

ORGANIZED TRASH
COLLECTION IN
SAINT PAUL:
REPORT ON
COMMUNITY INPUT
AND DRAFT GOALS
AND OBJECTIVES

Saint Paul Public Works

Organized Trash Collection in Saint Paul Report on Community Input and Draft Goals and Objectives

On February 24, 2016, the Saint Paul City Council passed a resolution directing the Saint Paul Department of Public Works to solicit input from residents using a variety of techniques in order to develop draft goals and objectives for implementing a system of organized trash collection (OTC) within the city of Saint Paul.

In its most simple terms, organized trash collection is a system for collecting trash in which one or multiple trash haulers are authorized to collect trash from a specific service area or collection zone. In an organized system, the city negotiates and ultimately holds a contract with one or multiple haulers. A designated hauler would pick up the trash from a neighborhood on a set day, for a set price.

Currently, Saint Paul has an open system of trash collection resulting in the need for individuals to contract with their own hauler. With no designated collection days or zones, this results in many haulers servicing each neighborhood across the city

This report describes the methods that Public Works employed to solicit feedback; summarizes the feedback received; and offers draft goals and objectives to the City Council should they decide to proceed forward with implementing an organized trash collection system.

History and Background

In 2011, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) adopted the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan 2010 – 2030 which set aggressive objectives for local governments for waste reduction, recycling, and organics recovery. These services are important components of the solid waste system to improve public health, reduce reliance on landfills, conserve energy and natural resources, and reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

In response to these new objectives, in 2013 the City of Saint Paul contracted with Wilder Research to conduct a study to identify the most effective strategies to meet the needs of the community and reach waste reduction and diversion goals. The study was conducted with surveys, focus groups and one-on-one interviews. The Recycle it Forward: A Comprehensive Assessment of Recycling and Waste Management report recommended that the City: 1) launch a major educational campaign to inform residents and reinvigorate their enthusiasm around recycling; 2) expand the number of plastic materials collected for recycling; 3) transition to single-sort recycling collection system with wheeled, lidded carts; 4) transition to a source-separated organics collection system; 5) diversify bulky waste management to offer more convenient disposal and reuse options; 6) coordinate (organize) trash collection to lower costs, reduce redundant truck traffic, and design trash pricing to incentivize recycling.

The Wilder Research study initiated a review of all city solid waste services. In 2014, in order to address the needs of the community and the recommendations within the report, the city initiated program improvements allowing residents to commingle materials and recycle more types of plastic items. In addition the city launched the All In Program brand to increase education and outreach.

Also in 2014, the Saint Paul City Council adopted waste diversion goals for the city, calling for a 50% waste diversion goal by 2020 and an 80% diversion goal by 2030. The establishment of these solid waste diversion goals cemented the city's commitment to improving and expanding opportunities in the community to reduce waste, recycle more and divert more organics from the waste stream.

Continuing on the trajectory of program change, in November 2015, the city released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for collection and processing of recyclables in an effort to expand recycling opportunities and make recycling more convenient and cost-effective for Saint Paul residents. The successful responders will begin their operations in January of 2017 with wheeled, lidded carts collected in the same location as trash. The city is also working in conjunction with Ramsey County to study methods for the collection of organic materials from residential properties.

While the recycling and organics programs can result in increased participation and a reduction in materials going to incinerators or landfills, a holistic system-wide approach to solid waste, including residential trash collection, is considered the key to meeting waste reduction and diversion goals.

The city is also responding to the interests and concerns about solid waste issues that have been expressed by our residents. In addition to the Wider Research study, a recent study completed by the Macalester Groveland Community Council with grant assistance from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, *Taking Out the Trash: An Investigation into Trash Collection in St. Paul* (2015) has indicated that residents are looking for the benefits that an organized trash collection system can provide.

The Department of Public Works employed four key methods to solicit feedback and information from residents regarding their priorities around trash collection:

- A survey asking residents to tell the city how important various aspects of trash collection are to them;
- Comments collected through Open Saint Paul, mailed surveys, e-mail, phone calls and letters;
- Face to face interactions at neighborhood meetings, local events, and with specific stakeholder groups; and
- The collection of residential trash collection bills in order to collect baseline information about what Saint Paul residents are currently paying for trash collection service.

