

## Downtown Recycling Survey – CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

(Revised on 28 July 2008 - GWC)

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- **DO YOU HAVE A UNIFORM PROGRAM FOR TRASH AND RECYCLING FOR DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES? / HOW IS TRASH HANDLED IN YOUR DOWNTOWN AREA? HOW IS RECYCLING HANDLED IN YOUR DOWNTOWN AREA?**

*Yes, there is a uniform program for our downtown area. You will recall that our downtown is composed of businesses along a central walking mall that excludes automobile traffic as well as streets one block away that parallel the mall. The walking mall is intersected in several places by streets that do permit vehicular traffic. Businesses facing the mall bring their trash and recycling containers to the curb of the intersecting streets for collection. Businesses facing the adjacent streets paralleling the mall have their containers picked up at curbside just outside their business.*

*The City now has a contract with Waste Management Corporation to pick up Trash, and the City has a separate contract with Allied Waste Corporation to pick up Recyclables.*

*Currently, RECYCLABLES downtown are picked up by Allied Waste Corp. 6 days a week (M-S) at 7:00 AM and again at 10:00 AM, and TRASH is collected downtown by Waste Management Corp. 6 days a week (M-S) at 7:00 AM and again at 10:00 AM.*

*In addition, the City of Charlottesville (in-house) now collects TRASH ONLY at 4:00 PM 6 days per week (M-S) and again on Sunday at 7:00 A.M.*

*Charlottesville is considering changing their contracts in two ways. First, so that TRASH will be collected by the contractor twice per day at 7:00AM and 4:00 PM (M-S) and once on Sunday at 7:00 AM. And second, so that RECYCLABLES will be collected once each day (Monday through Sunday) at 7:00 AM.*

*Charlottesville now supplies 18 gallon recycling bins to downtown businesses, but each business must provide its own trash containers. Some use "leak-proof" trash bags and others use rigid containers of various sizes. Trash collection is on a "pay-as-you-throw" basis*

*Individual trash stickers for 13-gallon and 32-gallon trash bags are available in the City Hall Lobby and at many convenience and grocery stores in the Charlottesville area. The appropriate sticker must be placed on trash bags set out for collection. Both types of stickers are available in sheets of 12, though citizens may purchase as few as one at a time. Effective*

*July 1, 2004, 13- gallon trash stickers sell for \$1.05 each and 32-gallon stickers sell for \$2.10 each. Individual 32-gallon trash bags set out for collection must not exceed a weight of 50 lbs. and individual 13-gallon trash bags must not exceed a weight of 25 lbs.*

*Note, however, that the City is considering future use of only 96 gallon, rigid, wheeled containers for TRASH, so as to prevent leakage and to reduce labor. Mr. Shifflet strongly recommended that Blacksburg also use this system.*

- **IS PICKUP IN THE DOWNTOWN CURBSIDE (BACK DOOR OR FRONT DOOR) OR AT CONSOLIDATED DUMPSTER SITES:**
  - **Trash:** *Curbside – Mall facing businesses take their trash and recyclables to the intersecting streets. Businesses facing streets that are parallel to the mall place theirs at curb in front of their building.*
  - **Recycling:** *Same as trash.*
  
- **DO YOU HAVE YOUR OWN FLEET, OR DO YOU CONTRACT OUT FOR SERVICES?**
  - **Trash:** *Currently the City uses both contractor and city vehicles. The City hopes to use only contractor vehicles in the near future.*
  - **Recycling:** *Currently the City uses only contractor vehicles for recycling. The City hopes to continue this practice in the future.*
  
- **IF CURBSIDE, IS PICKUP AUTOMATED OR MANUAL?**
  - **Trash:** *Manual for trash bags and business owned rigid containers. Tipper used for wheeled containers. (See note at top of page 2.)*
  - **Recycling:** *Manual for 18 gallon recycling containers.*
  
- **HOW IS THE FEE CHARGED? (PER TON, PAY AS YOU THROW, FREE/DISCOUNTED RECYCLING IF ON TRASH SERVICE IS BASED ON TYPE OR SIZE OF BUSINESS---RETAIL VS. RESTAURANT, FOR EXAMPLE)**
  - **Trash:** *Individual trash stickers for 13-gallon and 32-gallon trash bags are available in the City Hall Lobby and at many convenience and grocery stores in the Charlottesville area. The appropriate sticker must be placed on trash bags set out for collection. Both types of stickers are available in sheets of 12, though citizens may purchase as few as one at a time. Effective July 1, 2004, 13- gallon trash stickers sell*

