

City of Poulsbo Solid Waste Collection Contract RFP
Industry Review Questions & Comments
4-13-26

#	Section	Hauler	Question/Comment	Response
1	RFP, Section 2	WM	Single-Family Collection Does the City have an estimated count for recycling and compostable carts/containers?	The City has included recycling cart counts in Appendix B5 in the official RFP release and requested the other recycling and compostable container counts from Bainbridge Disposal which was unavailable for the RFP release. Information will be provided in an addendum once available.
2	RFP, Section 2	Recology	Under the header "Commercial Collection," it notes that the City provides temporary service for "very large special events such as Viking Fest and the 3rd/4th of July celebration." Under the new contract, would the contractor be taking over these Special Event services, or would the City public works department continue to offer this service? If the contractor is taking over special events, can the City provide a list of all special events that contractors will need to provide service during? Can you confirm this service would be at no charge? In addition, what is the average number of attendees at the events?	Under the new contract, the contractor would assume responsibility for collection services at special events, as the City will not be providing these services. The draft contract does not include any no-charge provisions for event services; therefore, services for these events may be billed directly to the event coordinator. Current large events include Viking Fest, Memorial Day, and Jule Fest, with additional events under consideration. All events are sponsored by nonprofit organizations, and attendance varies widely depending on the event.
3	Contract, Section 1.1	WM	Contract Terms The term of this Contract is ten (10) years starting on the Date of Commencement of Service. The City and Contractor may, at the sole option of the City, extend the Contract for an extension of up to five (5) years in duration. Would the City consider a mutual extension instead of City sole?	The City would prefer to leave the contract wording as-is where extensions are at the City's sole decision.
4	Contract, Section 2.5	Recology	Can the City clarify if Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Day is considered a holiday? The City of Seattle, as well as our Collective Bargaining Agreement, recognize MLK Day as a holiday, but County transfer stations typically do not.	The City expects collection holidays to align with the Kitsap County Solid Waste Transfer Station of New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day. However, the City is willing to discuss adding an additional holiday with the finalist if it is part of their Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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5	Contract, Section 2.17.2	WM	Container Labeling To minimize cost, would the city consider working with the hauler to extend the timeline to relabel all current carts?	The City would prefer to leave the contract wording as-is where garbage carts need to be relabeled within 60 days of the new contract start.
6	Contract, Section 3.6	WM	City Services Please provide service levels, collection frequency, and commodity type for each City Facility listed.	City services are available in Appendix B9 in the official RFP release.
7	Contract, Section 4.5	WM	Promotion, Education and Outreach What is the number of multi-commercial tenants in the Service Area?	The City currently has 1,447 multifamily units.
8	Contract, Section 5.2.1	WM	CPI Service Component Adjustment Recent history has shown that inflation can climb above 6%. In order for the Contractor to be kept whole to keep up with inflation beyond this level, would the City consider removing this cap? Alternatively, if the City wants a ceiling on this adjustment would it also consider a floor?	The City would prefer to leave the contract wording as-is with a floor of 0 and a ceiling of 6%.
9	General Question	Bainbridge Disposal	Will the responses to the questionnaire be shared, discussed, or made available in a public forum?	Yes, all the responses to the Industry Review questions and comments are available in Appendix D in the official RFP release.
10	General Question	Bainbridge Disposal	Who will make up the review committee for this proposal?	The evaluation committee has not been selected at this time, but is anticipated to include 3 – 5 employees related to solid waste and contracting.
11	General Question	Bainbridge Disposal	Unfortunately, it looks like the commercial recycling will stay open market – is this correct? a. Will the City need to amend its code to implement this approach? b. How will the City address the risk of haulers entering the commercial recycling market who fail to report tonnage or useful records to the City? c. What measures will be implemented to ensure accountability and provide the community and customers with safety, confidence and security when using open-market service	The City intends to maintain an open-market approach for commercial recycling in order to remain consistent with Washington State requirements. The City will encourage commercial customers to either use their contracted garbage hauler for recycling services or select a hauler that is properly licensed, insured, and bonded. Experience from other jurisdictions with similar arrangements indicates that most commercial customers choose their contracted hauler for recycling services.