Resident Survey

A survey of residents soliciting their opinions about which features of trash service are important to them was conducted over the months of March and April 2016. Residents could respond to the survey using either of two methods: 1) a written questionnaire that could be sent to Public Works via regular mail or turned in to staff at community meetings or events; 2) an electronic questionnaire available through the city's Open Saint Paul discussion site.

Both versions of the questionnaire asked the same questions requesting residents to rank several aspects of trash collection on a 1 to 5 scale (with 1 being least important and 5 being most important). At the request of the city council, the questionnaire also included questions related to alley plowing.

A public information campaign was utilized to encourage residents to complete the survey and also to send in their trash collection bills. The campaign included:

- General information posted on the city's Organized Trash Collection web page;
- Notice to traditional, local media outlets with newspaper articles appearing in the major daily newspapers and several community newspapers;
- Advertising through free social media including the city's Facebook page and Twitter account;
- Paid social media to target specific zip codes and demographics (generating 25,793 impressions and over 1,000 connections to the information web page)
- Articles on city council and district council websites and in district council news outlets;
- Printed informational brochures (including the written survey) that were made available in each of the city council offices, district council offices, all city library buildings, and at several neighborhood events;
- A direct mail piece that was sent to 4000 households in areas of the city where the initial response rate was lower;
- Direct outreach and focus groups through trusted, multi-cultural community organizations; and
- One-on-one conversations at several community meetings and events.

This outreach resulted in 147 written responses to the survey and 1,836 responses through Open Saint Paul, the largest community response on Open Saint Paul to date. The written responses were added to the Open Saint Paul format for tabulation and analysis.

Of those who provided optional demographic information on Open Saint Paul, 51% were female; 49% were male. Those who provided demographic information also hailed from each of the city's 7 wards:

Ward 1	47
Ward 2	51
Ward 3	94
Ward 4	103
Ward 5	43
Ward 6	35
Ward 7	32

The following are the key items residents consider when choosing a trash hauler as collected through the community survey. The items are ranked by the percentage of respondents considering it important or very important. The full survey results are available at www.stpaul.gov/open.

Rank	Item	High or Very High	Neutral	Low or Very Low
1	Consistent, Quality Customer Service	89.9%	6.3%	3.1%
2	Stable, Uniform Rates	81.5%	11.5%	9%
3	Reasonable, Low Cost	79.7%	14.6%	4.8%
4	Reduction in Illegal Dumping	61.4%	19.1%	17.8%
5	Financial Incentives to Recycle More	61%	17.9%	19.5%
6	Reducing Wear & Tear From Truck Traffic	60.3%	16.8%	21.3%
7	Pollution Concerns Related to Trucks	58.7%	16.1%	24.2%
8	Options for Convenient Disposal of Bulky Items	58.1%	23.2%	17.6%
9	Opportunities for Small, Local & Minority Owned Trash Haulers	58%	22.7%	18.2%
10	Noise Concerns Related to Trucks	52.1%	17.3%	29.1%
11	Safety Concerns Related to Trucks	42.2%	20.4%	35.1%
12	Easy Access for New Residents & Non-English Speakers	41.4%	28.5%	27.6%
13	Individual Choice of Hauler	33.9%	13.1%	51.8%

When asked to further identify which aspects of customer service were important, the following aspects of customer service are listed in rank order by the percentage of respondents considering them important or very important.

Rank	Item	High or Very High	Neutral	Low or Very Low
1	Ability to Talk to a Person	74.9%	16.8%	11.3%
2	Ability to Set Out Extra Bags with No Additional Charge	55.9%	22.3%	21.6%
3	Ability to Pay Extra for Large, Special Clean Out Service	52.1%	27%	19.5%
4	Carts Left in Same Location After Pickup	50.3%	25.5%	23.7%

Residents were also asked questions about alley snow plowing.

When asked if their alley gets plowed, the respondents answering the question responded:

YES	67.9%
NO	32.1%

A significant number of respondents (863 or 43.5% of total respondents) did not answer the question. Many of those respondents indicated that they did not have an alley.

Those who responded YES to the question were asked to identify who plows the alley. They responded:

You/Your Neighbor	10.6%
Private Company	58%
I Don't Know	9.1%
Other	22.3%

Those who responded NO were asked to check off barriers to having the alley plowed. They responded:

I Don't Understand the System or How it Works	11.9%
No One Has Asked Me to Contribute	24.6%
I Am Unable to Pay For the Services	8.5%
Other	70.5%

When asked to provide comment about other reasons the alley does not get plowed, the most common comments related to the difficulty of organizing neighbors and receiving payment. Others indicated that they didn't want or need alley plowing. A tally of the comments related to alley snow plowing is included in the Resident Comments section of this report.

