

Frequently Asked Questions

Neighbourhood Conversion from Back Lane Communal Garbage Collection to Individual Roll-Out Carts

1. What are the benefits to converting to individual roll-out carts from communal back-lane bins?

- Improved, scheduled service
- Manage your own household waste
- Encouragement of personal waste minimization practices (reuse, recycling, composting, etc)
- Reduced dumping of illegal materials
- Reduced garbage container fires
- Reduced graffiti
- Reduced scavenging
- Less damage to property
- Less damage to back lanes
- Less damage to City trucks

2. Why is the City doing the conversion now?

In 2000, City Council adopted front street individual roll-out carts as the basis of collection in Saskatoon. Since that time all new neighbourhoods, as well as a number of established neighbourhoods, have been using this system. In 2007, City Council approved the *Saskatoon Waste and Recycling Plan* - a 20 year waste management plan for our city. The first stage of implementing many of the recommendations in the plan is to convert all remaining neighbourhoods to individual roll-out carts. A copy of the plan is available on the City's website at www.saskatoon.ca (search under "s" for Saskatoon Waste and Recycling Plan).

3. Which neighbourhoods will be converted next?

The remaining neighbourhoods still using the communal bin lane system will be converted over the 14 months. These neighbourhoods, in order of conversion, are as follows: Greystone Heights; Brevoort Park; Eastview; Nutana Park; Adelaide/Churchill; Holliston; Haultain; Buena Vista; Nutana; Westmount; King George; Meadow Green; and Holiday Park.

4. What is the City doing to help residents in neighbourhoods on the conversion list?

The City understands that not every neighbourhood, or every street, is alike. Successful conversions in neighbourhoods like Riversdale, Massey Place, Westview and Mount Royal have shown the City that accommodations must be made for special circumstances (these could include physical barriers on property like elevated yards with steps or a lack of residential parking space on the street). The City will do its best to accommodate these situations.

5. What if I am unable to roll my cart out from my property for collection?

Special needs service is also available to residents where there is a demonstrated need including medical conditions, physical barriers on the property or disabilities. Residents can call 975-2486 for more information.

6. What should I do if I need more than one cart for my property?

Every household will receive one roll-out cart from the City. Almost all homes who have received an individual 100 gallon roll-out cart have found it adequate and often excessive for their needs. However, additional carts are provided at no cost to homes that have a legal suite. Legal suite status is determined by registering the suite with the City and meeting all the requirements. Homes without a legal suite can contract for extra waste collection from the City per the Waste Bylaw (to review the Waste Bylaw visit the City's website at www.saskatoon.ca and search under "b" for Bylaws).

7. I live in an a multi-unit dwelling. Will I get an individual roll-out cart too?

Some multi-unit dwellings are required to use metal waste bins. Please call 975-2486 for more information.

8. I am interested in managing my household garbage in a more environmentally-responsible way. What services are available to me?

The City has six recycling depots throughout Saskatoon that take newspapers, cardboard, tin cans, milk jugs and beverage containers. There are also two free compost depots where residents can drop off their leaves, grass, non-Elm tree branches, and pumpkins. Additionally, the City offers a Leaves and Grass Collection Program on a subscription basis whereby unbagged leaves and grass are collected every two weeks throughout the summer months.

There are also many private companies that offer recycling and reuse opportunities. The City publishes a recycling brochure every spring with a list of these services. Brochures are distributed with utility bills to all households in April, and are available on the City's website at www.saskatoon.ca, search under "r" for Recycling.

9. How do I properly use my individual roll-out cart?

- lid of the cart must be completely closed
- all materials in the cart must be bagged
- your cart should be at the collection point by 7:00 a.m. on your collection day (see your collection calendar for the pick up schedule for your neighbourhood) to ensure service and removed from the street/lane within 24 hours of collection
- materials placed in the cart should not include: unbagged waste (including grass, leaves, and animal waste), improperly packaged needles or sharps, rugs or carpets, construction materials, liquids, dirt or sod, concrete or rocks, furniture, appliances or tree branches over 2 feet in length. These types of items should be disposed of at the Landfill or through a private waste disposal company.

10. How do I place the individual roll-out cart for front street collection?

The cart must be placed with the wheels toward the curb (as close as possible) except for those who live in a cul-de-sac. Don't place your cart on the sidewalk. If there is a snow bank along the curb, place your bin in front of it. Don't place the cart on the snow bank. If you live in a cul-de-sac, please refer to placement instructions in your annual garbage collection calendar or on the City's website at www.saskatoon.ca (look under "g" for Garbage Collection).

11. How do I place the individual roll-out cart for rear lane collection?

The cart must be placed in the lane prior to 7:00 a.m. on collection day. They must be placed on level ground, four feet from any obstruction including trees and/or poles. Residents are reminded not to block gates or garage doors. Carts must be removed from the lane and returned to the resident's property within 24 hours of the time of collection. Carts will be placed on one side of the lane only and this location will be indicated to homeowners prior to the first collection. Waste placed on the ground beside the cart will not be collected. If a rear gate must be widened or installed to allow rear lane access for the cart, this will be at the expense of the property owner.

12. If my individual roll-out cart is full, can I use my neighbours?

No. Individual roll-out carts are for the exclusive use of a household. The cart and its contents are the property of the City of Saskatoon. Tampering with the cart or its contents constitutes an offence under the Waste Bylaw.

13. Where do I take my excess garbage or materials deemed inappropriate for an individual roll-out cart?

Excess garbage or materials deemed inappropriate for an individual roll-out cart (see the Waste Bylaw for a full list) should be taken to the Landfill or disposed of through a private disposal company.

14. What happens to the individual roll-out cart pick up schedule during the winter months?

Because households tend to generate less garbage when the weather turns cold and there are less issues relating to odour, garbage is collected every other week starting in November (except over Christmas when weekly pick ups temporarily resume). This ensures efficient use of tax dollars.

15. What happens if my individual roll-out cart breaks or is stolen?

All roll-out carts remain the property of the City of Saskatoon. Lost or damaged carts will be repaired or replaced by the City. Call 975-2486 to report any problems.

16. What happens if there is a mess at the base of my individual roll-out cart that has been placed on the street/in the lane for collection?

If the mess is the result of the City's collection efforts, the truck operator will arrange for a City crew to come and clean up the mess as soon as possible. However, if the truck operator encounters a cart that is overfilled (has bags stacked beside the cart or piled on

the lid), or filled with inappropriate materials (per the Waste Bylaw), the cart will either be bypassed and/or forwarded to an Environmental Protection Officer for further investigation.