



# CITY OF CONCORD

*New Hampshire's Main Street™*

## REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

**Date:** March 29, 2023

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**From:** Solid Waste Advisory Committee

**Subject:** Solid Waste and Recycling Collection-Gradual Transition from Manual Collection to Automated Collection

### **Recommendation:**

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee recommends to City Council that the City moves forward with the recommendation provided by the General Services Department to move forward to automated collection for a ten-year term starting July 1, 2024, as outlined in their March 7, 2023 Report to Mayor and City Council.

### **Background:**

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee has been working with General Services staff in the development of a competitive Response for Proposals (RFP) for City wide comprehensive solid waste collection services since the current contract is set to expire June 30, 2024. Due to the length of time to procure equipment due to extended supply chains, now is the appropriate time to perform this work and award a contract to assure continued service to our residents.

The General Services Department in coordination with the City's Purchasing Division issued the RFP on October 3, 2022. Upon receipt of the proposals on December 7, 2022, the General Services Department reviewed the documents and interviewed the responsive respondents. Based upon that work, the City's Purchasing Division issued a conditional award to Casella Waste Management on February 27, 2023.

As outlined in General Services Department's March 7, 2023, Report to City Council, it is inevitable that the City will need to transition to automated residential curbside collection of solid waste and recyclable materials.

Four options are available to the community to navigate this transition:

1. An immediate transition on July 1, 2024, or
2. A sudden transition on July 1, 2029, or
3. An orderly transition by July 1, 2027, after a two-year pilot that starts July 1, 2025, or
4. An orderly transition by July 1, 2028, after a two-year pilot that starts July 1, 2026.

**Discussion:**

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee met on March 21, 2023, and March 28, 2023, to discuss and review the options. At both meetings, public testimony was received. Both meetings were televised. Additionally, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee referred the General Services Reports to the Fiscal Policy Advisory Committee meeting of March 20, 2023.

At the March 28, 2023, meeting, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee unanimously voted to concur with General Services Department's recommendation to have the City Manager execute the ten-year term with Casella to include the procurement, deployment, and maintenance of toters.

The committee understands that the transition to automated collection residential curbside collection of solid waste and recyclable material will be a significant undertaking for the community. The ten-year term provides the community with the following:

1. Delays the transition,
2. Provides the opportunity for a two-year pilot,
3. Provides time for an orderly transition,
4. Provides time to assess opportunities to divert solid waste such as composting or separate textile collection programs, and
5. Provides time to further reduce solid waste volumes through education.