

Downsize Your Garbage Can & Save Some Moolah!

By Ana Arias

Get ready to downsize your garbage and save cash!

Fort Collins citizens now have the opportunity **recycle more** using new, large recycling containers available upon request from local garbage service companies. In addition, citizens continue to have the ability to "right-size" their household trash subscriptions. Both of these tools can help citizens **save money** and, as a bonus, make a substantial dent in your household's contribution to **greenhouse gas emissions**.

Based on recent changes to the City's Pay-as-You-Throw (PAYT) Ordinance, on September 1, 2009, trash bills will have a slightly different look intended to clarify the unit rate your hauler charges for garbage. These changes are designed to make it easier to see how variable rates work and to make it clear that the less you throw away, the less you pay!

If you are recycling more, you might find that a smaller trash receptacle is workable, which will cost you less money. Changing your can size can be done any time; smaller carts or cans are available from your hauler on an on-going basis and are typically delivered within a short turn-around time.

You can also let your hauler know you're ready to upgrade to a large recycling container (64-gallon, or even 96-gallon) to replace the smaller open-topped recycling "tubs". Fort Collins trash haulers will have new, large-capacity recycling carts ready to be delivered no later than January 1, 2010, to customers who request them.

Also beginning January 1, 2010, your hauler will change over to an every-other-week pick-up service for recyclables. The every-other-week pick-up will reduce costs and **halve the road and noise impacts** of recycling trucks in neighborhoods.

Regular weekly trash-pick up will remain in effect. And, as before, recyclables will continue to be scheduled for the same day of the week as garbage collection (just on alternate weeks).

Fort Collins residents now have more tools for making practical, economical choices about curbside waste collection services that will help reduce their household's carbon footprint. For example, methane gas emissions are generated by landfills; methane is 20 to 30 times more potent in its global warming effects than carbon dioxide and landfills are our largest source of human generated methane emissions. Add to that avoiding the costly proposition of having to build new landfills, plus the multiple conservation benefits of recycling, and it makes sense to take a look at putting your household on a low-waste diet!

For a list of what can be recycled, visit fcgov.com/recyclables. Don't forget to visit the City's drop-off center at 1702 Riverside for those bigger recycling jobs. It's open 7 days per week during daylight hours. For a copy of a press release on this topic, go to <http://fcgov.com/>, or call 970-221-6600.