

Voucher Program Presentation Outline. City Council 10-10-17

Current Program

13.62.090 - Community clean-up days fee waiver.

- A. The city manager, or designee, is authorized to waive such landfill fees for those events which are previously identified and approved by the office of the city manager, and contribute to the overall cleanliness and appearance of the community including the following instances:

1. One day per year for all city and county residents. This day shall be coordinated with the Spring Time Community Clean-up Day.

2. Any community clean-up activity wherein a group wishes to collect trash, litter, and other debris, at a specified time and date with prior authorization for waiver of fees upon delivery of the collected refuse to the city sanitary landfill.

B. No waiver of fees shall occur to the county residents for the items for which the city incurs a cost of disposal beyond the limit of reimbursement from the county.

C. Local groups may apply for approval of community service events by contacting the office of the city manager and completing the appropriate form. All fees for trash collected within the city limits on public property shall be waived for the approved event.

Issues encountered with current program

Overall Cost

- Estimated \$20,000 of lost revenue per "Free Day". Staff, equipment and solid waste fees.

Personnel overtime cost.

- 94.75 hours of overtime for the 2017 "Free Day"

Equipment operations cost.

- 43 additional equipment hours for the 2017 "Free Day"

Safety hazards due to increased traffic

- The landfill receives an average of 115 vehicles per day during normal operations and the entrance was designed to handle no more than 300 per day. Free Days frequently exceed 1000 vehicles. Vehicle stacking on Roger Canyon Road becomes an issue.

Tons are estimated

- It is difficult to estimate weight in a truck or trailer. Historically, we believe estimates of weight have been low. This effects Future Planning, Budget and Reporting

Regulatory Issues

- Due to the increase in disposal tons, it takes staff many days to compact and cover the high volume of refuse received on "free day", potentially leaving us in violation of state and federal Daily Cover regulations. Litter control becomes difficult with the large dumping area and Litter along Roger Canyon (offsite of the landfill) is increased.

Fairness and convenience to residents

- Vouchers would be fairer to everyone involved. During previous free days there is always a group of people that seem to take advantage of the day by storing trash then bring in numerous loads while some people are more considerate and only bring in one load. There is also a group that seems to have scheduling conflicts when there is only one day available.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

- Due to the need to hurry and clean up in order to bring in as many loads as possible, some people choose to hide paints, oils and tires in their loads. Due to the free day volume it becomes difficult to properly screen for unwanted materials. Unfortunately, much of the HHW is not discovered until it is pushed up or goes undiscovered completely.

Compost

- The free day occurs in the spring, around the time that people are starting to come out and get some compost. Due to the traffic and staff involved with “free day” it is impossible to assist with loading of compost. Thus several compost customers are turned away.

Interference with Paying Customers

- There are still some paying customers that need to come in on Free Day, such as business and commercial waste. Traffic has to be modified from “no one using the scale” to having vehicles stop in order for business trucks to use the scale.

Weather

- If the weather is bad resident’s turnout can be low and the “Free Day” will be moved to the next weekend ultimately resulting in two “free days” possibly doubling the cost. With bad weather the Landfill access roads become muddy and at times very difficult to travel. This increases the chances for damage to vehicles and increases staff and equipment time assisting residents which takes them away from normal duties.

Proposed Program

The alternative we are proposing is a voucher program. Many facilities across the nation have either done away with a free day completely or have moved to a voucher type program for the same reasons I outlined above. The voucher program I have outlined was drafted from six other programs across the country and reviewed and tweaked by Laramie Solid Waste and Code Enforcement staff to fit our needs.

The program allows residents to dispose of their waste at their convenience within a two week period. It eliminates the need for overtime and extra equipment use because we anticipate that we will be able to handle the waste and traffic as part of our normal operation. The proposed program should eliminate congestion at the site, entrance and highway and either reduce or eliminate the concerns listed above. We would also have the ability to weigh all vehicles and properly account for and manage tonnages. This program eliminates the need to place dumpsters out on Community Cleanup day to receive garbage. This eliminates illegal dumping of HHW and E-Waste in loads and gives us more opportunity to support Clean-Up day volunteers. The back of the voucher could be printed with pertinent public information.

In August, Albany County used a voucher system that we approved in lieu of their normal County Clean-up day. It worked out great. The County issued vouchers to residents for a three week period and we

accepted the vouchers over a two week period (51 refrigerators and 1291 tires) and for the first time had no overtime associated with the County Clean-up program.

City of Laramie Landfill Voucher Program Rules

1. Vouchers will be valid for the first twelve Landfill operating days of May every year.
2. Vouchers will be issued in person at the Solid Waste office only (currently, 1167 N. 4th Street) beginning April 1 through the end of the first eleven operating days in May between the hours of 9:00am and 3:00pm, Monday through Thursday.
3. Vouchers are for households only. No business, commercial, industrial or institutional waste.
4. Requesters must show photo ID and any current utility bill (water, trash, electric, gas, etc.) with valid address in Albany County to obtain a voucher. The name on the ID must match the utility bill and the voucher will be issued for the service address on the utility bill.
5. One voucher per household or service address per year.
6. Vouchers will be good for one pick-up size load (approximately 2 ½ yards).
7. Vouchers are good for waste and/or recycling generated at the address on the voucher only.
8. Fees for tires, refrigerators, dead animals, special handling and uncovered loads still apply.
9. Household Hazardous Waste drop off requires an appointment. See back for details.
10. Vouchers will be redeemed at the Landfill Scale House only. Vouchers without an embossed stamp from the City of Laramie Solid Waste Division will not be accepted.
11. The voucher is a privilege and not a right. The Landfill Supervisor or Solid Waste Manager will make the final decision if the Scale Operator and Customer disagree on any aspect of the voucher program.