

Existing Solid Waste Management System, Facilities and Programs

Waste Collection Services

Solid waste collection in Lincoln and Lancaster County is performed by approximately forty (40) independent, licensed waste haulers in an open-competitive collection system.

Independent waste haulers generally provide residents a menu of services, including once or twice per week garbage collection. Optional subscription services available through various waste haulers or recycling contractors include lawn waste (grass and leaves) collection (typically April 1st through November 30th); fall only leaf collection (October and November) collection, and collection of traditional recyclable materials.

Most curbside recycling opportunities available to residents are “single stream”, which means all acceptable recyclables are placed in a common container and sorted at a remote processing facility.

Waste Handling Facilities (Transfer Station, Recyclables Processing and Composting Facilities)

The City operates a network of 29 multi-material recycling drop-off sites and 4 newspaper only drop-off sites in Lincoln and Lancaster County. Approximately 6,750 tons per year of recyclables are deposited at the City-operated recycling drop-off sites.

Three private material recovery/transfer facilities operate in Lincoln and accept recyclables from residential and business customers.

The City's Small Vehicle Transfer Station (located at the North 48th Street disposal facility) handles approximately 7,800 tons per year of municipal solid waste.

Appliance de-manufacturing, battery recycling, used oil collection, tire recycling and scrap metal recycling occur at the City's North 48th Street and Bluff Road disposal facilities.

The City's composting operation processes approximately 14,500 tons of yard waste and 4,650 tons of wood waste annually.

Diversion

Household hazardous waste collection events annually average approximately 2,200 participants and divert approximately 92,500 pounds (46 tons) of material from disposal in the City's landfill.

Latex paint exchanges (in which the City partnered with a private non-profit organization) annually averaged 140 participants and 1,250 gallons of paint diverted from disposal.

Waste Disposal Facilities

The City's Bluff Road Landfill commenced operations in 1988 and accepts municipal solid waste generated in Lincoln and Lancaster County. The Bluff Road Landfill accepts an average of 280,000 tons per year of municipal solid waste for disposal.

The City's North 48th Street Construction and Demolition Waste Landfill is positioned on top of an area where solid wastes from Lincoln and Lancaster County were disposed of from 1956 to 1980. The North 48th Street Construction and Demolition Waste Landfill accepts approximately 72,000 tons of waste per year.

Some solid waste generated in Lincoln and Lancaster County is transported by private waste haulers to landfills outside of Lancaster County. An estimated 24,500 tons per year of refuse generated within the County is transported to landfills outside of Lancaster County.

Solid Waste System Funding

The City Council adopted budgets for FY 2011-2012 for solid waste related systems, facilities and programs are:

- Operating - \$7,592,844
- Capital Improvements - \$2,080,000.

Funding for solid waste management systems, facilities and programs is derived from several sources, including user fees (tipping fees), an Occupation Tax, grants, and revenue bonds.

Other

The last comprehensive solid waste management planning effort undertaken by Lincoln and Lancaster County was completed in 1991 and served as the basis for the submission of a Solid Waste Management Plan to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality in 1994. The plan was prepared to comply with Nebraska's Integrated Solid Waste Management Act.