



**To:** Mayor and Council

**Agenda Item #:** V. G.

**From:** Jordan Gilgenbach, Communications Coordinator

**Action**

**Date:** April 22, 2013

**Discussion**

**Subject:** March "Speak Up, Edina" Report

**Information**

### **Action Requested:**

Receive report on March 2014 "Speak Up, Edina" discussion about organized garbage hauling.

### **Information / Background:**

Since June 2012, the City of Edina has used the online engagement website, [www.SpeakUpEdina.org](http://www.SpeakUpEdina.org), to collect ideas and opinions from residents. One of the City Council's six strategic priorities for 2014-2015 is Communication and Engagement: "To clearly understand community needs, expectations and opinions, the City will consistently seek the input of a broad range of stakeholders in meaningful and interactive communication." A goal of that is to host a monthly discussion on [www.SpeakUp.Edina.org](http://www.SpeakUp.Edina.org). In March 2014, the discussion topic centered on organized garbage hauling. In this online discussion, the City posed the following questions:

- Do you prefer to choose your garbage hauler, or would you prefer the City hold contracts (like recycling) with haulers so only one garbage hauler would be used per zone or City-wide? Why or why not?
- What are the biggest concerns if the City were to move to a City-contracted garbage hauler? What are the benefits of keeping it the way it is?
- They City provides a single recycling hauler, and residents are billed quarterly with their water bills. Would you support a similar payment structure? How much would you be willing to pay per quarter for City-contracted garbage service?

The discussion was open for comments between Feb. 28 and April 1. During that time, 126 comments were made. Additionally, 1,229 people visited the site 1,762 times, garnering 8,689 page views. Of all the visitors to the site during that period, 55 percent were from Edina (according to their internet provider).

The discussion was promoted through various means, including a press release, *Edition: Edina*, Facebook, Twitter and NextDoor posts and City Extra messages.

Attached are the comments on this topic.

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# Speak Up, Edina!

We're always looking for feedback and ideas for how we can make Edina an even better place for living, learning, raising families and doing business. Take a moment to provide your feedback and ideas on any of the forums you see here or start your own discussion. It's your chance to speak up, Edina!

▶ **SHARE** your feedback! ▶ **POST** your ideas! ▶ **JOIN** the discussion!

This Discussion channel is currently closed.

## Discussion: [Organized Garbage Hauling](#)

The City wants to learn more about what people think about the organized garbage hauling. Some cities have zoned garbage hauling where there are several haulers, but one per zone. Some cities even have one garbage hauler for the entire city, whereas Edina allows its residents to choose from a number of licensed haulers. See the topics to weigh in!

Note: The City is not proposing a change at this time. By using this online discussion, feedback...

3 Topics | 126 Answers | Closed 2014-04-01

[View Discussion](#)

Topic: [Organize hauling?](#)

Do you prefer to choose your garbage hauler, or would you prefer the City hold contracts (like recycling) with haulers so only one garbage hauler would be used per zone or City-wide? Why or why not?

86 Responses

86 Responses



[Jeannie Wood](#) about 1 month ago

It would depend for me on the organics/yard waste option. I purposefully selected Vierkant because they had (in my opinion) the best option in this category and would be upset if I had to (again in my opinion) pay more for less.

11 Supports



[Pete Lefebvre](#) about 1 month ago

I agree with Jeannie. We also use Vierkant primarily for the organics option. I wouldn't be opposed to the city holding the contract provided that the selected hauler offered a full slate of options (including year round organics/yard waste).

6 Supports



[Jordan Gilgenbach](#) admin about 1 month ago

Pete and Jeannie, thanks for your comments! Those are good points to keep in mind.

0 Supports



[Sheri R](#) about 1 month ago

I'm a third in the Vierkant because of organics group. I would be very disappointed to lose this option.

7 Supports



[Janet Ingram](#) about 1 month ago

We have lived here for 47 years and have always had vierkant. They are terrific. If we have a question or need something extra picked up, they are a phone call away. I like that they are local and not some huge out of state company that cares nothing about this neighborhood. I will be very unhappy if we are forced to use another company.

6 Supports

comment...

Reply to Pete Lefebvre



[Joe Corbett](#) 20 days ago

It seems like there are enough votes for organics here that the city should insist on bidders offering this option in order to be considered. Our recycling cart is far more full than our waste cart, and we'd love to see that waste amount become even smaller. At this point we would benefit from reversing the waste/recycle schedule and offering weekly recycling/organic hauling and only bi-monthly waste. Judging by how full our neighbor's recycling cars are, I believe others would see similar benefits.

1 Support

comment...

Reply to Joe Corbett

comment...

Reply to Jeannie Wood



**Joel Stegner** about 1 month ago

One refuse company per neighborhood, to reduce multiple runs on the same street. By vote of residents on different bids. One for whole city only if favorable long-term contract is negotiated.

5 Supports



**Tracy Holtan** 28 days ago

I agree. Currently there are so many trucks on our streets with tear-down, rebuilds and all of the garbage trucks. They come in the morning when all of the children are going out to the bus stop. Not only is it hard on the streets, noisy, anti-green, excessive traffic (I can barely get out of my driveway on Mondays) - it is not a safe situation for our children who are going to the bus stop at the same time all of the garbage haulers are driving through, or when children are out playing in the summer.

2 Supports



**Elizabeth** 28 days ago

Completely agree. The multiple garbage trucks on our streets is a joke. The amount of CO2, the wear and tear - it is silly. Select ONE or two for the entire city and cut down on the noise and pollution.

ANOTHER THING \_ Recyclables should be picked up EVERY WEEK. Currently, we only have recyclable pick up once a week and that is not enough. Add compost and recyclables every week. (especially since the Edina code on Private compost bins are ridiculously small for a far north region where compost is only "active" from May - October.)

1 Support

comment...

Reply to Tracy Holtan

comment...

Reply to Joel Stegner



[Michael Braun](#) about 1 month ago

One refuse company per neighborhood, by vote of residents, with new bids and options voted on every couple of years to keep it competitive. I live on a cul-de-sac and we have about a dozen trucks coming and going every trash day, one for regular trash, one for organics, plus recycling - its ridiculous. What a waste of time, energy, wear and tear on our roads, pollution, noise, traffic . . . it has to be less expensive to choose one per neighborhood

6 Supports



[Jordan Gilgenbach](#) admin about 1 month ago

Hi Michael, thanks for your feedback! That's a lot of truck traffic in one day, and those are good points you brought up about the effect of the multiple trucks.

0 Supports

[Reply to Jordan Gilgenbach](#)

[Reply to Michael Braun](#)



[Mike DeMoss](#) about 1 month ago

I personally want to choose my own garbage hauler, lawn service, etc. I want to have the option to cancel and switch whenever I feel the service is unsatisfactory. "One garbage hauler" takes that decision away from me. Competition is the most important motivation for quality service at a reasonable price. Government contracts (in general) can result in sweetheart deals. Behind closed door negotiations will not result in the best service at the best price.

12 Supports



[Jordan Gilgenbach](#) admin about 1 month ago

Hi Mike! Thanks for your comment! Great points on how competition affects price and service.

