WHAT IS A TOWN-WIDE TRASH, RECYCLING & COMPOST CONTRACT?

The town of Lyons underwent a competitive bidding process to negotiate a city-wide contract for residential waste collection. The proposed program would provide curbside trash, recycling and composting collection to all residential properties (with seven units or fewer). Trash will be collected weekly, and recycling and composting will be collected every other week on alternating weeks.

Households will choose from three trash cart sizes--32, 64 and 96 gallons--and will be charged $18, $34 and $44 respectively. All residents will receive a 96-gallon recycling cart and a 32-gallon composting cart at no additional cost.

This is a proven system in place in 11 Front Range cities, including small towns like Morrison and Sheridan. More than 70% of U.S. cities have a city-wide system for collecting residential waste collection.

SUPPORT LYONS CURBSIDE TRASH, RECYCLING AND COMPOST COLLECTION!

Paid for by Yes on Ballot Question #4 for Recycling and Composting in Lyons and No on Ballot Question #3

THIS CONTRACT IS A BIG WIN FOR LYONS RESIDENTS AND OUR ENVIRONMENT

This contract will save most residents time and money, and provide more convenient services.

Currently residents pay between $25 and $30/month for recycling and trash collection. Under the contracted system residents will pay as low as $18, a 40% savings.

The new contract includes a brand new service: biweekly collection of yard waste and food waste for composting. Curbside compost includes many materials that cannot be composted in your backyard bin, such as meat, bones, dairy, weeds and many compostable bioplastics. Residents will no longer have to haul their branches, leaves and other yard debris to other sites out of town.

Curbside recycling collection is more convenient than using the recycling drop-off center or hauling yard debris to other towns, which means more people will recycle and compost more often.
Residents are getting a great deal on the new contract.

- The fee rates for trash, recycling and composting are comparable to other communities in Boulder County and are much lower than those in the City of Boulder where residents do not have a contracted system.
- Households that produce less trash will pay less for their waste service, creating a fair system that rewards recycling and composting instead of landfilling.
- Western Disposal, whose competitive bid was selected as the winner, is a Boulder County business and has been serving Lyons for decades.
- The contract includes provisions for good customer service.

A town-wide contract is our one opportunity to get curbside compost service.

- As a small town, it’s very hard to find curbside composting services at an affordable price. Having a town-wide contract is our best chance for providing this convenient service.
- More recycling and composting will help our community fight climate change and be more sustainable.
- More than 75% of our waste in Lyons currently goes to the landfill. By providing convenient recycling and composting to all homes, residents can recover 50% - 60% of their materials, helping meet the goals of the Lyons Environmental Sustainability Action Plan.
- Reducing waste, recycling and composting are some of the fastest, easiest and most cost-effective actions we can take today as a community to address climate change. We can save three tons of carbon emissions for every one ton of recycling. Composting reduces the amount of methane (a powerful greenhouse gas) produced at landfills when organic material (food and yard waste) decompose without oxygen. Applying finished compost to soil greatly improves the soil’s capacity to capture and store carbon out of the atmosphere.

Vote NO on Ballot Question #3

We also recommend voting NO on Ballot Question #3 that requires voter approval for any solid waste fees, which could impact popular services such as the annual spring cleanup and significantly complicate future waste diversion efforts in Lyons. No other Colorado community has created this obstacle to waste reduction.

To learn about the benefits of a Lyons town-wide collection program and FAQs about waste and recycling contracts, go to: ecocycle.org/take-action/lyons

For more information, please contact Dan Matsch (local Lyons resident and an Eco-Cycle Director) at dan@ecocycle.org.

Paid for by Yes on Ballot Question #4 for Recycling and Composting in Lyons and No on Ballot Question #3
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:**
Single Hauler Trash, Recycling and Composting Collection

**QUESTION:** Is participation in the program mandatory?

**ANSWER:** Every resident has the option to opt out. While residents would be strongly encouraged to participate, Colorado law preserves a resident’s right to choose their waste hauler, even if a city or town contracts with a hauler for a single hauler waste system. Therefore, Lyons residents would have the ability to opt-out of the single hauler waste collection. Based on local experience, roughly 1-3 percent of people are expected to opt out. All residents will be required to pay a small fee. Residents are highly encouraged to recycle and compost, but are not required.

**QUESTION:** Will a single hauler program put an extra administrative burden on the town?

**ANSWER:** A single hauler contract will not put any extra burden on town staff. According to other small cities and towns, it only takes 5 minutes a month to integrate the hauler’s data into the town’s utilities billing system. There are 11 Front Range cities that contract for waste services including: Commerce City, Dacono, Edgewater, Frederick, Golden, Greenwood Village, Lafayette, Louisville, Lone Tree, Morrison, and Sheridan.

**QUESTION:** What impact will a single hauler have on local haulers currently servicing the community?

**ANSWER:** The single hauler contract will have a minimal to no impact on other haulers. The single hauler contract ONLY changes the hauling system for residential waste collection. That means that other haulers servicing commercial (business) properties and multi-family complexes (greater than 8 units) will be unaffected. Other haulers also service other parts of Boulder County and the Front Range. The selected hauler, Western Disposal, is a local hauler who has been servicing Lyons residents and businesses since the late 1970’s.

To find out more details about the new services being proposed, go to: ecocycle.org/take-action/lyons

Paid for by Yes on Ballot Question #4 for Recycling and Composting in Lyons and No on Ballot Question #3