



Clearwater residents can expect to go from twice-a-week garbage collection to once-a-week pickups starting Jan. 11, 2016.

Your garbage, recycling and bulk/yard waste will be collected on the same day. The ordinance change was approved by city council in August 2015.

The Clearwater Solid Waste & Recycling department also will introduce a recycling incentive program called Recycling Perks, which will roll out to residents in January 2016.

Look for more information to come from the city's Solid Waste & Recycling department, or call (727) 562-4920 with questions.



Solid Waste & Recycling
(727) 562-4920



CLEARWATER
BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL • BAY TO BEACH



CLEARWATER
BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL • BAY TO BEACH

Once-A-Week Garbage Collection Is Coming To Your Neighborhood



Q: When is the city starting once-a-week garbage collection?

A: Once-a-week garbage collection will begin the week of Monday, Jan. 11, 2016.

Q: Will my collection day change?

A: Yes, one of your two collection days will go away.

Q: What day will my garbage be collected?

A: Your garbage will be collected on the same day recycling, yard waste & bulk collection currently occurs in your neighborhood. You will receive another postcard mailed to your residence in December that includes your new collection day.

Q: My bill will go up. How much does 3.75% increase my current monthly bill?

A: • 93¢ increase on solid waste per month
• 9¢ increase on recycling per month

Q: When will the new rate go into effect?

A: Oct. 1, 2015

Q: Will the solid waste staff be reduced with the change to once-a-week trash collection?

A: No. With the success of single stream recycling program, the city is not able to reduce solid waste staff. This program requires the same style vehicle and container. As the capacity of recycling increases and solid waste decreases, staff will be shifted from the solid waste division to the recycling division.

Q: Will I have the same garbage man (or woman) after the city changes to once-a-week garbage collection?

A: The collection worker who serves your street could change. Some of the drivers may shift to recycling routes. The city is proud of our solid waste and recycling staff. You will continue to receive quality customer service from anyone on our team.

Q: What will the savings be to the department for going to once-weekly trash service?

A: Detailed analysis performed by staff and reviewed by a consultant concluded that annual operating and maintenance expense savings would be approximately \$408,000.

Q: Our service is being reduced, so why isn't my Solid Waste & Recycling bill decreasing?

A: **Regarding the rate increase**, all city utilities undergo a rate sufficiency analysis, or rate study, every five years. In 2014, the city hired a consultant to look at revenue, expenses and future capital needs. After analyzing all alternatives and getting feedback from staff and officials, a 3.75% rate increase was decided.

Regarding services, a rate reduction is not possible because solid waste customers are using their blue recycling containers more, and the city's Solid Waste & Recycling trucks still are picking up the same amount of garbage; it's just distributed differently. More items are now being redirected to the blue recycling container. While we will make every effort to work with our citizens, we ask that you work with us to manage your collections: 1) containerizing your yard waste or stacking it at the curb; 2) recycle all appropriate materials in your blue barrel; and 3) use your black barrel for bagged trash. In addition, current trash and recycling rates are being allocated for replacement of the city's aging garbage transfer station near Bright House Field. The transfer station is 44 years old and has more than twice outlived

its 20-year life expectancy. Solid Waste & General Services must budget for this upcoming expense, as replacing the aging facility will cost an estimated \$20 million.

Q: Why is the city making this change?

A: In 2013, the city introduced its single-stream recycling program. After implementation, the city found that many customers do not fully use the twice-a-week garbage collection service as they once had. As a result, the amount of material being recycled in the city increased from 160 to 440 tons of recyclables per month. This means that residents are filling their trash barrels less and are using their recycling containers more, resulting in less trash that needs to be collected (and in turn, more recycling that needs to be picked up).

This change is also consistent with the city's continual goal of environmental responsibility and to minimize our carbon footprint in the delivery of goods and services. These are the goals of the city's Greenprint sustainability plan, which you can learn more about by visiting myclearwater.com/greenprint.

Q: What does this service do for me and the city, from an environmental perspective?

A: Once-a-week garbage collection will benefit everyone involved. It will encourage residents to recycle more, which will assist in meeting the state of Florida's mandate in achieving 75 percent recycling by 2020. It will benefit residents by reducing emissions and wear and tear on roads.