0 Supports



[Francy Matson](#) 25 days ago

I so agree!! I think competition is best for residents...we can make our own decisions. I do not want to turn decisions over to the city! We had a huge

recycle bin dropped in our yard...did not fit in our garage. Called the City & asked to exchange, Nothing happened. Called again & finally after months they picked it up...but no exchange. Irritating situation!!! I don't think the City will handle this well. I love our "Gman" and want to keep him forever!

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Jordan Gilgenbach



[Joe Corbett](#) 20 days ago

I believe most of these issues can be alleviated by the annual review process. If a hauler knows that poor reviews could lead to a non-renewal of contract, then they'll offer good service. We had excellent service in Mpls for 10 years, likely due to the haulers knowing they could easily be replaced if service levels declined.

2 Supports

comment...

Reply to Joe Corbett

comment...

Reply to Mike DeMoss



[Chad Freeman](#) about 1 month ago

The competition between haulers has led to a lower cost on the one hand but we also pay for our road work via assessment here so long term our costs would be lower with a single hauler.

2 Supports

comment...

Reply to Chad Freeman



[Lorenzo Tunesi](#) about 1 month ago

I am in favor of having the city organize garbage hauling in large part because having many heavy garbage trucks from different companies drive city streets on garbage pick up day leads to unnecessary air pollution and road deterioration which we have to pay for. Cities like Minneapolis and St. Louis Park (just to name two nearby ones) have successfully had city organized garbage hauling for years. There is no reason we cannot do the same. The city could ask for proposals from haulers that address residents' concerns such as the ones expressed above about organic/yard waste.

6 Supports



[Dorothy Lodahl](#) about 1 month ago

I have a niece in St. Louis Park, and she is unhappy with the service. If cover is not completely down, they won't pick up is just one of her complaints.

1 Support

comment...

Reply to Dorothy Lodahl

comment...

Reply to Lorenzo Tunesi



[Sandra x](#) about 1 month ago

I strongly support organized hauling. How can we justify having multiple trucks going up and down our streets when we are supporting a cleaner, greener city? The League of Women Voters did a study of various surrounding cities and found organized hauling also saves money for the homeowner because the city has more bargaining power than does an individual home owner. The system we use today is outdated and a throwback to when Edina was a village.

7 Supports



[Francy Matson](#) about 1 month ago

Don't think a competitive market is outdated...we don't limit restaurants or Dentists or Gas Stations...Competition will continue to bring us service and great pricing. Note: Edina has been a great place to live and popular since it was a Village!

5 Supports



[Jordan Gilgenbach](#) admin about 1 month ago

Thanks Sandra and Francy for your comments! You both bring up very interesting points!

0 Supports



[Skip Thomas](#) 20 days ago

Right on Francy!!

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Francy Matson

comment...

Reply to Sandra x



**David Carlson** about 1 month ago

The concerns regarding truck traffic and pollution are certainly valid. However, we have additional concern regarding escalating cost when a governmental unit contracts with a single or just a few companies. Our personal experience is that of having had rapidly escalating costs from a large, out-of-state based company over several years, (actually, the same one that collects recycling) and having been able to reduce our quarterly costs by 1/3 after switching to a smaller, local company. We believe that keeping garbage collection service competitive, and favoring local providers whenever possible should be a priority.

6 Supports



**Jordan Gilgenbach** admin about 1 month ago

David, thanks for your comments. Interesting point about the the "big guys" versus the smaller companies, and how that can effect service and price.

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Jordan Gilgenbach



**Skip Thomas** 20 days ago

Right on David-----Where have the cable costs gone---out of sight !!!!!!!!

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Skip Thomas

comment...

Reply to David Carlson



**Francy Matson** about 1 month ago

We LOVE our local Garbage Hauler!! They have become number one in Eden Prairie in just a few years because of their great service & low prices. Eden Prairie has a huge Land fill..not used by our favorite company SWS. They take trash to the Minneapolis Trash burner which is a much cleaner option. We are not for the City of Edina telling us who our Hauler will be. Allow Companies to compete so we get the best price and service! I also am happy with the City of Edina making arrangements for recycle handling. Yes, when Edina was a Village we had a competitive market,,We should continue to encourage competition. Trucks on our roads are ALL a problem, Construction trucks, Delivery Trucks, Cut through traffic Trucks..Mail Trucks..

5 Supports

Reply to Francy Matson



**Bob McKlveen** about 1 month ago

I support one hauler per zone or two to choose from for the whole City. Such a solution would dramatically decrease the noise, air pollution, and wear & tear on our streets that we currently experience from having six different haulers every week. Also, having all these trucks driving essentially every street in Edina significantly increases their total production of CO2 and other pollutants City-wide.

One caveat, though: we use Vierkant Disposal because they collect compostables and yard waste all year. Because of that service, plus one sort recycling, we generate less than 1/4 can of garbage per week, sending far less to landfills. I would want whatever contracts are offered in the City to include a compostable collection option. Our former hauler used to do compostables but dropped the service because they own their own landfills. Without compostables in their landfills, since they were diverting to compost sites, then the landfills don't generate methane, and harvested methane was a major source of their revenue.

Finally, Vierkant is a family company that does a great job. If I'm late taking out the trash, they'll actually knock on my door so I can open the garage, and they'll take it out for me. WOW

7 Supports



**Jordan Gilgenbach** admin about 1 month ago

Bob, great comments. The issue of organics recycling is an interesting, and one that seems to becoming more and more popular. Thanks for weighing in!

0 Supports

Reply to Jordan Gilgenbach

Reply to Bob McKlveen



[Dan Nye](#) about 1 month ago

I want to chose my own garbage hauler. I can make the decision about price and service that better fits my needs and most likely will conflict with some standardized standardized contract the city arranges. Remember, this is the United States of America and not some nanny state. People like their freedom even if it is only saving money by choosing their own garbage hauler or picking one that better fits their needs. .

5 Supports



[Mary Porter](#) 21 days ago

I want the choice to determine the services I pay for. I understand the traffic issue as I live on a busy residential street but I am willing to live with that.

1 Support

Reply to Mary Porter

Reply to Dan Nye



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[Kwx](#) about 1 month ago

Everyone has a favorite hauler - they chose them. I've changed haulers several times because of decline in service and price games. Regardless, the small advantage of choice is minor compared to the public safety issues of multiple trucks going down the street on trash day, wear and tear on the roads (we pay for them with assessments) and hydraulic fluid leaks on my street. Many streets have no sidewalks and walking on trash day is risky. The trash day goes on and on depending on the carrier so trash cans are out on the curb for a longer time. I would support a competitive bid process for single hauler in each neighborhood. Having priced haulers recently, they are all pretty close to the same price.

2 Supports



[Jordan Gilgenbach](#) admin about 1 month ago

KW, thanks for your comments and insight on pricing!

0 Supports

Reply to Jordan Gilgenbach

Reply to Kw x



**Robert Have** about 1 month ago

I appreciate that Edina provides residents with a listing of available garbage haulers. I do like the flexibility of selecting my own garbage hauler; however, I would like an opportunity to provide feedback on the pricing practices of the garbage hauler Aspen. I had them provide excellent service for approximately 20 years when I learned from a neighbor that I was paying far more than new customers and other long term customers.

