

## News Release

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### **City of Sacramento Recycle and Yard Waste Collection Changes Begin July 1, 2013**

Several changes in recycle and yard waste collection for 120,000 City of Sacramento residential customers begin the week of July 1, 2013.

- Recycle collection is changing to every-other-week. All residents will be on an A or B week schedule.
- All yard waste must be put in a City issued container for weekly collection. Yard waste piles in the street will be legal only during leaf season in November, December and January.
- The Appointment Based neighborhood cleanup is back. Customers can make one appointment per year between February and October for the free pickup of bulky items like appliances, furniture, televisions and computer equipment.

The changes are part of a long-term plan to keep garbage, recycling and yard waste rates unchanged through June 2015.

#### **Recycling Details**

The move to every-other-week recycling mirrors the collection services in other parts of the region. "In 2006, the city switched from every-other-week to weekly collection of recyclables" says Steve Harriman, Integrated Waste General Manager with the City of Sacramento. "By moving to weekly collection, we expected to see a significant increase in recycling tonnage; in truth, we collected only 10% more recycling but our operational costs went up significantly. Our primary goal is strike a balance between convenient services and stable customer rates. Fewer trucks on city roads will mean reduced emissions and less wear on neighborhood streets. We also reduced the cost of a second recycle can to \$1.76 per month to encourage recycling."

## **Yard Waste Details**

All yard waste must be placed in City issued containers and will be collected weekly. Loose leaf piles in the street will only be collected during leaf season in November, December and January. “The previous service model allowed customers to choose between weekly containerized service or year-round loose-in-the-street service,” says Harriman. “Only 12,000 out of 120,000 households subscribed to the loose-in-the-street program, however confusion over who could and could not place yard waste in the street, gardeners abusing the service by illegally dumping yard waste, and concerns about stormwater quality and flood risk made the program difficult, and costly, to maintain.” The new program provides uniform services for all customers with weekly container collection, which is more than any other local city or county in the region, as well as the ability to place yard waste in the street during November, December and January. Reduction of yard waste piles will improve stormwater quality, reduce threat of localized street flooding, make roads safer for bicyclists and pedestrians, and allow for easier on-street parking.

## **More Information**

Customers have received several notifications and calendars by mail and email about the service changes, if they are on the A or B recycle schedule, and any changes to collection days. Customers can go to [www.sacrecycle.org](http://www.sacrecycle.org) or call 311 to learn specific information about collection days at their property.

## **Recycling Week Text and Email alerts**

Customers who want an easy way to remember their every-other-week recycling schedule can sign up for text alerts or email reminders at [www.sacrecycle.org](http://www.sacrecycle.org). The Sac311 app, free for iPhone and Android, has the new recycle alert feature, as well as a quick look up option that instantly tells a customer about their collection day and recycle schedule.

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Recycling & Solid Waste | 2812 Meadowview Road | Sacramento, CA 95832  
[www.sacrecycle.org](http://www.sacrecycle.org)