When asked how important it is for residents to have their alleys plowed for personal vehicle accessibility, trash removal services, emergency service vehicles, and pedestrian mobility, respondents indicated:

Very Important	56%
Important	11.8%
Neutral	9.1%
Less Important	3.8%
Least Important	19.3%

Resident Comments

In addition to the survey information, residents offered comments on organized trash collection through a variety of methods including:

- Phone calls
- E-mails
- Letters
- Tweets
- Through the Open Saint Paul Survey
- Notes on the bottom of mailed surveys
- Notes on mailed bills

Public Works did not specifically request comments, so not all respondents provided them. However, the following is an attempt to capture a number of the major sentiments expressed through the public commentary received. The number following the topic area is the number of comments received on that topic.

Overall Sentiment Regarding OTC	# of Comments
I support organized trash collection	76
I oppose organized trash collection	44
I want to have a choice of hauler	37
I oppose city/government mandate	36
Competition is good/less competition is bad	15
OTC has environmental benefits	13
Compare/miss OTC from another city	11
Regarding Trash Haulers	
I like my current hauler	75
I want to support local, small, independent hauler(s)	42
OTC will put small, local, independent haulers out of business	17
OTC will create a monopoly of large, national haulers	15
Our block/neighbors have organized for a hauler	12
I have had bad experience with a previous hauler	10
Like that hauler takes garbage to burner/Newport	7
Cost	
OTC will cost me more	30
I want cheaper service/not pay more for service	18
OTC will cost me less	11
I want to see as part of property taxes or ROW assessment	5
I want a consistent cost	3
Charge for individual trash bags	3
Concern will have to pay whether or not needed	2

Container Size-Frequency of Service	# of Comments
I want option for shared/low volume/on-call service	53
I only generate a small amount of trash	40
Want option to take own trash	13
Want different size containers (larger or smaller)	7
Want option to suspend service if out of town	7
Want option to opt out	6
Want options for every-other week/less frequent service	5

Additional Services Important/Want to See

Yard waste collection	23
Incentives to reduce waste	15
Organics collection	6
Bulky or special items	8
Like current ability to add items	5
Coordination of trash and recycling days	4
Special arrangements for less able-bodied	3
Want pick up from alley	3
Senior discount	2

Customer Service

My current hauler has excellent customer service	10
OTC will mean less customer service	7
Encourage good customer service	7

Issues with current open system

Too many trucks in alley or streets	42
Noise	9
Dumping	5

Single residents commented on arbitration clauses, didn't know they could find a better price, service areas should be equitable for haulers, don't like contracts, want city employees to pick up, prefer pickup from street not alley.

In addition to comments from residents on OTC, Public Works received a number of comments on alley snow plowing. The following is an attempt to capture the sentiments expressed by residents on alley snow plowing.

Would like to see city organized alley plowing	25
It is difficult to organize and collect payment for alley plowing	25
Don't want or need alley plowing	14
Current system is unrealistic/unworkable	11
I (or my neighbor) do our alley plowing	6
I can't afford to pay for alley plowing	2
I would like to see garbage service and alley plowing combined	2
Don't like my current snow removal service	2

Single residents commented that organized alley plowing would be too slow, want alley plowing for no charge, and asked why alley plowing isn't included in the city's Right of Way assessment services.

Community Outreach

Public Works staff participated in a series of community outreach activities to answer questions related to OTC, solicit feedback from residents, and encourage completion of the survey. Invitations to meet were extended to all of the district councils and to several community organizations. Language specific focus groups and meetings were offered through community trusted, multi-cultural partners. Below is a list of the larger meetings and presentations that have taken place to date.