I learned that each resident must contact the Aspen and threaten to change to another garbage haulers to obtain services at a substantially reduced price. An Aspen representative actually told me how long I had been a customer, how I had always paid my bill early, and that I had been subjected to every pricing increase over many years and she was glad to lower my pricing. Ironically, the pricing increases started immediately after I negotiated a lower price and continued until I called again. I changed providers to GarbageMan and locked in a price for an extended period. I hated playing the game with Aspen. I think Aspen's pricing practices should be reviewed and if found to be unethical, they should be removed from the list of available garbage haulers.

1 Support

Reply to Robert Have



**Carol Pfeiderer** about 1 month ago

I'd love to see a single hauler for a neighborhood and would choose Vierkant for all the reasons listed above. The pollution and road wear created by multiple trucks, in addition to the danger where so many kids are playing, are concerns to me also.

3 Supports

Reply to Carol Pfeiderer



**Lisa Nelson** about 1 month ago

The number of trucks in the neighborhood on collection day does seem to be a bit senseless but I am also a staunch supporter of the small business and they are the ones who seem to get left out in these situations. I do not like being forced to deal with companies who don't have to earn my business day in and day out. I am so pleased to see all the positive comments about Vierkants in this forum. As a 9 year customer I can say that they are far and away the highest quality and responsive collector I have ever encountered. While I support efficiency I would be terribly disappointed to have Edina or myself lose such a quality provider on my route. I am not sure how many providers currently are operating in Edina but perhaps further limiting that number could preserve competition and yet ease congestion and redundancy. I would not limit those providers by region though. Free market! Thank You Darren Nelson

4 Supports

Reply to Lisa Nelson



[Morris Wee](#) about 1 month ago

Single hauler per neighborhood, with contracts reconsidered regularly to maintain quality. I believe city officials can do a better job than I can of assessing the competition--especially if we customers give them feedback.

5 Supports

comment...

Reply to Morris Wee



[Donna DAquila](#) about 1 month ago

I'll choose my own, thank you. My current "hauler" is CHEAPER than Vierkant.

2 Supports

comment...

Reply to Donna D'Aquila



[Nils Gokemeijer](#) about 1 month ago

I see a lot of responses stating that there is too much wear and tear on our roads with the current system. There already is a solution to that: Get together with your neighbors and select a single hauler. I favor the current system because it offers the most choices: do you care about landfills, organics, incinerators, price: you can select your hauler based on your choices. Get everyone on your street to agree, and there will be just one truck.

1 Support



[Jordan Gilgenbach](#) admin 25 days ago

Nils, do you and your neighbors do this, or do you know if any others that are? Has it been successful?

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Jordan Gilgenbach

comment...

Reply to Nils Gokemeijer



[Kim Ode](#) about 1 month ago

I'd signed in here to express my loyalty to Vierkant, for their organics policies, and their extra-step personal service. Not to mention getting a handwritten bill! A superb local company. So happy to see all the other positive responses. The solution may be to clone Vierkant. I get the wear-and-tear arguments, although I wonder about this issue rising to the surface just as our streets have been overrun with home demolition/construction vehicles for the past few years. I don't like the hauler decision being taken out of my hands, but only because I don't want to chance losing Vierkant. If standards for all haulers could rise to their level, then the whole community would benefit.

4 Supports



[Francy Matson](#) 19 days ago

Great comments...I agree! Note, I think the Builder pays the city for any damage to the streets...but I don't really know where that money goes. Once the street is worn out we KNOW who pays for the new street. We have had 3 new construction homes within a few houses of ours. When the dumpster truck arrives and drops the new dumpster on the street while they haul away the old one it rocks our home and rattles our dishes...street damage galore. Never had that with a garbage truck. I wonder the weight difference.

0 Supports

Reply to Francy Matson

Reply to Kim Ode



[marian cracraft](#) about 1 month ago

comment...I hope we will be allowed to continue with Vierkant. Their service to us over 45 or so years has been simply superior. If we need something picked up or taken care of out of the ordinary, they always help, always timely, always agreeable.

2 Supports

Reply to marian cracraft



[SUSAN JEPSEN](#) about 1 month ago

We would prefer the City to hold contracts with one contractor per area. We weren't aware of the Vierkant compostables option, but will look into switching to them for that reason. I dislike having to call around periodically to see who will give me the "best deal" and then finding that my current hauler will meet that lowest price. We also are concerned about the noise, road wear & tear and air pollution. The garbage, which we only fill 1/2 a can at most, should go to the garbage burner.

2 Supports

comment...

Reply to SUSAN JEPSEN



[Karen Christensson](#) about 1 month ago

We have had Vierkant service for close to thirty years. We would not want to lose them either. However, the noise and volume of trash haulers each Monday is over the top awful. We will be having our street re-built this summer with a significant price to pay for each homeowner. Unnecessary wear and tear on our new road will be really hard to take after living through the construction period and facing years of payments for the project.

3 Supports

comment...

Reply to Karen Christensson



[Kelli von Heydekampf](#) about 1 month ago

I use Vierkant and love them. If Edina chooses to go with a contractor program, they must include an organics hauling similar to Vierkant's. I love the fact that Vierkant is a small, family-run business.

4 Supports

comment...

Reply to Kelli von Heydekampf



[Laurie Fetterman](#) about 1 month ago

The city can negotiate annually for the best rate maintaining the competitive rates that are now offered. My guess is that as the city would be a huge contract, our rates would decline. To have 20 trucks a day running down the streets is hard on the infrastructure. Given the costs of replacing the streets-the long term cost of multiple haulers is too high.

2 Supports

comment...

Reply to Laurie Fetterman



[Sandra McGoldrick Kendall](#) about 1 month ago

I agree with M.B. above. I lived at the end of a dead-end in Edina for many years, with an alley. My garbage was picked up in the alley behind my house, but my neighbors across the street had their garbage picked up on the street. So, every Monday, three trucks (trash, yard, and recycling) from three

different companies (9 trucks altogether) would drive down the street in front of my house, then back up the entire distance because they could not turn around, beeping the whole way. In back, in the alley, the same nine trucks collected from our side of the street. It's crazy! I had truck noise in stereo all morning. It ruined the roadway and the alley; they both needed constant repairs. For me personally it was disastrous. I work nights, and could never sleep through the constant truck traffic, and my dog was frightened of the trucks, so Monday was spent trembling inside. Ugh. I live on a through street now, but this system is ridiculous.

3 Supports

comment...

Reply to Sandra McGoldrick-Kendall



[Diane Schroeder](#) about 1 month ago

Although I have been very, very happy with Aspen as our trash hauler, I wholeheartedly support going to one trash company per neighborhood or for the city. It is incredibly unpleasant to be out in the neighborhood on Thursday mornings due to the constant parade of trucks. How can we possibly justify the pollution, the wear and tear on the roads, and the morning-long ruckus when there is an alternative? We live on a small circle street with no through traffic, and I suspect that most weeks the only trucks that come through are garbage trucks. Moving to one hauler would cut our truck traffic by probably at least 80 percent. As someone who paid just last year (a huge sum) for a street re-do, I would love to lose this superfluous truck traffic.

4 Supports

comment...

Reply to Diane Schroeder



[Hope Melton](#) about 1 month ago

Freedom of choice is the bedrock of our free enterprise economy. It works really well except when it interferes or damages the common good. Having 6 or 7 different haulers roaring through neighborhoods inflicts more damage to our streets than would a single hauler. We all pay higher taxes to repair the damage. Furthermore, the City's Do Town has us all thinking about walking and biking to support healthier lifestyles. I like to walk with my dog, in the middle of the day. When there are no sidewalks (most of the City at present). With multiple trucks, it's dangerous, smelly, and noisy.

