

48 Gallon Containers

History

Environmental Services (ES) currently provides residential curbside and alley refuse/recycling services to approximately 140,000 customers. One of the four options of service is the curbside 48 gallon container offered to our current residents. In 2010, Mayor & Council approved an ES plan to develop a volume based price program so that curbside residents would have the opportunity to choose the size of the container based upon the volume of refuse they generate. Curbside customers would have the choice of three different size containers. First, the standard size container used by the majority of our customers is the 95 gallon and our standard size. Second, is the 65 gallon container providing some capacity but with a smaller foot print. This container has not caused any issues. Third, is the 48 gallon. This container is the smallest. ES did have 35 gallon containers but have always had issues of dropping these smaller containers all the time, so only a few locations were allowed to use these containers and a specific truck was used to service these locations which was not operationally efficient. The 48 gallon seems to be the best request for customers that have limited space and/or generate for little refuse on a weekly basis. It also works for many customers that are recycling in large volumes. ES purchased some of these containers prior to offering the service to see if the containers would be user friendly for our customers and serviceable by our trucks. During the test period no major issues were discovered.

Current

Today, losing a refuse/recycling container is not usual. ES services over 25,000 containers daily and it happens for a variety of reasons, most of which involve the operator. However, as we fielded the new containers we began to see the loss of the smaller containers more frequently than our other larger containers. ES has delivered and provides service to approximately 5,500 48 gallon containers. An issue that came up after offering the service is the 48 gallon containers are shaped differently from the other containers (see below) and have a tendency to slip through our equipment and into the hopper.

ES made contact with the manufacturer to see if the design of the container could be changed. This was not an option, so the next option was to get the truck manufacturer to see if the equipment could be modified to help support the container from falling in. The company was able to make a few additions to the gripper arms which seem to reduce the amount of containers but did not completely resolve the issue. The issue in which ES is working on to resolve is to have equipment able to service a large 300 gallon container and also turn around

and service a much smaller 48 gallon container while using the same equipment. ES has gone back to the container manufacturer and asked to install a longer axle on the container. In doing so, ES has seen the number of dropped containers with the longer axle reduced.

Future

All new orders for 48 gallon containers are purchased with the longer axles; unfortunately, ES still has approximately 4,700 48 gallon containers that will need to have the axles exchanged. ES will be working over the next few weeks putting together a plan contract with a private contractor to exchange the containers, as ES staff would not be able to complete this with the normal day to day exchanges it handles already. ES has set a goal to gather the information, get a qualified contractor, schedule the modifications to coincide with our collections and complete the modifications by January 1, 2014. This would put the contractor on a pace of completing about 118 exchanges per week.

48 Gallon



95 Gallon



300 Gallon

