

**LAKE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**SOLID WASTE ALTERNATIVE
TASK FORCE**

RECOMMENDATIONS

2014 through 2044



LAKE COUNTY
FLORIDA

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Respectfully,

Lake County Solid Waste Alternative Task Force

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RECOMMENDATIONS

The Solid Waste Alternative Task Force recommends the following:

Collection

1. Continue the existing policy of Universal Collection where all residential units in the unincorporated county are required to have curbside collection service.

- + Reduces illegal dumping and burning
- + Collects the most waste
- + Continues existing program that citizens are familiar with
- + Continues to minimize fuel consumption
- + Efficient billing system
- + Efficient system for haulers
- + Lower collection costs than free market system
- + No fees charged at the landfill for unincorporated residents
- +/- Some residents do not use the service as they utilize drop-off centers and/or recycle all of their waste
- Seasonal customers cannot turn off service

2. Continue with exclusive franchised Residential and Commercial Collection districts based on regional efficiency and a minimum of 2 haulers.

- + Protects County should a hauler default on contract because the other contractor(s) have a contractual obligation to collect the waste
- + Provides bench marks for service levels, allows equal comparisons between haulers
- + Reduces number of collection trucks on the roadways
- + Increases ability to police infractions such as oil leaks, hydraulic leaks, & property damage
- + Controls the waste flow allowing better price negotiations
- + Easier to offer different service levels
- Potential for inconsistent service level between haulers

3. Provided economically feasible, institute mechanized collection for solid waste.

- +/- Consists of use of County provided cans which are emptied by mechanized or automated trucks
- + Encourages recycling
- + Better aesthetics
- + Better ability to coordinate with cities
- + Likely no cost effect if amortization is long enough
- + Other jurisdictions implementation have been positive
- + Large cans will allow for once per week collection
- + Small animal proof containers (dogs, raccoons, etc.)
- Longer term contracts may be required to amortize cost
- Changes system from unlimited to measured
- Cannot be provided countywide

4. **Establish mechanized collection of residential single-stream curbside recycling.**
 - +/- Allows customer to mix all recycling in one County provided container which is picked up by mechanized or automated trucks
 - + Encourages recycling and simplifies the process
 - + Expands the number of products to be marketed
 - + Increases recycling tonnage
 - May cause longer hauler contracts in order to amortize costs

5. **Institute once per week garbage and once a week recycling and implement once per week yard waste pickup where there is mechanized collection and other areas where feasible.**
 - + Encourages recycling of solid waste
 - + Allows yard waste to be recycled and removed from the waste stream
 - Cannot use plastic bags for yard waste

6. **Require franchised haulers to offer commercial recycling and recycling education to all customers.**
 - + Encourages commercial recycling
 - + Increases recycling tonnage
 - + May reduce commercial customer's solid waste cost
 - Cannot regulate commercial recycling choice of hauler

7. **Maintain residential bulk item collection upon request.**
 - + Existing program that citizens are familiar with
 - + Minimizes unlawful dumping of large items
 - + Helps facilitate mechanized collection system
 - Higher cost of service

8. **Continue household hazardous waste, electronic waste, and pharmaceutical waste collection for residential and maintain the small quantity generators program, including a minimum of 26 community collection events per year at convenient locations. Evaluate residential curbside pickup of household hazardous waste and implement such curbside pickup if economically feasible.**
 - + Removes more household hazardous waste from waste stream
 - + Removes pharmaceutical waste from the waste stream
 - + Removes electronics from the waste stream
 - + Convenient for citizens
 - + Popular with citizens
 - + Protects underground water supply
 - + Protects hauler employees who pick up the waste
 - Requires funding to operate

9. Continue offering Drop-off Centers with days and hours of operations based on demand with consideration given to privatization.

- + Allows citizens without collection service a place to dispose of solid waste
- + Regular household hazardous waste drop-offs
- + Can accept large items
- + Includes recycling and tire drop-offs
- + Minimizes illegal dumping
- + Includes electronic waste recycling and disposal
- Cost of operation

Disposal

10. Priority should be placed on volume reduction which will result in maximizing the useful life of the Central Facility.

- a. Reduce the amount of volume and by-product disposal through recycling of Municipal Solid Waste, Household Hazardous Waste, Electronic Waste, and reuse of yard waste.
- b. Alternative Disposal – Further reduce volume through disposal options such as Waste-to-Energy, bio-reactor landfill, and future technologies that further reduce volumes.
- c. Transfer remaining waste to a State permitted location to reduce the amount going to the Central Facility.

11. Enhance the current program of disposing of hazardous waste and electronic waste from the waste stream through a State approved facility.

- + Reduces the volume of waste to be disposed
- + Protects the environment and underground water supply
- Requires funding to operate

12. Increase recycling of residential and commercial waste through single-stream recycling, with all recycling to be processed through a private vendor.