That said, I use Vierkant because they offer organic recycling, they're reasonably priced, and it's a local business. With organic recycling, my contribution to the land fill is almost nil. If this is a "green city" as we say, it seems to me that the City should choose a company that offers organic recycling.

5 Supports



[Jordan Gilgenbach](#) admin 25 days ago

Thanks for your comment, Hope! Sometimes, it's easy to forget that not all neighborhoods have sidewalks, making the roads difficult for cars, bikes and walkers alike to navigate among all the bins and trucks.

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Jordan Gilgenbach

comment...

Reply to Hope Melton



**[Karen Sandler Steinert](#)** [Karen Sandler Steinert](#) about 1 month ago

We also choose Vierkant because they have an organics option and are a great family company that provides customer service - unheard of from most businesses in this day and age. Most of our trash is organics and I would hate to lose that option.

3 Supports

comment...

Reply to Karen Sandler Steinert Karen Sandler Steinert



**[Karen Sandler Steinert](#)** [Karen Sandler Steinert](#) about 1 month ago

I should add that we greatly dislike every other week recycling because what isn't organics is recycling at our house and our bin is overflowing on recycling week. I would greatly dislike a single haul system that is at all like our recycling system without flexibility for families' needs like private garbage companies are able to give when contracting directly with families. I do understand the pollution, traffic and noise concerns so I wouldn't rule out a single provider, but it would be nice if each family could contract with the provider directly according to that family's needs.

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Karen Sandler Steinert Karen Sandler Steinert



**[linda zempel](#)** about 1 month ago

We like our current garbage hauler. Competition between companies has always been the best option for keeping costs down and services up. We don't believe that garbage trucks on our streets once a week impacts our road system. We should be able to pick our own service providers since it is our cost.

3 Supports



**[Mary Yee](#)** 28 days ago

Please see MN Pollution Control Agency's study at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=17347> for effects on roads, pollution, fuel usage, etc. Also the research literature shows consistently lower consumer costs when hauling is organized.

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Mary Yee

comment...

Reply to linda zempel



**Jim Wangen** about 1 month ago

I would like to see our newly resurfaced road last as long as possible, so I would be in favor of a city contract for one or two haulers. To ensure cost is controlled and service levels remain satisfactory, I would suggest a 2 year bid cycle for this business.

5 Supports

comment...

Reply to Jim Wangen



**Frans Versluis** about 1 month ago

Not surprisingly, the website from the garbage haulers association asserts that " the few trucks such a [government] takeover might get off the streets will not save the roads, but will restrict your freedom to choose, smother innovation, increase government bureaucracy, and reduce competitors in the market, especially for small family-owned haulers."

First, I don't think we are suggesting that for the city to get into the hauling business. So this is not a "takeover" but rather a streamlining of a service.

Road damage: I would agree that road damage from Minnesota's winters probably causes more damage to Edina roads than the garbage trucks. However, there are cost savings to be realized that would more than likely result in lower prices for garbage pick up. There will be significant cost savings from having just one truck picking up garbage (fuel, maintenance, labor etc). In addition there are the hidden costs of CO2 exhaust (why can't they drive on natural gas ?).

Bureaucracy: I am not sure how much bureaucracy issuing an annual or biannual bid for hauling services by neighborhood or for the entire city will be created. After all the city already issues many bids on an annual basis.

Freedom to choose: I wonder how many people really are aware of the differences in service. Most people do not have the time to compare the various services. A bid process would probably do a better job selecting a responsible, cost efficient service. I for one would be happy to have a city engineer make that selection for me.

Smother innovation: Not sure how much more innovation there is in hauling garbage. The innovation I have seen pertains to making the process more time efficient by using robotic arms. You could argue that a single hauler system would drive more cost out of the process that could be used to invest in cleaner trucks.

My vote would be for a single hauler by neighborhood in the initial phase and then study whether a single hauler for the entire city would make more sense.

1 Support

comment...

Reply to Frans Versluis



[Sue Toth](#) about 1 month ago

Please reduce the number of garbage haulers. I worked with our neighborhood to start a neighborhood garbage program to reduce the number of haulers in our neighborhood because of all of the extra traffic. By doing this, we were able to freeze our costs (which were reduced depending on the number we were able to get into the program) and the company had to notify us in advance if there was ever to be a price increase. It worked very well for years, until that carrier was acquired by another company.

We need to do something and competition can still exist with a single hauler program if the contract is renewable on an annual or biannual basis. You can negotiate much lower prices if you have more people in the program.

We have compostable service now and would want that to continue.

3 Supports

Reply to Sue Toth



[Art Vandalais](#) about 1 month ago

JORDAN, aside from the socialization of our garbage hauling, I am curious if Edina has considered the "buy-out" costs it would incur from compensating Edina residents for the financial damages they would incur when forced by their elected officials to involuntarily breach binding contracts entered into by two private parties (e.g. me and my garbage hauler). Because of the price wars b/t haulers, I have a multi-year agreement for flat pricing with my garbage hauler. The only way I can terminate that contract is to "buy out" the contract and pay for the remaining 30+ months left on the agreement OR move homes. I do not want to pay that cost and I am not sure it is fair to force Edina (my taxpaying neighbors) to pay to buy-out my and other residents' agreements such as this because the local gov't is messing with the free market.

I think the residents of Edina need to be careful what they ask for, sole-source garbage is first, then it's UPS vs. FedEx, then it's pizza delivery, and the list goes on..... not to mention the fraud which becomes unavoidable and often undetectable when the gov't begins negotiating for its citizens and competition is eliminated.

If the argument is the deterioration of our roads or too much CO<sub>2</sub>, then add an appropriate garbage hauling tariff to the haulers and the efficient haulers will figure out how to become green through lighter, more efficient equipment and lower their costs, or they will lose business and die through an inability to compete.

When Edina gave a sole source contract for recycling, the service levels eroded from weekly to bi-weekly. When this happened, too much waste built up and the last time, I set my neatly tied bags of extra recycling on top of the bin, the recycling company ignored the extra (maybe a union restriction?). Subsequently my garbage hauler noticed it and threw it in with the rest of the garbage so it's now in a landfill somewhere when it should have been recycled - thank you for that.

Stay focused on maintaining local infrastructure, educating our kids, parks, and police & safety, please stay of business, it is not the gov'ts job to mandate with whom I do business nor is anyone in local gov't qualified to do so.

4 Supports



[Jordan Gilgenbach](#) admin 25 days ago

Art, thanks for your comments! The issue of resident-hauler contracts that would require a buy-out is an issue I hadn't thought about. If the City Council decides to have staff further look into the issue, this is definitely something that would need to be addressed. At this time, this topic is for discussion only and no change to the current system is being proposed for Council consideration, but we appreciate your insights!

I will also note that on recycling, you are able to upgrade to the largest recycling bin if you'd like. If you find the cart is not large enough to hold all your recycling, you can also request an additional cart. There is no additional cost. Please call Allied/Republic Services at 952-941-5174 to assist with that change.

