

## SUMMARY OF COLLECTION OPTIONS

The collection options that the Task Force has examined include mandatory universal collection (similar to the current Lake County system), completely free market collection (similar to the current Sumter County system) and drop off system (similar to the current Marion County system). The following are the characteristics of each of the systems along with pros and cons that the Task Force has discussed or which staff has identified. There may be other alternatives and some of the options can be mixed so that a system is designed which uses more than one of the options.

### FREE MARKET SYSTEM

In a pure free market system the county government would not be involved in either the collection or disposal of municipal solid waste. Citizens would be free to dispose of their solid waste in any legally accepted way, which could include contracting with a hauler for curbside pickup, bringing the waste to a properly licensed disposal site, or otherwise lawfully disposing of the waste. It is likely that even in this type of system county government would have regulations relating to the equipment used to transport waste and other police power type regulations relating to transport or disposal of waste. It is also likely that county government would have to provide some services such as residential hazardous waste collection and disposal and would also have to facilitate recycling or reuse of waste. Pros and cons of this type of system include the following (in no particular order):

- 1) Customers would be free to select the hauler of their choice, although the cost may be slightly higher than a mandatory system. Customers would also be able to contract for

specialized collection service (such as once per week, backyard pickup, vacation suspension, etc).

- 2) Customers would be free to self haul their waste to a licensed facility, saving more than \$100 per year.
- 3) Individual subdivisions or groups of residents could elect to negotiate separately with haulers, resulting in a lower collection rate for dense areas or retired areas where waste generation occurs at a lower rate; however, rural or less dense areas may pay a higher rate.
- 4) The amount of waste collected would likely decrease; it is possible that unlawful disposal would increase.
- 5) The County would lose control of the waste stream as haulers would be free to take waste to any lawful disposal site; this could limit the disposal options available to the County as a whole (minimum put or pay contracts with disposers would be very difficult). The County may impose flow control restrictions if the County operates a disposal system.
- 6) Rate fluctuation risk would be shifted solely to individual customers, with no intervention by County Government.
- 7) Customers who produce little waste (through conservation, reuse, or recycling) could be rewarded since they would be able to negotiate lower levels of service and pay less (such as once per week collection or pay as you throw options such as small cans or limited cans).

8) If the system is completely free market and the County does not operate at least drop off sites, citizens might have to drive longer distances to lawfully dispose of waste depending on how the private market reacts.

9) The County would be out of the solid waste assessment business; billing costs would be passed on the haulers or the owners and operators of drop off facilities.

10) Unless the County continued with curbside recycling collection, it is possible recycling rates might decrease. Through regulations however, haulers could be required to provide separate curbside recycling as a condition of being able to operate in the county which would insure this service continues for all except self haul customers.

11) The County could close all of its solid waste facilities and perhaps even sell them if there was a market. Alternatively, if the county system was to continue to be operated, the life of the landfill would be extended since some waste would be disposed of in other locations.

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## DROP OFF SYSTEM

In the drop off system drop off locations are provided (either public or private) where citizens can drop off waste. Persons who want curbside collection are able to contract with the hauler of their choice. The pros and cons of the free market system mostly apply to this system.

Operation of the drop off system can be funded through the government (either by taxes, special assessments or charges at the gate) or can be left totally private if the system is operated privately (charges at the gate). In some cases, the County still operates a disposal system and the system would be set up so that each resident would be charged for disposal (either by taxes or special assessment) and then would be able to use the drop off facility for free. Haulers who collect waste from the County could dispose of it at the County facility without paying disposal fees since the resident already paid for disposal through their tax bill. .

Pros and cons of this type of system include the following (in no particular order):

- 1) If the drop off system were operated where disposal cost was placed on the tax bill customers would lose the ability to reduce their cost of disposal through conservation and/or recycling or reuse since all households would be charged the same for disposal. Similarly, while dense areas could still negotiate less expensive curbside prices, areas that produce little waste (retirement communities for example) would not see a reduction in cost due to lower waste output.
- 2) If the drop off system were operated totally privately and the private entity was also responsible for disposal the County would lose control of the waste stream as haulers would be free to take waste to any lawful disposal site; this could limit the disposal

options available to the County as a whole (minimum put or pay contracts with disposers would be very difficult). The County may impose flow control restrictions if the County operates a disposal system.

3) If the drop off system were operated privately and the private entity was responsible for disposal, the County could close all of its solid waste facilities and perhaps even sell them if there was a market. Alternatively, if the county system was to continue to be operated, the life of the landfill would be extended since some waste would be disposed of in other locations.

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## MANDATORY UNIVERSAL COLLECTION

This system as currently utilized by Lake County combines a mandatory universal collection system along with a drop off system. However, the drop off portion of the system would not necessarily be required (although provisions would still have to be made for collection of household hazardous waste). In this system, residents are required to have curbside collection and the cost of both collection and disposal are placed on a property owner's tax bill. Pros and cons of this type of system include the following (in no particular order):

- 1) This system places responsibility on the County to dispose of all waste that is generated in the unincorporated area.
- 2) Self hauling would not be available. Also, services would be standardized so that individualization would not be available.
- 3) All residents will pay the same for collection and disposal, although it is feasible that different rate schedules could be developed for urban and rural areas.
- 4) This system would lead to the County collecting the most waste; thus it might facilitate a longer term disposal contract with a private entity.
- 5) The County has capacity at its landfill, this system would use that capacity more quickly if all county waste was disposed of at that facility.
- 6) This is the most efficient method to collect waste at the curb. It is also the most efficient billing system since there is only one bill a year and almost no collection problem.

7) It might be possible to reward customers who produce little waste (through conservation, reuse, or recycling) but that would likely only be able to be done in urban areas through the use of mechanized collection systems.

8) Not able to turn service off for seasonal customers.

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ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

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