

# CITY OF BATAVIA

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**DATE:** December 27, 2012  
**TO:** City Services Committee  
**FROM:** Scott A. Haines, Street Superintendent  
**SUBJECT:** Refuse and Recycling Program

It's that time again to discuss the City's refuse and recycling contract, which expires June 30, 2013. Our intention is to seek bids to find the most reasonable cost for this service without sacrificing quality and efficiency. Staff has started discussions with the cities of Geneva and St. Charles with the goal of combining our programs together into one larger project that we hope will provide a very competitive cost. This was done when we worked with Geneva in the spring of 2012 to bid our mosquito programs. In essence, the two very similar programs were bid out together using the same basic contract language but allowing each city the ability to manage its program independently. At this point, we are proposing a similar concept to discuss at committee, along with specific program options for our refuse and recycling contract. We don't intend to change the management of each city's contract but rather put together a joint program that should produce more buying power and ideally reduce costs for our residents.

The industry has been moving in the direction of all totter programs so operators don't have to get out of the collection trucks or just use totter lifting devices. This trend has created a safer environment for the operator which, in turn, reduces injuries. It is generally the most efficient and cost-effective method. This type of program reduces the cost for the average user but increases the cost for those who produce less than the average amount of refuse, i.e., senior citizens and sole occupants. With that said, it would be very difficult to make significant changes to our program that would require all residents to use a refuse totter. Oswego recently went to a program where residents can put out unlimited refuse cans (per the specifications) for a flat fee per month collected through the city bill. Residents can also rent any size totter from the vendor for \$2 per month, and all residents were provided with recycle totters. With this program there is a single-family rate, as well as a senior rate that is \$3.45 less than single-family rates. Oswego residents are also allowed one bulk item per week at no additional cost, and yard waste is only \$1 per bag or bundle. These are very low costs when compared to our program.

Other issues to consider going forward are that our current vendor has experienced some counterfeiting of stickers, and we've had residents express concerns about stickers being stolen. Unless the sticker is put out just before it's collected, residents are vulnerable to having their stickers stolen.

Our current program details are as follows:

- Refuse sticker
- Half refuse bag

- Yard waste sticker and bag
- 35-gallon refuse toter
- 65-gallon refuse toter
- 95-gallon refuse toter
- 65-gallon recycling toter (optional rental)
- White goods (appliances) – 1 sticker
- Large items (furniture/mattresses) – 1 sticker
- Included in the contract at no cost to the city: collect refuse/recycling from all city dumpsters, provide dumpsters and toters for festivals, empty all downtown/streetscape refuse/recycling containers, and pick up Christmas trees.

Current use of our program:

In general, the percentages change significantly depending on the neighborhood. Newer areas tend to favor the toter options, while older areas seem to be split or favor the sticker option. The sticker usage in all areas varies between 1-2 stickers. The recycle bin usage averages from 1.5-2.3 with most using two or more.

The information from the survey does not overwhelmingly suggest significant changes to the refuse collection program although modifications to the recycling portion seem to be warranted. With the lowest average area at 1.5 bins (27 gallons), to the highest average are at 2.3 bins (41 gallons), it's time to explore our options to require recycling toters. This would provide all homeowners with one recycle toter from 35 gallons to 95 gallons, depending on a resident's usage. Our goal with the recycle toters will promote more recycling and keep our streets cleaner on collection days, especially when it's windy. In each of the areas surveyed, there were a number of homes that did not have refuse or recycling. Perhaps these homes only use the program every other week, are vacant homes, or homeowners take it elsewhere.

<b>E. Wilson St. (26 homes)</b>		
No refuse or recycling (6)	23%	
Recycle and no refuse (0)	0%	
Half bag (1 user)	4%	
Sticker option (10 users)	38%	Ave. 1.6 sticker/user
Refuse toter option (9 users)	35%	(7) 95-gal. & (2) 65-gal.
Notes: Ave. recycle bins used per household (1.64) and 2 recycle toter users		

<b>Hamlet &amp; Church Streets (34 homes)</b>		
No refuse or recycling (2)	6%	
Recycle and no refuse (4)	11%	
Half bag (0)	0%	
Sticker option (20 users)	59%	Ave. 1.5 sticker/user
Refuse toter option (8 users)	24%	(4) 95-gal. & (4) 65-gal.
Notes: Ave. recycle bins used per household (1.5) and 1 recycle toter user		

<b>S. Raddant Rd. (23 homes)</b>		
No refuse or recycling (2)	9%	
Recycle and no refuse (3)	13%	
Half bag (0)	0%	
Sticker option (12 users)	52%	Ave. 1.1 sticker/user
Refuse toter option (6 users)	26%	(3) 95-gal. & (3) 65-gal.
Notes: Ave. recycle bins used per household (2.2) and 0 recycle toters users		