0 Supports

Reply to Jordan Gilgenbach

Reply to Art Vandalais



**Jeff Hill** about 1 month ago

I want to select my hauler. I want to be able to fire my hauler. Comcast and CenturyLink have taught Edina residents how we are treated by single source providers. The bigger firms have much more clout and skill at negotiating with municipalities and the little guys are forced out. ...and isn't it amazing that single source hauling is only a tiny bit cheaper than having 3-4 runs down every street!? A testament to the inefficiency of single sourcing.

3 Supports



**Mary Yee** 28 days ago

Please see the MN Pollution Agency Study at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=17347>. Organized hauling consistently brings lower prices than Edina's open system. Ask St. Louis Park and Hopkins residents.

1 Support



**Jordan Gilgenbach** admin 25 days ago

You both bring up interesting points. Would you rather have a cheaper price, or better service? Trying to find that balance is the tricky part.

0 Supports

Reply to Mary Yee

Reply to Jeff Hill



[Shannon Murphy Robinson](#) about 1 month ago

We want to select our hauler. Our driveway is off a long private that our 3 households have to maintain and is not maintained by the city. We specifically selected Garbage Man because of their small truck and service. The small truck is much less wear and tear on the alley asphalt. If the city want to switch to a single supplier, than maintain our alley so we do not incur the additional expense.

3 Supports

comment...

Reply to Shannon Murphy Robinson



[Patrick Finley](#) about 1 month ago

I believe the City should contract the haulers. Divide the city into four quadrants and open each for bid. Now we have six different haulers every Thursday in my area in addition to the recycle truck every other week. Too much noise - too much wear and tear on the street.comment...

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Patrick Finley



[Patrick Finley](#) about 1 month ago

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0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Patrick Finley



[Patrick Finley](#) about 1 month ago

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1 Support

comment...

Reply to Patrick Finley



[Connie Soteropulos](#) about 1 month ago

I would like to keep the choice mine. I personally do not feel this is a area where city government should be involved.

3 Supports



[Skip Thomas](#) 20 days ago

Right on Connie !!!

0 Supports

Reply to Skip Thomas

Reply to Connie Soteropulos



[Paul Nelson](#) about 1 month ago

To help keep our neighborhoods safer and easier to navigate on "garbage" days, I would be willing to have the City negotiate hauling contracts either City-wide or per quadrant on a two-year basis. This still would require 3 trucks to pass by each week - seems like enough to me.

1 Support

Reply to Paul Nelson



[Bob York](#) about 1 month ago

For anyone who is present during the day to see the parade of haulers streaming by, it is clear that the current system must be extremely wasteful in terms of fuel, damaging to the roads, and potentially dangerous to pets, children, and the elderly. On any given rubbish day at least five companies' vehicles buzz up and down my street, each passing more houses than it stops to service. I am very supportive of the city investigating options for a single city wide carrier or zone based single carriers. It appears that is what has already been done in terms of recycling, and that seems to have worked well thus far. I would very much like to see the facts on what residents are paying now to the various providers and what what the City could accomplish in a transparent competitive bidding process as a "single payer" with much more clout than any of us have. Faced with the facts, some of the people who think they've negotiated such a great deal today might be surprised . Finally, for those who currently use someone because they collect compost or yard waste, those options could be built into the city wide bidding process as well.

2 Supports

comment...

Reply to Bob York



[Bob Granson](#) about 1 month ago

I prefer to select my own provider. Over my 40 years as a homeowner in Edina I have changed providers perhaps three times. I believe I have more control over the price and quality of service. If I am unhappy with either I can go elsewhere. If the city has a contract with a provider who handles the entire city is that provider going to care if one household is unhappy? No government contracts I say.

4 Supports



[Jordan Gilgenbach](#) admin 25 days ago

Bob, good points. You, as the consumer, are the ultimate controller with your dollars to spend on garbage services. The ability to change providers can give consumers great leverage when it comes to negotiating services, terms and pricing. Thanks for chiming in!

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Jordan Gilgenbach

comment...

Reply to Bob Granson



[Eddy Christensson](#) 30 days ago

After 30 years of perfect service Vierkant continues to be our choice. As far as I am aware they are the only full service option. Besides the organic hauling preferred by many, they are only a phone-call away from hauling away bulky debris from a construction project with their pick-up truck. Never fails. They have earned their way to stay in our neighborhood.

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Eddy Christensson



[vsmith](#) 29 days ago

comment...I want to choose my own garbage hauler. Too often the "Big Boys" ie. companies are offering the lowest bid and it guarantees nothing! The free open market is what keeps things competitive. I am tired of government interfering with every detail. Because we are able to choose who hauls the garbage, most of the people in our neighborhood have switched to a smaller local company and are much happier than when the large companies hauled the garbage.

## 2 Supports

Reply to v. smith



[Mary Yee](#) 28 days ago

I was shocked when I moved to Edina to find so many trucks on the street on collection day. While competition from multiple providers often results in better prices for consumers, that is NOT the case with an open hauling system like Edina's. The research literature shows, on a national basis, consistently lower prices with organized hauling. The MN Pollution Control Agency has summarized the findings in their study. See <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=17347>. For a League of Women Voters' local study, I contacted neighboring cities to learn about their arrangements and prices. St. Louis Park contracts with a private company to haul waste for the entire city and the rate is much lower than the average for Edina's multiple haulers. SLP residents have consistently rated the service highly in the city's surveys. Hopkins uses municipal employees to haul trash and its residents pay a lower price on average than Edina residents. Eden Prairie has a similar system to Edina's and its residents pay similarly high prices. Price is not the only consideration. People should also take into account the wear and tear on roads, the pollution, the noise, the excessive fuel usage (which is well-documented by the MN Pollution Control Agency's study), and the danger of truck traffic. I understand concern about the viability of local businesses and I use Vierkant myself because I value their compost collection option. However, there are ways to organize trash hauling to take into account desirable features such as composting. It makes no more sense to have so many trash haulers running through residential neighborhoods than it would to have all of us try to generate electricity on our own. Trash hauling is a public utility and we should try to organize the service in the most efficient, least polluting manner possible.

## 1 Support

Reply to Mary Yee



[Kerry Kirvida](#) 26 days ago

Yes! I support organized garbage hauling makes sense for 3 reasons: 1. By consolidating pickup the city should be able to negotiate lower rates than what an individual household currently pays. We lived in Minneapolis for 10 years where they have consolidated garbage pickup and it was reasonably priced and convenient. 2. It would reduce the numbers of large trucks driving through our neighborhoods. As a mother of 3 kids under 5 years old I worry about these large garbage trucks that pass by our home 8 times on garbage day (yes, 8 times)! 3. Per Judith F, I agree by increasing route efficiency there should be less CO2 emitted -- good for the earth.

## 1 Support

Reply to Kerry Kirvida



[Jordan Gilgenbach](#) admin 25 days ago

Out of curiosity, has anyone privately made an agreement with haulers and neighbors on your street to all chose the same hauler for a lower price? I'm interested to know if this is happening within in the City.

0 Supports

Reply to Jordan Gilgenbach



[Susan Chandler](#) 22 days ago

I am in favor of the City holding the contract with a single garbage hauler for a zone or the whole City. As many others have mentioned, the issues of noise, disruption, pollution, safety, inefficiency, and costly wear and tear on our streets make this the most logical choice. I would prefer that the City engage in regular (i.e., annual or biennial) competitive bidding to ensure low rates. Garbage hauling fees are hardly secrets, so the City should be able to negotiate fees that benefit rather than harm residents.