Date	Time	District	Event	Outreach Strategy
2/23/2016	6:30 PM	District 15	Highland District Council Community services Committee	Presentation/ Q A
3/6/2016	2:00 PM	District 7	Frogtown Green Gathering	Tabling
3/7/2016	6:30 PM	District 6	District 6 Board meeting	Presentation/ Q A
3/26/2016	12:30 - 3:30 pm	District 13	Fix-It Clinic	Tabling
3/28/2016	6:30 PM	District 11	Environment Committee Meeting	Presentation/ Q A
4/4/2016	6:00 PM	District 6	Taste of North End Annual Meeting	Tabling
4/6/2016	7:30 PM	District 13	Union Park Board Meeting	Presentation/ Q A
4/14/2016	6:30 PM	District 14	Board Meeting	Panel Discussion
4/17/2016	1:00 PM	District 10	Sunday Series - Recycling, organized trash, organics, etc.	Panel Discussion
4/19/2016	6:30 PM	District 5	Environment Committee Meeting	Presentation/ Q A
4/20/2016	6:00 PM	City Wide Participants	Focus Group @ CLUES	Focus Group Discussion plus survey
4/23/2016	9 am - 2pm	DISTRICTS 15 & 14 +	Home Improvement Fair	Tabling
Multiple Dates	Multiple Times	City Wide Participants	Hmong American Partnership	Connection with Established Homeowner Groups, Surveys

Trash Hauler Meetings

Public Works staff also requested meetings with each of the city's currently licensed, residential trash haulers in order to get their feedback regarding OTC. Staff met with 12 of the 14 licensed, residential haulers. Some of these meetings occurred in groups, some were with individual haulers.

Saint Paul currently has 14 licensed, residential haulers. Four of the haulers are considered to be National/Regional haulers. Ten are considered to be Local/Independent haulers.

Many of the sentiments expressed about OTC are similar for both the local and national haulers. However, there are some aspects of OTC that are more concerning to one group or the other. Below is a summary of the major comments that came out of the hauler meetings.

Concerns

- **Lack of ability to expand or grow business** was a concern expressed by both the local/independent and national/regional haulers. If the city proceeds forward with a consortium model, as described in Minnesota Statute 115A.94, the current market share held by each of the current haulers would remain static for the length of any agreement with the city. While this secures an account base during the term of the contract, it does not allow for any business expansion.
- **Speed of the process.** Some of the haulers expressed concern that the 60 day process required by Minnesota Statute 115A.94 would not provide adequate time for the consideration of a consortium model. There was concern that the city might speed through this process in order to put OTC out to bid.
- **Larger companies are in a better position to absorb lower rates.** The local/independent haulers expressed concern that national/regional haulers can absorb lower rates more easily. They also know that the national/regional haulers hold a larger portion of the market share in Saint Paul. The local/independent haulers are concerned that if a process is established that apportions votes by market share, the national/regional haulers may hold out for lower prices in order to drive OTC out to bid.
- The potential inclusion of a city requirement for **Labor Peace Agreements** was a concern to the national/regional haulers. Local/independent haulers were less concerned that as an issue or barrier. There were questions about what might be required under a labor peace agreement and what the city would consider as a "living wage" salary.

- Some haulers indicated that the inclusion of **performance bonds and/or high insurance requirements** could present a hardship for smaller, local/independent haulers.
- Some haulers indicated a concern about potential **Hauling Routes**. There was recognition that some areas of the city present more difficulties for haulers than others (more/less dense, narrower alleys, more large or bulky items, higher volumes of trash, etc.). Several indicated concern about working within the current recycling routes and days for collection. They suggested adjusting recycling routes to coincide with trash collection.
- Haulers had a number of questions regarding how the city plans to address **organics collection** and expressed concerns about the lack of infrastructure such as a transfer station.
- **Transfer station capacity** could be an issue if all haulers would be required to use a single location within the city.
- With the Ramsey Washington Energy Board now owning the **Recycling and Energy Center** in Newport, building renovations, upgrades and timing for new tip fees are uncertainties that could be problematic for setting a price for a consortium model.

Other feedback

- Most of the haulers agree that there can be **increased efficiency** for them in having an organized route(s) within the city. Several of them have made efforts to consolidate their business within certain neighborhoods in the city to reduce costs.
- Some haulers indicated that **City owned carts** would be a preference under an organized system. Others were concerned about the amount of investment that had been made in existing carts.
- Several haulers indicated that there would be a preference for the **City to handle customer billing**. They indicated that this would provide more reliable income for the haulers and may help lower prices, as they would be less concerned about delinquent customers.
- As a rule, the haulers indicated the need for maintaining **high quality hauling service and high quality customer service**.
- One hauler indicated that the **fees charged in the Saint Paul market are artificially low** due to the large number of haulers operating within the city. They suggested a cap on the number of haulers operating.

