

# Omaha Compared to Other Cities

**E**ARLY IN 2016 the City Council asked the Public Works Department to conduct a benchmark survey of solid waste collection in local and regional cities. SCS Engineers were hired to complete the study. The goal of the study was to give the City a reasonable idea of what options might be available or need to be evaluated for the next solid waste contract.

Eight local and 13 regional cities were surveyed. Information collected included the services offered and the cost to provide the service.

Omaha provides solid waste collection service to households and does not charge a fee for the service. The City does this because of Nebraska Revised Statute 13-2020. Omaha is the only city in Nebraska that must follow NRS 13-2020. Omaha pays for collection from the General Revenue Fund which is derived from property and sales taxes.

Of the local cities contacted, only Council Bluffs, IA, and Bellevue, NE, provide collection service to their residents. Two of the regional cities, Wichita, KS, and Colorado Springs, CO, don't provide collection service

to their residents. That brings the total number of cities used in the benchmark survey to 13.

Key points from the Study are:

- ▶ Only Denver, CO, and Kansas City, MO, don't charge a fee for collection service.
- ▶ Most cities use carts and either semi- or fully- automated collection trucks
- ▶ The monthly per household fee ranges from \$12.00 (Fort Wayne, IN) to \$27.89 (Minneapolis, MN). Omaha currently pays Waste Management \$9.19.
- ▶ Nine of 13 cities provide separate yardwaste collection. Two do not collect yardwaste and two collect yardwaste combined with garbage.

SCS Engineers collected many details about fees, containers, collection methods, collection vehicles, and other aspects of solid waste management. The complete report of their findings is available at

<http://future.wasteline.org>. **O!**