0 Supports

Reply to Susan Chandler



[Bruce Kieffer](#) 20 days ago

I prefer to contract this on my own, but I do understand the advantages of having one hauler.

1 Support

Reply to Bruce Kieffer



[Skip Thomas](#) 20 days ago

I like competition. It breeds lower prices. SWS is a good example of this. I get 3 months of service and about \$20 less per billing period for what I was paying with Allied for 2 months service. Keep the competition alive !!

0 Supports

Reply to Skip Thomas



[Barry Rosenthal](#) 20 days ago

Definitely organize the city's garbage hauling. We will get better pricing through a competitive procurement process covering hundreds or thousands of homes, and will end up with less traffic and noise. There are many valid comments against the city organizing trash collection, but they could easily be managed in a well-designed procurement process and ongoing management. Placing contracts by zones may be better than one city-wide contract to ensure continuous comparison of service. If one hauler is not keeping up with the contractual requirements or the satisfaction levels of other companies in other zones, the city could move the contract to another company. The contract could include a city-run satisfaction survey and the lowest-scoring contractor each year could be replaced. To help smaller local companies, there could be a slight advantage for locally based companies in the procurement process. If someone really, really loves their current hauler, there could be an individual opt-out. I think very few people would bother doing that, particularly if zone purchasing results in lower costs. I switched haulers after years of not watching my bill and then finally realizing how much the first company had quietly raised rates by tacking on a range of fees. We would all be better off if we had competitive city procurements periodically so this type of thing would get brought to light.

0 Supports

Reply to Barry Rosenthal



[Jennifer Haenel](#) 19 days ago

Please allow us to keep our own garbage hauling service. The service I receive from my current garbage hauler far exceeds what happens with the city contracted recycling company (bins left open in the rain/snow, bins left tipped over at the end of the driveway, etc). My garbage hauler cleans up their mess, and I appreciate it!

0 Supports

Reply to Jennifer Haenel



[Leslie Iyer](#) 19 days ago

I strongly support single hauler. Having 8+ trucks barreling down our streets every week (double that in the spring through fall) is bad for our street maintenance (\$), for our students who are trying to safely walk to school, and for our air quality. Cities with single-hauler have much lower rates than we are currently getting at our best, and if the citizens support organics pickup, etc. we can include that as a condition of those competitive bids. This is long overdue.

0 Supports

Reply to Leslie Iyer



[Greg Arnott](#) 18 days ago

I have seen several comments about multiple trucks on collection day, but think about those of us that border two collection areas. We have 5-8 trucks from different garbage trucks one day going up and down our street and then the next day we have the same number of trucks from the same haulers going up and down the street collecting the other side of the street. As we are on a collector street we also have extra trucks just coming and going to access the area.

I used to live in St. Louis Park and was very happy with the service. If I had extra items (not large) they were picked up at no charge, I understand the cost issue as I recently switched haulers as a matter of practice I periodically check prices and found my hauler and found a hauler that charged considerably less than the hauler I had used for several years.

I fully expect that if the city goes to city-wide hauling, my rates will go up but others will likely go down because with city-wide hauling we may not have the same options we have now for the size of the carts. But I am willing to pay that with the hopes that the road maintenance costs will not increase as fast and it will reduce the barrels of oil that have to be pumped out of the ground only to be burned and pollute the air we all have to breath.

It wouldn't have to be one large hauler that received the contract for the entire city as the smaller haulers could form a consortium and compete with the large haulers if they didn't feel they could bid on the entire contract alone.

I asked a member of a city committee that likely would have been very involved with this subject a few years ago if the city had discussed city-wide hauling and he said a member of the City staff felt that the city would receive a lot of calls on pickup issues so he discouraged exploring city-wide hauling.

1 Support

Reply to Greg Arnott



[Paul Glewwe](#) 17 days ago

Now that St. Louis Park has tried organized hauling and found that it is less expensive than the competitive system we have, I think we (Edina) should take advantage of their experience and switch to organized hauling. If it does not turn out as well as it did in St. Louis Park, it would not be hard to switch back to what we have now, but without trying it we'll never know what works best for Edina.

0 Supports

Reply to Paul Glewwe



[JoAnn Hillstrom](#) 16 days ago

I support having waste hauling organized by the city for all the reasons previously mentioned. Perhaps different service levels could be arranged to satisfy the needs of the loyal Vierkant customers.

0 Supports

Reply to JoAnn Hillstrom

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# Speak Up, Edina!

We're always looking for feedback and ideas for how we can make Edina an even better place for living, learning, raising families and doing business. Take a moment to provide your feedback and ideas on any of the forums you see here or start your own discussion. It's your chance to speak up, Edina!

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## Discussion: Organized Garbage Hauling

The City wants to learn more about what people think about the organized garbage hauling. Some cities have zoned garbage hauling where there are several haulers, but one per zone. Some cities even have one garbage hauler for the entire city, whereas Edina allows its residents to choose from a number of licensed haulers. See the topics to weigh in!

Note: The City is not proposing a change at this time. By using this online discussion, feedback...

3 Topics 126 Answers Closed 2014-04-01

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Topic: [Pros and Cons of Garbage Hauling](#)

What are your biggest concerns if the City were to move to a City-contracted garbage hauler? What are the benefits of keeping it the way it is?

24 Responses

24 Responses



[Joel Stegner](#) about 1 month ago

Most think status quo is not working - look for a new approach.

1 Support

comment...

Reply to Joel Stegner



[Michael Braun](#) about 1 month ago

A huge benefit to allow neighborhoods to vote for one hauler every couple of years - I live on a cul-de-sac and we have about a dozen trucks coming and going every trash day, one for regular trash, one for organics, plus recycling - its ridiculous. What a waste of time, energy, wear and tear on our roads, pollution, noise, traffic . . . it has to be less expensive to choose one per neighborhood

2 Supports

comment...

Reply to Michael Braun



[Robert Aderhold](#) about 1 month ago

I prefer a single hauler to lots of big trucks on our street. This strikes me as very inefficient and wasteful of non-renewable energy. I've used several waste haulers in my 18 years in Edina and have found the quality of their service about the same. It would seem to me that we should be able to get as good a deal from a negotiated contract. I find that our household generates very little waste that does not go into our recycling bin or compost heap. It would be nice if reduce/recycle behavior could be rewarded in a new system.

3 Supports



[Jordan Gilgenbach](#) admin about 1 month ago

Robert, thanks for your comment idea about encouraging residents to reduce their trash generation!

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Jordan Gilgenbach

comment...

Reply to Robert Aderhold



[Ann Anderson](#) about 1 month ago

We should keep our current system. This is the type of small-business competition that is capitalism in its good form--that keeps the companies on their toes and providing good service. If I get mad at my hauler, I can change to another one. My company's monthly charge is not cheap, but I know they will respond if I have a problem. If the city just has one hauler, there won't be this type of incentive.

2 Supports



[Jordan Gilgenbach](#) admin about 1 month ago

Good points about service levels, Ann! Cheaper is clearly not always better. Thanks for your comments!

0 Supports

Reply to Jordan Gilgenbach



[Mary Porter](#) 21 days ago

Competition fosters better service and pricing overall. I want a choice.