- Some of the haulers have indicated that **the industry is changing** and that there is a need to be adaptable to keep up with those changes.
- In general, the **trash haulers take great pride** in the work that they do, many of them being in the second or third generation of business ownership.
- The haulers wanted to see the **alleys** plowed but were not necessarily interested in providing that service.

Trash Bill Analysis

Public Works staff requested that residents send copies of their trash bills to the City for review. This exercise was undertaken to get an understanding of the average fee for trash collection within the city and to develop an awareness of the range of fees residents are charged.

Public Works Staff were fortunate to have the assistance from a cohort of University of Minnesota’s Humphrey School of Public Affairs Policy Fellows who were interested in learning about the policy creation and public information aspects of OTC. The fellows entered all of the data collected from resident bills and provided the initial analysis of the information. In addition, the fellows created a trash bill information sheet for the Public Works website and conducted interviews with City of Minneapolis staff about the inclusion of Labor Peace Agreements within their trash collection contracts.

Data analyses were conducted on trash invoices and bills sent to city staff from residents. These data summaries and analyses are based only from a snapshot of residents who sent their bills to the city. There is not enough data to claim statistical significance on any metric or to show true representation of all city residents. The information should be viewed as “snapshots of those invoices submitted voluntarily.” At least one bill was received for all 14 haulers and from 10 different zip codes.

Data Transfer Process

City staff sent the invoices received from residents to the data analysts. The data from the files were manually transferred to a spreadsheet for analysis. When possible, city staff contacted residents to request missing data elements, such as zip code and size of trash can.

Overview of Data Processed

As shown in Table 1, from the 274 invoices processed, analyses were conducted based on the respective number of invoices that contained the relevant data points. In some cases, invoices were not processed because the data was not comparable. For example, in some cases the cost for trash was combined with a yard waste service. In other cases, an irregular can size was used so the invoices was not included for processing.

Sample Size Totals and Missing Data Elements Overview (Table 1)

	Invoices processed	All data elements present	Missing zip code only	Missing can size only	Contain regular can size, frequency, and amount	Contain regular can size, frequency, amount, and zip
Number of invoices	274	213	17	37	214	199

Terms

Total Cost represents the total price the customer paid including all taxes, net discounts, and additional surcharges from the hauler. Taxes included on all bills include: 1. Minnesota State Tax (9.75%) credited to the State Environmental Fund and 2. County Environmental Charge (CEC). The CEC rate is 28% for residential customers and funds the Ramsey Washington Recycling and Energy Board’s Recycling and Energy Center and supports Ramsey County’s household hazardous waste, yard waste and organic waste collection programs. The tax is applied to trash collection and disposal service, fuel surcharges, account start-up or cancellation fees and any other administrative fees.

Surcharges represent any additional fees or surcharges as set by the hauler. Some haulers do not charge additional fees. Surcharges are most often described as environmental fees, admin fees, and fuel surcharges. Added charges do not include county and state taxes.

Weighted Average Price is the average adjusted price figure for can size. Calculations were made on the assumption of 78,200 dwellings. We understand that the weighted average price is an industry standard calculation.

Primary Findings

Figures 2-4 are based on 214 invoices that contained the critical data elements of 1) a regular can size, 2) frequency, and 3) amount.

Invoice breakdown by Can Size (Table 2)

	Small (30-38 gallons)	Medium (50-68 gallons)	Large (90-96 gallons)
Number of invoices	118	68	28