<b>Davey Farm (46 homes)</b>		
No refuse or recycling (2)	4%	
Recycle and no refuse (7)	15%	
Half bag (0)	0%	
Sticker option (16 users)	35%	Ave. 1.3 sticker/user
Refuse toter option (21 users)	46%	(16) 95-gal. & (5) 65-gal.
Notes: Ave. recycle bins used per household (2) and 12 recycle toters users		

<b>McKee St. (36 homes)</b>		
No refuse or recycling (6)	17%	
Recycle and no refuse (4)	11%	
Half bag (0)	0%	
Sticker option (19 users)	53%	Ave. 1.2 sticker/user
Refuse toter option (7 users)	19%	(2) 95-gal. & (5) 65-gal.
Notes: Ave. recycle bins used per household (1.7) and 2 recycle toters users		

<b>S. Jefferson St. (45 homes)</b>		
No refuse or recycling (8)	18%	
Recycle and no refuse (11)	24%	
Half bag (0)	0%	
Sticker option (11 users)	24%	Ave. 1 sticker/user
Refuse toter option (15 users)	34%	(10) 95-gal. & (3) 65-gal. & (2) 35-gal.
Notes: Ave. recycle bin used per household (2.1) and 6 recycle toter users; refuse with no recycle (3)		

<b>Lockwood Ln. &amp; Ct. (38 homes)</b>		
No refuse or recycling (5)	13%	
Recycle and no refuse (5)	13%	
Half bag (0)	0%	
Sticker option (22 users)	58%	Ave. 1 sticker/user
Refuse toter option (6 users)	16%	(4) 95-gal. & (1) 65-gal. & (1) 35-gal.
Notes: Ave. recycle bin used per household (2) and 1 recycle toter users		

<b>Bradford &amp; Landfield (34 homes)</b>		
No refuse or recycling (2)	6%	
Recycle and no refuse (5)	15%	
Half bag (0)	0%	
Sticker option (14 users)	41%	Ave. 1.2 sticker/user
Refuse toter option (13 users)	38%	(8) 95-gal. & (4) 65-gal. & (1) 35-gal.
Notes: Ave. recycle bin used per household (2.1) and 2 recycle toter users; refuse with no recycle (2)		

<b>Trout Farm (30 homes)</b>		
No refuse or recycling (5)	17%	
Recycle and no refuse (1)	3%	
Half bag (0)	0%	
Sticker option (12 users)	40%	Ave. 1.3 sticker/user
Refuse toter option (12 users)	40%	(9) 95-gal. & (2) 65-gal. & (1) 35-gal.
Notes: Ave. recycle bin used per household (2.3) and 5 recycle toter users; refuse with no recycle (1)		

<b>Weaver Landing (34 homes)</b>		
No refuse or recycling (2)	6%	
Recycle and no refuse (3)	9%	
Half bag (0)	0%	
Sticker option (10 users)	29%	Ave. 1 sticker/user
Refuse toter option (19 users)	56%	(10) 95-gal. & (8) 65-gal. & (1) 35-gal.
Notes: Ave. recycle bin used per household (2.1) and 3 recycle toter users		

<b>Bird Ln. (33 homes)</b>		
No refuse or recycling (8)	24%	
Recycle and no refuse (3)	9%	
Half bag (0)	0%	
Sticker option (1 users)	3%	Ave. 2 sticker/user
Refuse toter option (21 users)	64%	(16) 95-gal. & (5) 65-gal. & (0) 35-gal.
Notes: Ave. recycle bin used per household (2.3) and 10 recycle toter users; refuse with no recycle (1)		

Joint program options to be discussed:

- Joint program with one contract. This would merge all three programs into one program requiring Intergovernmental Agreements, and each city would have an identical program.
- Bid the programs out together using different sets of details for each city, and use the same general contract documents much like our mosquito program.
- Bid out our program completely independent from the other two cities.

Specific program details that need to be discussed:

- Sticker or no sticker?
- All refuse and recycling totes? Recycle totes must be free for the program.
- Should the program use both stickers and totes as is currently done?
- Mandatory free recycling totes to help keep our streets clean. Need to get rid of recycle bins.
- If we put together a joint program, are the current dates critical to retain or can they be changed to accommodate the joint program, assuming there is a cost savings?
- Should the program allow for a large bulk item to be disposed of each week at no cost?
- Extending yard waste collection through December. Is it possible to provide free leaf bags to residents who miss leaf collection or have trees which drop leaves late?

Staff Recommendation:

- Authorize staff to continue working with the cities of Geneva and St. Charles on a joint bidding process for the refuse and recycling program.
- Staff would like to continue the discussion of specific program details at a future committee meeting.

Recommended Committee Action:

- Authorize staff to continue working with the cities of Geneva and St. Charles on a joint bidding process for the refuse and recycling program.