0 Supports

Reply to Mary Porter

Reply to Ann Anderson



[David Carlson](#) about 1 month ago

We are concerned that the city will be likely to contract with a large, out-of-state based company, as they did with the recycling service. We found that company, who'd been our garbage service for years, was very difficult to deal with, plus very expensive. If, as suggested above, the carrier could be selected on a neighborhood basis, that would give more assurance that the process would be truly competitive.

1 Support



[Jordan Gilgenbach](#) admin about 1 month ago

David, That's a good idea. If a change is ever proposed in the future regarding garbage hauling, it's good to keep in mind community input and possibly on a neighborhood by neighborhood basis.

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Jordan Gilgenbach

comment...

Reply to David Carlson



**Dick Erlandson** about 1 month ago

I prefer the current system. We have options for service and price in dealing with private companies that we would be sacrificing to change the system to a government one. Please leave the present garbage service arrangement alone.

2 Supports

comment...

Reply to Dick Erlandson



**Dan Nye** about 1 month ago

My biggest concern about going to a city chosen hauler is a matter of freedom. The "green fanatics" are trying to push their beliefs on me and making me live under their rule. I have a different view of this topic than them. If the city goes to one hauler, my freedoms are being trampled on by others. Secondly, how did that recycling contract go? If I remember right, the contractor had no made any payments to the city for all those resources they collect until a news organization pressed the issue. Giving the government control of a contract like this is not going to result in financial efficiency.

1 Support

comment...

Reply to Dan Nye



**Kw x** about 1 month ago

Read several studies of single hauler systems in our metro and elsewhere. Typically, single hauler systems result in savings. I support single hauler and feel our local government can manage the bidding process.

1 Support

comment...

Reply to Kw x



[Jon Barnett](#) about 1 month ago

When we moved here 24 years ago, we used a national company to take our trash, we then had someone knock on our door and we switched to save money. That went well for a long time and then we weren't too happy with their service so we switched to a new start up company about 9 years ago. They've been great: They answer the phone with a 'real person' and they've saved me about \$7.00 per month over the national. I agree, there will likely be less traffic if the city changes its mind and goes to a one-vendor solution but the consequences of that decision need to be weighed carefully. As a small business owner, I put myself in the shoes of the company owner who has worked for years to build their business in our town. They've probably borrowed hundreds of thousands of dollars to buy the trucks, hire and train people to pick-up and drop our garbage, maintain their fleet and staff their offices to handle all the day to day. We as a town have encouraged the free enterprise system to allow choice and businesses have been built to meet those needs. The consequences are big and I don't think it's fair that we as a town can say. Thanks for building your businesses, we're eliminating the companies you've just built I hope you can replace the accounts we've eliminated. I'm concerned the next decision will be that I can't use my snow plow service because there are too many different trucks coming down my street to plow snow or provide our lawn service. The argument that the small companies can bid on it sounds good but I can't imagine our garbage guy taking the chance to get the whole town's business and then having to add a lot of trucks and people with the chance that they'll lose the business when they re-let the contract and they're stuck with all the trucks and people. Hopefully we'll think carefully about the ramifications of our decisions and what is a fair and equitable way to handle this decision.

4 Supports



[Kimberly Barrett](#) about 1 month ago

Jon's points about 1) the small business owner who has invested potentially thousands upon thousands of dollars into a business which serves specific areas of town, only to lose business due to a city-wide change, and 2) who might be able to bid on the city-wide business, invest thousands more, and potentially lose the contract at renewal, are both valid and real arguments and should be given a fair amount of weight.

3 Supports

Reply to Kimberly Barrett

Reply to Jon Barnett



[Donna DAquila](#) about 1 month ago

The benefits of keeping as is...I get to choose who I want as my provider...I think they call it, my LIBERTY!

2 Supports

Reply to Donna D'Aquila



[Catherine Groat](#) about 1 month ago

It is disconcerting to think that people would place a greater priority on being able to choose their own hauler over the safety of our neighborhood children, environmental stewardship and wear & tear on our city roads. Most people would agree that we have an abundance of heavy trucks on our roads each

week. We live on an alley. Every Wednesday we have The Garbage Man, Allied Waste Recycling, Yard Waste hauler in summer, Vierkant trash and Vierkant compost trucks up and down our road. My only concern about moving towards a single hauler is the lack of composting that Vierkant offers. All other haulers have a yard waste option, but Vierkant has the only true curbside compost option. As a family of 4, we have 1 tall kitchen bag of trash a week. The rest is recycle or compost. Doesn't it make sense that we are good stewards of our environment? I'm flabbergasted that this is not a common viewpoint. Does liberty give us the right to abuse our earth?

To compare huge heavy garbage trucks with local snow removal trucks is like comparing apples and oranges. The wear and tear on roads is not comparable. As for free enterprise. Isn't that determined by good service and prices?

2 Supports



[Kimberly Barrett](#) about 1 month ago

Cathy -- a monopoly of a garbage hauler is not free enterprise. You know that I share your view of the environment, and yes, I would like to find a happy medium to reduce the amount of trucks but...the last thing I want is a "Walmart" of a garbage hauler running through the city putting the mom and pop shops out of business. I fear that "the little guy" that we both know and love would not be able to compete with the national outfits, mostly for the reasons Jon stated above. I would be happy with a reduction in the amount of choices of garbage haulers (currently, there are 7 according to the city's website). Perhaps going down to no more than three would be reasonable. It would reduce the number of trucks, but yet still offer free enterprise/competitive market/choice.

3 Supports



[Art Vandalais](#) about 1 month ago

Kimberly, picking 3 vendors as a random number out of thin air is no better than a govt sponsored monopoly. I can sense you're trying to compromise but it sounds like a decision based on nothing more than to appease someone trying to build a false case based on the "the safety of our neighborhood children". I am a father of 4 and we all love our kids, there is no garbage truck safety issue and it's driven only on emotion and no fact. Making up a fake crisis to drive an environmental agenda is shameless on its face. Catherine should just be honest and say she doesn't like the noise and chaos from multiple big trucks and a fake global warming crisis and leave it at that, that's a fair argument.

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Kimberly Barrett

comment...

Reply to Catherine Groat



[SUSAN JEPSEN](#) about 1 month ago

Our biggest concern is that negotiated savings wouldn't necessarily be passed on to us after a hauler is selected for our area.

1 Support

comment...

Reply to SUSAN JEPSEN



[Sandy Radeke](#) about 1 month ago

I understand the desire for fewer trucks on garbage day, but perhaps the answer is to have fewer of the large companies allowed as permitted choices than to go to single hauler. I use a small local company, Vierkant, because they saved me a significant amount over my old large company hauler, because the large hauler had terrible customer service, and even more because of the compostables option. Between recycling and the things I can put in the compostables bin, my actual trash is very little. Some weeks I don't have enough to put out. Although Vierkant has invested a lot into their business, they couldn't compete for a city-wide contract. If the city does go to universal, I would want them to make sure that those of us who want compostables service would still be able to get it.

Also, there would need to be some kind of customer service/quality control aspect to the contract. I have not been impressed with the level of service from the recycling provider. If things fall out of the bin while it is being lifted into the truck, they don't come out and pick them up -- they just sit there until I get home unless they blow away first.