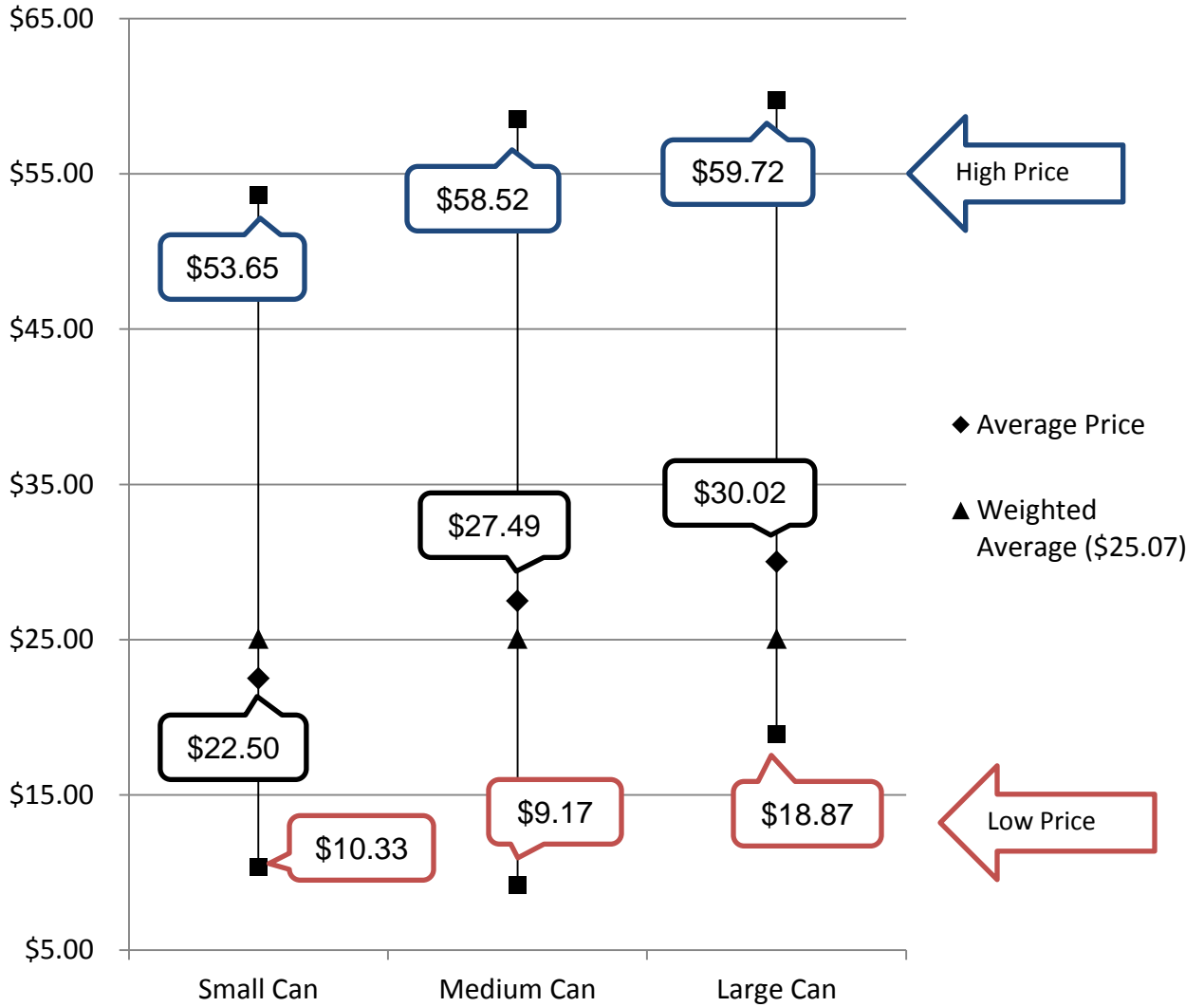
Monthly Price Breakdown Table (Table 3)

	Small (30-38 gallons)	Medium (50-68 gallons)	Large (90-96 gallons)
High monthly price	\$ 53.65	\$ 58.52	\$ 59.72
Average monthly price	\$ 22.50	\$ 27.49	\$ 30.02
Low monthly price	\$ 10.33	\$ 9.17	\$ 18.87
Median price	\$ 22.00	\$ 27.19	\$ 27.23

High Price to Low Price Differential (Table 4)

	Small (30-38 gallons)	Medium (50-68 gallons)	Large (90-96 gallons)
Difference	\$ 43.32	\$ 49.35	\$ 40.85

Monthly Price Range and Average Breakdown Chart (n=214 invoices) (Figure 1)



Secondary Findings

The following graphs and calculations used bills that contained required data elements. See respective sample size used for each figure.

