

## Community Cleanup Days

Community cleanup days are a value-added service that allows your residents to properly dispose of unwanted material that is often not accepted at curbside. Residents can drop off yard waste, appliances, electronics, construction and demolition waste, household furniture and other bulky household items at a designated location.



With proper planning, certain material streams can be recovered for reuse and recycling, potentially reducing disposal costs.

### Planning your cleanup day

- Form a planning committee with representatives from multiple departments such as public works, codes enforcement, neighborhood community services and police. Delegate specific tasks among committee members and meet regularly to ensure good communication.
- Visit and observe other community cleanup events for ideas on how to successfully organize your own event. Are there lessons to be learned from staff at other cities or counties?
- When selecting an event date, consider other community events and plan accordingly. Determine if staffing and volunteer levels can support multiple events.

### Site considerations

- Think about traffic flow patterns for entering and exiting the event. Avoid traffic backup onto public roadways.
- Provide adequate signage at the event (parking, directional signs, collection bins, etc.). If necessary, dedicate staff/volunteers to direct traffic.
- Determine what materials will be accepted; identify the final destinations for these items and create a fee collection system.
- Consider on-site stations to better manage flow for off-loading materials. Be aware that certain materials may require special handling, such as appliances with Freon.
- To avoid long lines — or if event space is limited — consider holding a separate event for high-volume materials such as yard waste or electronics.

### Materials management — plan your end markets

- Work with existing haulers to determine current level of services offered. Consider supplemental vendors to expand recovery of materials.
- **Recyclespot.org** can provide a list of potential vendors. District staff can provide additional assistance: 816/474-TEAM (8326).
- Frequently check in with your service providers and make sure expectations for all parties are clear.

### After the event

- Debrief with your committee after the event and make notes for next year's event. What worked? What didn't?

### Staff and volunteers

- Ensure adequate staffing and consider staggered shifts.
- Convene key staff to review materials accepted and other key logistics.
- Conduct on-site training for staff and volunteers to review basic safety procedures, materials accepted, traffic flow and any other event logistics.
- Have volunteer roles in place prior to the event and delegate specific tasks as appropriate.
- Provide water and food for staff and volunteers.
- Recognize/thank staff and volunteers.

### Ways to help reduce or offset event costs:

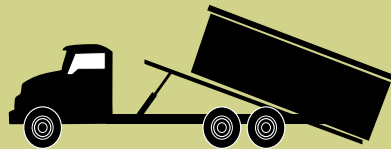
- Charge a user fee to the resident. Charging a fee communicates that there are costs to get rid of materials whether they are landfilled or recycled.
- Avoid after-event cleanup costs. To avoid illegal dumping after the event, make sure the premises are cleared by the end of the day. People tend to dump their materials even if the site is fenced, but that can be less likely if the site is well-maintained.
- Volunteers can help defray costs, but consider the liability issues. Groups such as the Boy Scouts or the Girl Scouts sometimes have their own insurance and can be available to assist at events.

### Collection considerations – one size doesn't fit all

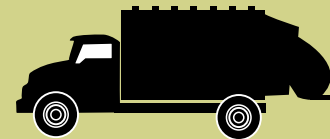
- **Consider what type of container to use for collecting materials.** Packer trucks and roll-off containers both offer advantages. What to choose may depend on the size and scope of event. Waste streams can vary by community. *(Example: a college town is likely to have large amounts of furniture and bulky material due to students disposing of such materials after graduation.)*
- **Packer trucks** will carry more volume than a 40-yard roll-off. For instance, one 32-yard packer can move roughly the same amount of yard waste as three 40-yard roll-offs. The savings a community can get by using fewer trucks can be quite significant. If you expect a busy event and need to keep moving materials off-site, packer trucks are a good option.

#### COLLECTION CONTAINERS

what works best for your community's event?



A **ROLL-OFF** is an open top dumpster designed to be transported by special roll-off trucks. Roll-offs are commonly used for construction and demolition waste, recyclables or other waste types.



A **PACKER TRUCK** has an opening at the rear that waste bags or the contents of bins can be emptied into. It usually compacts materials with a sweep-and-slide system that compresses items against a moving wall.

- If the event is in a small town and traffic is not heavy, a **roll-off** may make more sense. This approach would reduce driver costs.
- Some **bulky items** are more appropriately disposed of in a roll-off container. (*Example: it would be better to dispose of a compressor in a roll-off than in a packer truck.*)
- **Using both types of containers at a larger event can offer flexibility.** If a resident arrives with a truck full of shingle that will take time to unload, they can be sent to the roll-off for unloading. This keeps the line moving and also utilizes the roll-off effectively.
- When collecting bids from providers, **consider if services will be paid for by the pull or by the ton.**

### **An event's success can be attributed to the outreach efforts conducted in advance**

- Make sure residents have access to event information well in advance. Clearly outline date, time, location, accepted materials, fees, etc.
- Outreach methods can include municipal and county websites, fliers, local TV channels, radio, newsletters and local newspapers. Determine which outlets work best for reaching every audience.
- For times when staff is unavailable, voice mail messages with event details can be helpful — especially on the day of the event.
- Clearly communicate if the cleanup event is for residents only. Consider referring other inquiries (businesses, non-residents, etc.) to RecycleSpot.org.

### **Engaging community**

- Take advantage of the one-on-one educational opportunities with your residents.
- Educate your residents on other solid waste services offered in or around your community.
- Engaging partners can create a positive event atmosphere and helps position a cleanup event more as a “community” day and less as a “dump” day.
- Invite local leaders to participate in the event. Cleanup events are good opportunities for elected representatives and residents to interact with each other.

### **Donations**

- Collect items for donations at the front of the drop-off line. As residents enter, check vehicles for reusable items and direct them to a collection truck for donations to a local charity.
- Work with a local charity to arrange a curbside collection for reuse the weekend prior to your event.

### **Other ideas for fostering community at your event:**

- Pet licensing
- A car wash
- Distributing information on public services such as flu shots from the health department

This is an example of how a cleanup event setup could be organized. Arrange various stations as best suits your site and materials collection.

**KEY**

-  Items for RECYCLING
-  Items for REUSE
-  Items for COMPOSTING

**SAMPLE CLEANUP SITE**