*for \$1.05 each and 32-gallon stickers sell for \$2.10 each. Individual 32-gallon trash bags set out for collection must not exceed a weight of 50 lbs. and individual 13-gallon trash bags must not exceed a weight of 25 lbs. (See “COSTS” on page 4 for possible future changes.)*

- **Recycling:** *No separate fee charged for collecting recyclables.*
  
- **HOW OFTEN ARE COLLECTIONS MADE?**
  - **Trash:** *Twice per day, Monday through Saturday, and once on Sunday.*
  - **Recycling:** *Currently, recyclables are picked up by the contractor at 7:00 AM and 10:00 AM daily Monday through Saturday.*
  
- **WHAT TIME OF DAY IS PICKUP?**
  - **Trash:** *Currently, trash is picked up at 7:00 AM and 10:00 AM by the contractor, Monday through Saturday and again at 4:00 PM Monday through Saturday by the City. The City also picks up trash at 7:00 AM Sunday. (See proposed changes on page 1.)*
  - **Recycling:** *Currently, recyclables are picked up at 7:00 AM and 10:00 AM, Monday through Saturday by a contractor different from that collecting trash.*
  
- **HAVE YOU HAD AN ISSUE WITH SMELL/SPACE AND PATRONS WALKING AROUND DOWNTOWN (ESPECIALLY WITH CURBSIDE PICKUP)?** *Yes, primarily due to broken trash bags. City hopes to move to solid, wheeled trash bins in the future.*
  
- **IF CURBSIDE, WHAT SIZE CARTS/BINS? ARE THEY STORED INDOORS OR OUTSIDE?**
  - **Trash:** *Businesses may use 13-gallon and 32-gallon trash bags with stickers or stickers on rigid trash cans furnished by the business. City hopes to move toward rigid, wheeled bins in the future. Must be stored indoors.*
  - **Recycling:** *18 gallon recycling bins. Must be stored indoors.*
  
- **IF DUMPSTERS, WHAT SIZE?**
  - **Trash:** *The City or its contractors do not use dumpsters for trash in the downtown area.*

- **Recycling:** *The City or its contractors do not use dumpsters for recycling in the downtown area.*
  
- **HOW LONG HAVE YOU “HANDLED” REFUSE/RECYCLING IN THIS MANNER?**  
*They have done it in this way for the last 20 years.*
  - **HOW DID YOU HANDLE REFUSE/RECYCLING PRIOR TO THE CURRENT SYSTEM?** *Neglected to ask.*
  - **DID YOU HAVE ANY DIFFICULTIES/ISSUES WHEN YOU SWITCHED TO YOUR CURRENT PROGRAM?** *Unknown.*
  
- **ANY OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR PROGRAM? PROS/CONS?**

*RECOMMENDATIONS: Ronny Shifflet said that, based upon Charlottesville’s experience, he would recommend that Blacksburg use 96-gallon wheeled containers for trash, and use mechanical “tippers” to place the trash in trucks. He also recommended that that Blacksburg write a strong ordinance that specifies how and when trash and recyclables are handled by the downtown businesses, and then frequently monitor for compliance.*

*COSTS: When asked about how businesses will pay for TRASH disposal if Charlottesville shifts from disposable plastic bags to 96-gallon wheeled containers, Mr. Shifflet said that they would probably use the “pay-as-you-throw” sticker system. Rather than stickers that would be plastered to the container, the purchased items would be more similar to airline luggage tags that would be placed around the handle and removed by the contractor’s employee. He suggested that businesses might buy just 32 gallon tags and place one, two, or three of them around the handle depending whether the containers are one-, two-, or three-thirds full. The contractor’s employee would then judge if there were enough tags on the container before the trash was discarded into the truck -- if not, the container would be left and not emptied. Alternatively, a 96-gallon tag could be placed around the handle, and the business would not place the container curbside until it is full. RECYCLING would probably remain free.*

- **HELPFUL WEB SITES:**

*TRASH COLLECTION:* <http://www.charlottesville.org/Index.aspx?page=624>

*Note that this site also has links for a Map which shows downtown and uptown collection regions and Trash & Recycling Guidelines.*

*GREEN CITY:* <http://www.charlottesville.org/index.aspx?page=2098>