Count of Submitted Invoices by Zip Code (total=199) (Table 5)

	Total	Small Can	Medium Can	Large Can
55102	10	4	3	3
55103	20	13	6	1
55104	23	14	6	3
55105	39	22	11	6
55106	29	14	11	4
55107	3	3	0	0

55108	10	5	3	2
55116	15	9	3	3
55117	32	15	14	3
55119	17	10	4	3
55124	1	0	1	0

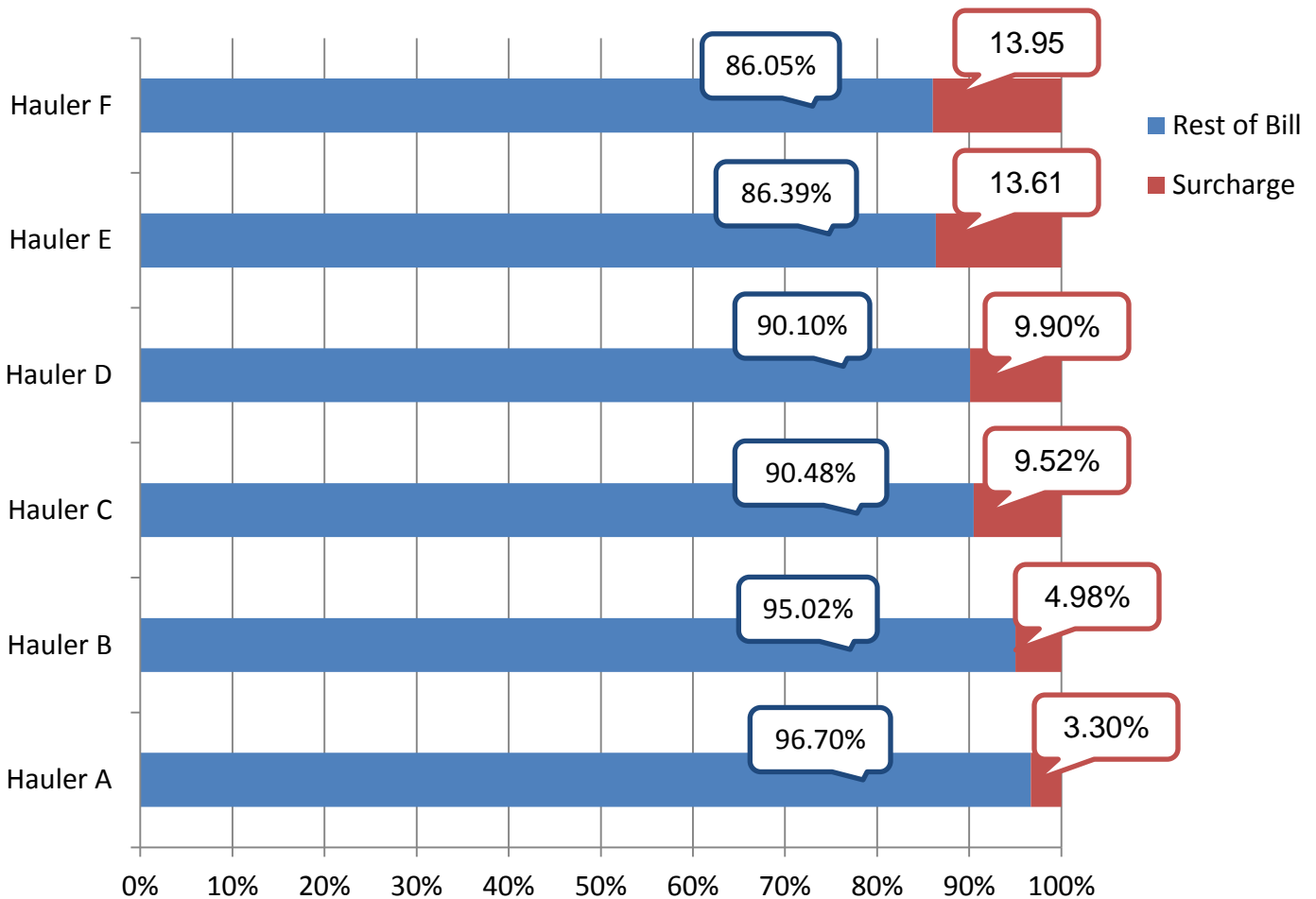
Average Price for Small Can with Minimum of 10 Invoices (Table 6)

	Number of Invoices	Average Price for Small Can
55103	13	\$ 22.25
55104	14	\$ 23.96
55105	22	\$ 22.63
55106	14	\$ 22.23
55117	15	\$ 21.94
55119	10	\$ 21.80

Surcharges by hauler as represented as a share of total bill (total invoices=135) (Table 7)

