+ residents must make curbside organics collection available to all residents in 1-4 unit buildings by 1/1/22.
- Additionally, the state legislature set a goal of reaching a 75% recycling rate goal in the metro by 2030. Hennepin County's 2019 recycling rate was 49% - clearly indicating that there's a long way to go.
- Increase public education and awareness about proper waste disposal and reduction
- Optimize city staff time and hauler administrative efficiency
- Improve hauler reporting systems
 - Helps improve and simplify annual mandated city reporting to the county.
- Minimize disruption to residents and quality of life
 - Fewer trucks driving around, which has been especially noticed as more people are currently at home during the day.
 - Residents won't have to spend their time and energy negotiating or shopping around.
- Minimize impacts on licensed solid waste collectors
- Reduce road wear impacts
 - Unnecessary load on the roads (with the current number of trucks) especially during the freeze/thaw cycle, which continues to increase with warmer and wetter winters.

Have a reason you'd like to see added to the list? Email Rachel Lindholm at rlindholm@richfieldmn.gov and indicate if you'd like credit for your contribution!