

City of Venice
Public Works Department
Solid Waste and Recycling Division

Pilot Project for Automated Residential Solid Waste Collection

Background:

The City of Venice currently collects trash using a one-man crew. The driver jumps out of the truck and lifts and empties trash cans into a container at the front of the truck and then jumps back in the truck and drives to the next stop. When the container is full, the contents are dumped into the bed of the truck and compacted. This process is physically demanding for the driver, shortening careers and creating opportunities for workers compensation claims. This type of operation limits collection to about 800 homes per route per day.

Proposal:

Purchase equipment using one-cent sales tax funds to allow for conversion of several trucks into automated collection vehicles. With automated collection, the driver maneuvers the truck next to a specially designed trash container. The equipment grasps the container, lifts it and dumps it using the truck's hydraulic system. The pilot program will involve all the Wednesday-Saturday routes, roughly 3,000 homes in total or about one-third of the single-family residences. The success of this pilot program will serve to direct future automated implementation plans. The city owns several trucks that can be converted at a cost of about \$30,000 each. Currently, the carts costs about \$50 apiece. To account for varying storage capacity in city neighborhoods, the city can choose to offer up to three different size carts.

Benefits of Automation:

- Solid waste collection efficiency will increase 25% to about 1,000 homes per route per day.
- The Solid Waste and Recycling Divisions will be better able to absorb many of the new homes planned for Venice.
- Decrease in workers compensation claims.
- Decrease in health care costs.
- The pool for new hires will be much larger and more diverse than it has been in the past.

Budget:

Truck conversions:	\$125,000
Trash cans:	<u>\$175,000</u>
Total:	\$300,000

Relationship to City Council's Strategic Plan:

Goal One: Keep Venice Beautiful and Eco-Friendly
Fewer emissions per collection.

Goal Two: Provide Efficient, Responsive Government with High Quality Services
More efficient operation

Goal Three: Ensure a Financially Sound City
Better use of fiscal resources