	Count of invoices	Average Percent Surcharge as a Portion of Total Bill
Hauler A	17	3.30%
Hauler B	20	4.98%
Hauler C	30	9.52%
Hauler D	26	9.90%
Hauler E	20	13.61%
Hauler F	22	13.95%

Surcharges by hauler as represented as a share of total bill (total invoices=135) (Figure 2)



Summary of Observations

The most notable characteristic is the range in pricing for the same can size. As shown in Figure 1, customers paying the lowest price submitted paid \$40.85-\$49.35 per month less than the highest paying prices submitted, depending on can size. While the high and low prices are anomalous, it does demonstrate the potential for great variation. The median price was not included on Figure 1 as it was so close to the average, the markers overlapped. For reference, the median is listed in Table 3.

Variation also exists both among haulers who itemize a surcharge on the invoices (6 haulers apply surcharges and 8 do not) and within the amount (see Table 7 and Figure 2). Among haulers listing a surcharge, the percentage share of the bill ranges from 3.30% to 13.95%.

No notable differences (Table 6) were evident among average prices for small cans when broken down by zip codes from which at least 10 invoices were present. The sample sizes of invoices were quite low after sorting by zip code and can size, as seen in Table 5.

Irregular Charges

There are an additional 20 invoices of irregular charges, often as one-time pickup. Most bills were from \$3.00-\$35.00 for miscellaneous pickups such as an appliance. But the exceptions we noticed were some high charges for annual yard pickup of \$97.00-\$257.00. This made analysis difficult, but would translate to an additional charge of \$8.09-\$21.42 per month for some residents.

Goal Recommendations

There are several procedural steps a city must take before it is authorized to adopt organized collection of solid waste. These procedures are spelled out in Minnesota State Statute 115A.94 Organized Collection.

Subdivision 4d of the statute requires that a city or town with more than one licensed collector must notify the public and all licensed collectors in the community of the city's intent to consider organized collection. The city must also provide a 60-day period in which meetings and negotiations shall occur exclusively between the currently licensed collectors to develop a proposal to collect solid waste from designated sections of the city. This proposal shall include city identified priorities including issues related to zone creation, traffic, safety, environmental performance, service provided, and price.

Based on the information received through community feedback and prior values expressed by the Saint Paul City Council, the Department of Public Works recommends that, if the City Council proceeds forward with the consideration of Organized Trash Collection (OTC), they adopt the following goals for consideration in negotiations with trash collectors.

A measure of importance has been assigned to help identify those goals that should be given a higher priority during negotiations:

- 1 = Key Priority
- 2 = High Priority
- 3 = Would Like to Achieve

Zone Creation

- Maintain opportunities for small, local, minority and women owned trash haulers (1)
- Support living wage jobs and labor peace agreements (1)
- Create zones that fairly recognize differing neighborhood characteristics and complications (2)
- Coordinate trash and recycling collection days (3)

Traffic & Safety

- Reduce the number of trucks on alleys and streets (1)
- Reduce noise from equipment and operations (2)

Environmental Performance

- Create routes that minimize the use of fuel and air pollution (1)
- Provide financial incentives to residents to recycle more and divert organic material from the waste stream (1)
- Process trash at Ramsey Washington Recycling and Energy Center (1)
- Use of trucks that utilize best environmental fuel technology (i.e. biogas, compressed natural gas) (3)

Service Provided

- Provide customer service that includes ability to talk to a customer service representative (1)
- Provide options for the disposal of bulky items such as appliances, mattresses, tires, etc. (1)
- Provide consistent customer service across the city (1)
- Provide options for the disposal of yard waste (2)
- Improve access to information for non-English speakers (2)
- Provide arrangements for pickup from less able-bodied residents (2)
- Provide option to increase amount of material removed (i.e. extra bag) (3)

Price

- Provide stable and uniform rates for residents throughout the city (1)
- Reduce costs for a majority of residents (1)
- Provide prices for different size containers (1)
- Provide options for less frequent or temporary suspension of service (3)

Alley Snow Plowing

The City Council requested that Public Works solicit feedback from residents about alley plowing within the city. Residents did express some interest in seeing a more coordinated system for alley plowing. However, given the complexity involved in creating such a system, Public Works would recommend that any consideration of the coordination of alley snow plowing be considered separately from the discussion OTC.