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			<p>providers, particularly those that are usually not insured or bonded?</p> <p>d. Who will have oversight of contamination, such as hazardous waste, and trash being placed in commercial recycling containers – a common issue with open market recycling?</p> <p>e. Who will be responsible for preventing and enforcing illegal dumping of waste and recycling materials in open market recycling containers?</p> <p>f. What oversight procedures will be in place to prevent fraudulent haulers (“scam haulers”) from overcharging or misrepresenting their services?</p> <p>g. Based on prior experience, outside commercial haulers are a nuisance and lack accountability. How does the City justify the benefits of this approach given these concerns and risks, particularly if such haulers are excluded from the proposed system?</p>	<p>The City plans to update its code to align with the new contract. Because open-market recycling is conducted directly between businesses and their chosen hauler, the City does not plan to oversee contamination, pricing, or service verification. Past experience in similar programs shows very few issues with this approach. The City may intervene if illegal dumping occurs that violates City code, such as waste placed on the ground.</p>
12	General Question	Bainbridge Disposal	<p>We request confirmation that the City’s proposed contract definitions and program intent require commercial organics to be limited to source-separated organic materials and do not include food that remains in packaging.</p> <p>The contract definition of Food Scraps excludes plastics and other prohibited materials.</p> <p>Can the City confirm that this exclusion applies even when food is left in its packaging which is likely made up of plastic (garbage) or recyclables?</p> <p>Does the City agree that allowing packaged food into organics would conflict with the contract structure distinguishing garbage from source-separated compostables?</p>	<p>The City’s definitions of food scraps and compostables are intended to align with the current Kitsap County compostable acceptance list. Acceptable materials include compostable paper items (e.g., napkins, coffee filters, pizza boxes) and green compostable bags that meet ASTM D6400 or ASTM D6868 standards.</p> <p>Plastic, polycoated paper, and biodegradable or compostable plastics are not accepted in the compostable cart in any form, unless explicitly approved by both the contractor and the composting facility. Food that remains in plastic packaging is considered garbage and is not classified as source-separated compostable material. Allowing packaged food into organics would conflict with the contract structure that distinguishes garbage from source-separated compostables.</p>
13	General Question	Bainbridge Disposal	<p>Given that Bainbridge Disposal provides drop box and compactor services to major commercial generators—contributing to City utility tax revenues and maintaining service accountability—how will the City prevent outside haulers, who</p>	<p>The new solid waste collection contract is designed to provide the contracted hauler with exclusive rights for all regular garbage service, including drop box customers, as</p>

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			<p>do not pay the utility tax or meet equivalent standards, from undercutting these services?</p> <p>Q: Will the City adopt code provisions to ensure services remain with the awarded contractor, while preventing outside hauler from undermining established service standards, oversight and utility collection?</p>	<p>well as recyclable and compostable service for single-family and multifamily properties. Commercial recycling, composting, and construction/demolition services will continue as open-market services, allowing customers to select their own provider.</p> <p>The City will communicate with all customers to inform them of the new service structure once the contract is awarded. The contract specifies that the City will make a good faith effort to protect the exclusive rights of the Contractor. Additionally, the City Code will be updated later this year to reflect changes in the solid waste system and support the contract's implementation.</p>
14	General Question	Recology	Are any customers currently served by Limited Access Vehicles?	<p>No customers are currently served by Limited Access Vehicles. Appendix B7 identifies the private streets where customers receive curbside service, either via carry-out or from the nearest public street. The City expects the contractor to provide service at a similar or improved level. The contractor may determine the most effective method for servicing locations where large collection vehicles are difficult to maneuver.</p>
15	General Question	Recology	On the March 17 virtual pre submittal meeting, it was mentioned that the City would like a service provider located within 15 miles of the town. We did not see this requirement listed in the RFP. Can the City clarify the requirement in writing?	<p>During the resubmittal meeting, the City stated that all service providers located within a 50-mile radius—rather than 15 miles—were specifically invited to participate in the RFP process. Service providers within this radius were specifically invited to participate, while providers outside the radius are also welcome to submit proposals, though they were not proactively invited.</p> <p>The contract has been updated to include the requirement for an operations base within 50 miles of the City.</p>