



SOLID WASTE COLLECTIONS REQUEST FOR BID DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

SCS ENGINEERS

Background Information for Current Solid Waste Collections (SWC) Contract:

- The City of Omaha (City), as a “Metropolitan Class City” (MCC), is statutorily required to provide solid waste services by Nebraska Revised Statute Chapter 13 Section 2020 (NE Code § 13-2020) without imposing a charge upon the resident. This can only be changed by a change in state law, or by a vote of the citizens.
- Omaha is the only city in Nebraska with this requirement and the City has historically met this obligation via contract with a private contractor.
- The City last bid solid waste collections contract in 2004. Deffenbaugh was awarded the contract which commenced in 2006 and runs through 2020. Waste Management acquired Deffenbaugh in 2015 and is the current contractor.
- The current contract provides for weekly pickup of garbage, recycling, and yard waste (April – November). Garbage is limited and recycling and yard waste is unlimited.

Recent City Efforts Regarding SWC:

- The City hired SCS Engineers in June 2016 to perform Yard Waste Study. Study evaluated economic and environmental aspects of various yard waste management scenarios, including separate and comingled collection.
- The City hired SCS Engineers in August 2016 to perform a Public Opinion Survey regarding citizen sentiment regarding SWC.
- The City hired SCS Engineers in August 2016 to perform a SWC Peer Community Benchmarking Study.
- The City, in cooperation with the current SWC contractor, completed a Pilot Study of an automated, carted, SWC system from November 2016 to April 2017. Pilot included 2,500 participants in multiple neighborhoods throughout the City.
- The City hired SCS Engineers in January 2017 to perform a post-pilot Public Opinion Survey regarding participant sentiment on the automated, carted, SWC system.
- Noted outcomes from the Pilot Study include:
 - Recycling participation increased 19%
 - Overall recycling volume (in tons) increased 17%
 - Overall response to an automated, carted, SWC system was positive
- The City hired SCS Engineers in March 2017 to facilitate four Public Outreach Meetings in summer 2017. Meeting were held in four quadrants of the City and provided for citizen feedback on aforementioned studies and input on the City’s future SWC contract.
- Studies, Reports, and Outreach Meeting information is available on the City’s Wasteline webpage (www.future.wasteline.org).

Current City Efforts for SWC Request for Bid (RFB):

- The City's next SWC contract represents a very large procurement and is one of the largest municipal-procured, single-provider, SWC contracts in the United States.
- The City hired SCS Engineers in October 2017 to provide RFB development and bid support services.
- To date, pre-solicitation meetings have been conducted with prospective bidders, multiple cart manufacturers, and other interested stakeholders which included community groups, businesses, and a locally headquartered 501(c)(3) non-profit.
- Pre-solicitation meetings have provided valuable insights to the procurement team that we believe will maximize value to the City and its' citizens. Meetings also suggest that there is strong interest in the City's SWC RFB and that there will likely be multiple bidders for the requested services.
- Anticipated timeline for the SWC RFB is as follows:
 - RFB issuance May / June 2018
 - Mandatory pre-bid meeting June / July 2018
 - RFB response submittals August / September 2018
 - City review and recommendation for award November / December 2018
 - Start of new contract on or before January 1, 2021
- Key aspects anticipated for the SWC RFB:
 - SWC system will be an automated, carted program (no more manual collection / throwing of bagged wastes).
 - City will provide residents 96-gallon, wheeled carts for use. Carts will be provided for garbage, yard waste, and recyclables. Residents must use provided carts and only materials placed within carts will be picked up by contractor.
 - City will provide an optional half-size container (i.e. 45- to 48-gallon) for citizens who do not require the full capacity/volume or who desire a smaller container footprint.
 - City will allow residents to opt out of service for any or all materials. Again, if participating in City service, carts must be used.
 - No decisions have been made at this time as to separate or co-collected yard wastes.
 - While not germane to the SWC RFB process, no decisions have been made as to the City's current composting operation (Oma-Gro) or future composting operations.
 - RFB will include pricing for City's consideration for multiple SWC alternatives. Currently, we anticipate pricing for:
 - Weekly garbage, weekly yard waste (April – November), and bi-weekly recyclables
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 - Weekly garbage & yard waste (comingled) and bi-weekly recyclables
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 - RFB will require a modern, alternative fueled (i.e. compressed natural gas (CNG)), fleet.
 - City will continue to offer Spring Cleanup and existing Bulky Item programs.
 - City will not provide unlimited collection of yard waste at the curb under the future SWC contract. Recognizing this is a significant change, the City is evaluating additional options to support citizen handling of yard wastes. In addition to education and waste reduction outreach, the City is evaluating drop off sites, third party options, Fall Cleanup events, and other suitable alternatives which may or may not be included in the SWC RFB.