- + Reduces the volume of waste to be disposed
- + Protects the environment and underground water supply
- + Popular with citizens

13. Increase the reuse of yard waste. Promote residential composting, including possible aid in the form of assistance with setup.

- + Reduces the volume of waste to be collected and disposed
- + Protects the environment and underground water supply
- + Popular with citizens

14. Minimize the use of the Central Facility to maximize its useful life.

- + Existing landfill is a valuable asset
- + Prevents the need to build a new landfill
- + Available for use during emergencies

15. Simultaneously negotiate with Covanta, other private entities engaged in waste disposal, and private entities involved in volume reduction/reuse/recycling, and determine pricing for all of these options and compare such pricing with the cost of continuing to operate the Central Facility.

- + Evaluating all entities engaged in waste disposal at the same time will allow the Board to choose the most cost effective alternative and to consider environmental factors as well
- + Evaluating all entities engaged in waste disposal will allow the Board to possibly choose more than one option, which might allow the life of the Central Facility to be extended

16. Base the decision on how to dispose of solid waste on a variety of factors, including cost and environmental concerns.

- a. **Avoid disposal contracts that obligate the County to deliver a mandated amount of waste, unless the risks and benefits are thoroughly evaluated and understood.**
 - b. **Prior to the entry of any disposal contract, an environmental analysis must be conducted, evaluating environmental impacts of that disposal method as well as other alternatives. Adverse environmental factors may justify choosing a more expensive disposal option in appropriate cases.**
 - c. **Avoid long-term contracts that create unjustifiable risks to the County.**
 - d. **Utilize a planning horizon of at least 30 years.**
 - + Methods of disposal may change over time which could cause existing disposal methods to become outdated or uneconomical
 - + New technology may be developed which would be superior to new technology
 - + Over time the quantity of the waste stream in Lake County may change
 - + Obligating the County to deliver a mandated amount of waste may negatively impact recycling
 - + Long-term commitments that obligate the County to deliver a mandated amount of waste may negatively impact recycling rates and may be an impediment to implementing new technology in disposal
 - A commitment to deliver a mandated amount of waste may be necessary in order to get favorable and stable pricing or to have new technologies implemented
- +/- Recognizes emerging technologies as they become viable and financially feasible

Financial

17. Ensure the Solid Waste Assessment covers all enterprise fund costs except as noted below.

- a. **Keep the Special Assessment on the tax bills.**
- b. **Set annual residential and commercial rates based on prior year actual costs and projection of future costs.**
- c. **Establish a reserve fund for extraordinary costs due to hurricanes or other catastrophic events.**
 - + Reduces the need for general fund costs for Solid Waste operations
 - + Assessment based on actual costs
 - + Efficient billing system
 - + Efficient system for haulers
 - + Lower collection costs than free market system
 - + Promotes zero based budgets
 - + Building a small buffer into annual tax assessments will assure funding for unexpected expenses.
 - Seasonal must pay for the full year
 - /+ May require increases/decreases in the assessment rate each year

18. County-wide Programs to be funded from the General Fund.

- a. **Collection and disposal of Hazardous, Electronic, and Pharmaceutical Wastes**
- b. **Six (6) Solid Waste Drop-off Centers (all or part)**
- c. **Solid Waste Education Programs**
 - + Continue to allow all residents (unincorporated and city) to utilize the programs
 - + Benefits all residents of the County
 - + Popular with schools and civic organizations
 - + Expands the recycling program
 - + Removes more household hazardous waste from the waste stream
 - + Removes more electronic waste from the waste stream
 - Requires funding to operate

19. Work with cities to provide coordinated collection and disposal system.

- + Combining municipal and county customers would create a larger customer base which could be used to negotiate better rates from haulers
- + Smaller cities would be able to take advantage of cost savings by utilizing the County hauling contracts
- + Increases the feasibility of implementing mechanized collection
- + Provides standardized services
- + Comprehensive education and information about services for all city and county residents
- + Less trucks on the roads with combined routes
- +/- May require transfer stations

20. Establish stable multiple year financial/budget plan.

- + Last payment for bonds paid off October 1, 2013
- + Contract with Covanta ends July 1, 2014
- + Allows better financial planning

Community Programs

21. Enhance the Solid Waste education for all components of the waste stream to the general public.

- + Expands the residential recycling program
- + Removes more household hazardous waste and pharmaceutical waste from waste stream
- + Removes more electronic waste from the waste stream
- Requires funding to operate
- + Popular with schools, civic organizations, and other community groups

22. Establish a program to inform residents of all Solid Waste accomplishments.

- + Will increase participation and reduce volume to be collected and disposed.
- + Will reduce volume to be collected and disposed.

COPY OF RESOLUTION