Q: What kinds of garbage can I put in the garbage barrel?

A: All household garbage items should be placed in your black trash barrel. Trash items should be bagged and tied, then deposited into your trash container for collection. This will keep your cart cleaner and minimize odors. Do not load your trash barrel with recyclables, hot ashes, household hazardous chemicals, yard waste, medical waste or paint.

Q: How do I set my barrels out for collection?

A: Place your barrels out the night before your scheduled day to avoid missing early morning collections. Place your barrels on opposite sides of your driveway if possible and at least three feet away from mailboxes, parked cars, and other overhead obstacles. They should be placed so the lids face the street with the handles facing your home.

Q: My family generates a lot of garbage. What if once-a-week trash collection may not be enough for my household?

A: Residents are encouraged to use their blue recycling container more. The more you recycle, the less garbage is produced. If you're unsure of the material you can recycle, call **Solid Waste & General Services at (727) 562-4920** or visit myclearwater.com/domoreblue for a list of recyclable materials. Residents also should conserve space inside their trash barrel by not placing yard waste inside. Yard waste is collected manually, so using a container other than city-issued containers is encouraged.

Q: What if I have a special event and one black barrel is not sufficient?

A: You may contact our Solid Waste representatives at **(727) 562-4920** to discuss your needs so that a solution is identified prior to your event.

Q: How can I get a second black barrel, and how much will that cost?

A: Residents may request additional 96-gallon containers. After undergoing an initial assessment, an additional container may be provided at the discretion of the Solid Waste/General Services Director. The assessment is offered without charge

to residents that generate a large amount of refuse. The cost for the second barrel will be \$7.74 per month. Call **(727) 562-4920** to make your request.

Q: Are there any changes to the single-stream recycling or yard waste collection services?

A: No. There will be no change in the schedule or service levels.

Q: What is the percentage of Clearwater residents who recycle?

A: About sixty-five percent of Clearwater's residents place recycle barrels at their curbs.

Q: Were Clearwater residents surveyed to gauge interest in once-a-week trash service?

A: Yes. The department and the city conducted focus groups with residents who are for and against once-a-week garbage collection, and independent surveys were conducted as well. The focus groups revealed important feedback about once-a-week garbage collection, which has helped us implement changes to improve the program. A statistically valid survey was conducted by an outside party, Schwartz Research; it revealed that more than 50 percent of those surveyed had no concerns with the proposal, while the remainder had some questions or concerns.

The city also conducted a statistically valid survey through the National Citizen Survey group, which had similar results regarding those with no concerns and some concerns about the once-a-week collection program.

Q: Once-a-week garbage collection will invite pests, bugs and will stink ... won't it?

A: The cities of Dunedin, Safety Harbor, Haines City, Sarasota, North Port, Kissimmee, Bartow, Titusville, Leesburg, Tallahassee and Lakeland have all implemented successful once-a-week garbage collection programs. Currently, more than four million Floridians have garbage collected once per week. Odor, insects, and rodents should not be an issue as long as trash bags are tied tightly, and your trash barrel is fully closed. Your city-issued trash container is specifically designed with a tight fitting lid to prevent rain, wind, rodents, and flies from entering. An occasional washing with water and dish soap will help keep your barrel odor-free.

Q: How will collection change for businesses and multi-family homes in Clearwater?

A: Any businesses or communities who use a dumpster for trash collection will not be affected. Collection in commercial dumpsters is paid by container size and frequency.

Q: Can I be rewarded for recycling?

A: Yes. In January 2016, the city will introduce Recycling Perks, a program that rewards you for recycling. RFID tags inside the single stream recycling cart handle will be read by our state-of-the-art recycling collection trucks each time residents place their recycling barrels at the curb. Program participants can earn points, which can be redeemed for coupons, discounts and more.

Q: I still have questions. Who can I call?

A: Feel free to call us anytime at **Solid Waste & General Services at (727) 562-4920** or Utility Customer Service at **(727) 562-4600**. You also can visit our website at myclearwater.com/domoreblue.