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Sandy Radeke



[erin lysen](#) about 1 month ago

I think one hauler makes sense. Our small street of 5 houses uses 3 different providers! Also, has there been any discussion on WEEKLY recycling instead of bi-weekly? Our recycle bin is always overflowing and we are just a family of 4. We could easily reduce our weekly waste if we had more recycling capacity.

1 Support



[Vivien Talghader](#) about 1 month ago

When Edina switched to single-sort bi-weekly recycling, my family of six was given a small recycling bin that could really only hold one week's worth of recycling. I contacted the city and they were happy to get me a larger recycling bin. I don't believe that the city advertises this but I'm sure that if you were to ask for a larger bin, they would also be happy to accommodate.

1 Support

comment...

Reply to Vivien Talghader

comment...

Reply to erin lysen



[Dorothy Lodahl](#) 20 days ago

Our neighborhood was recently solicited in person or by a flyer, from a "big business hauler to switch for \$43/quarter for the largest container. This is \$17 cheaper than the Garbage Man or Vierkant.. Trying to run the little guys out of business? If Edina goes to a city wide pickup or sectional pickup - who will be left to bid . Only the big boys. I have been contacted several times to go back to my previous hauler. The last time for \$10/month.for the largest container. When I asked if everyone was getting the same price, the answer was NO. I believe this is unethical business practice and is not a company I wish to do business with.

0 Supports

[Reply to Dorothy Lodahl](#)



[Mary Lathrop](#) 18 days ago

I lived in Minneapolis where the city-controlled garbage hauler responded only to the city, not to the residents whose garbage they hauled. There were always problems: messes left, cans in the street, etc. I later lived in Mendota Heights where I could choose any hauler. After having one of the large national haulers whose phone was not answered by a human, I switched to a local hauler and was extremely pleased with both the price (over \$100 less per year than the national company) and the service. When I moved to Edina three years ago I went with a small, local business...Suburban Waste Services. The phone is answered by a real person....a pleasant person who wants my business. The garbage man neatly places my can back where I can reach it. The garbage haulers' responsibility is to me, and if there's a problem and they don't do well, they know I'll change to a competitor. I doubt I would get the same service with one of the big business haulers. Besides, isn't it nice to give business to local, Twin Cities' businesses, especially when it's cheaper? I really do appreciate having all garbage in one area hauled on the same day. That cuts down on the cans always being in the street. After reading all the comments above by people who dislike several trucks one day, I realize that my pro-local-business view might not prevail. If the pro-big business lobby manages to change the city policy someday, and have one large company haul the garbage, I hope that the contract is short...one year max...and up for review each year. But I hope that never happens....I would hate to see all the friendly, cheaper, local businesses out-gunned by a big boy.

0 Supports

[Reply to Mary Lathrop](#)

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The City wants to learn more about what people think about the organized garbage hauling. Some cities have zoned garbage hauling where there are several haulers, but one per zone. Some cities even have one garbage hauler for the entire city, whereas Edina allows its residents to choose from a number of licensed haulers. See the topics to weigh in!

Note: The City is not proposing a change at this time. By using this online discussion, feedback...

3 Topics 126 Answers Closed 2014-04-01

[View Discussion](#)

Topic: [Cost](#)

The City provides a single recycling hauler, and residents are billed quarterly with their water bills. Would you support a similar payment structure? How much do you be willing to pay per quarter for City-contracted garbage service?

16 Responses

16 Responses



[Michael Braun](#) about 1 month ago

Yes, I like the idea of it being on our water bills. I like that the recycling cost went down from \$7.50 a quarter to \$5.25 and I love the new large mixed

recycling bins. I'm currently paying \$42 a quarter for trash only, no organics ( I compost all our organics for our garden) If city wide recycling with once a week pick-up costs \$5.25 a quarter, perhaps once a week trash pick-up would cost \$10.50 - that would be terrific, it has to be less than \$40 a quarter! Allow residents to pay extra if they want organics added to their once a week pick-ups.

1 Support

Reply to Michael Braun



[Lorenzo Tunesi](#) about 1 month ago

Yes, I would support a quarterly payment structure for garbage and yard waste. In terms of cost it is all about options. Several sizes (at least 3) of garbage cans should be available and options for yard/organic waste should be available as well.

1 Support



[Jordan Gilgenbach](#) admin about 1 month ago

Lorenzo, providing different bin sizes and trash options is a good point to keep in mind since sometimes, a one-size-fits-all model doesn't work. Thanks for your comment!

0 Supports

Reply to Jordan Gilgenbach

Reply to Lorenzo Tunesi



[Kw x](#) about 1 month ago

I'd prefer a quarterly billing from City of Edina. Price? Since they all price out about the same now, would expect similar pricing to what we have, plus hope the City does a good job of negotiating the contracts.

0 Supports



[Sandy Radeke](#) about 1 month ago

Do they really price out about the same now? I cut my trash bill almost in half when I switched from one of the big haulers to Vierkant.

0 Supports



**Kw x** about 1 month ago

I experienced price creep once I signed on with two different haulers. When I called around, the prices of the others were about the same. Vierkant was in this group. If your bill was twice as high, not including the promotions they all offer when you switch service, you were paying too much.

0 Supports

Reply to Sandy Radeke

Reply to Kw x



**Donna DAquila** about 1 month ago

I don't want to pay anything for city hauling. I'll choose my own garbage hauling service. What kind of people are you to even discuss the city choosing your personal home choices. Didn't you learn enough with the ridiculous millions of dollar bike lanes???

0 Supports



**Art Vandalais** about 1 month ago

Thank you Donna, finally someone with some common sense. These busy body local city bureaucrats need to find something else to do with their time. The next thing you know, the gov't will try to tell us what kind of health insurance we have to buy.....

1 Support

Reply to Art Vandalais

Reply to Donna D'Aquila



**SUSAN JEPSEN** about 1 month ago

We are currently paying \$51 per quarter plus fees and taxes for the smallest can size. I would expect to pay about \$40 per quarter if a good contract were

negotiated. City billing is the way to go.

0 Supports

Reply to SUSAN JEPSEN



[Kelli von Heydekampf](#) about 1 month ago

I pay \$85 quarterly for a large can AND all compost waste. This includes all yard waste plus all food scrap waste and any paper products. I find this very reasonable and the compost/kitchen waste has cut down on my regular garbage tremendously.

0 Supports

Reply to Kelli von Heydekampf



[Patrick Finley](#) about 1 month ago

I pay \$85 for garbage and \$21 for yard waste each quarter. I think this is a little high. With negotiation from the city I would expect about \$300 per year for both garbage and yard.waste. comment. Actually is all the fees that are the killer...

0 Supports

Reply to Patrick Finley



[Art Vandalais](#) about 1 month ago

I'm interested in how Edina will compensate all of the homeowners who be forced to breach long term contracts they have with their haulers. I have a locked in commitment of 30 months left with my hauler. If they're are not the anointed hauler, then me and several others in my position will still be liable to pay down our contracts.

Secondly, how can a one size fits all model work? Sure you can have different can options but how about frequency? My snow bird neighbors are gone 6 months out of the year, will they be forced to buy a service 6 months out of the year when they otherwise wouldn't consume that service?

2 Supports

Reply to Art Vandalais



[kerry kirvida](#) 26 days ago

Yes, I support organized garbage hauling. I think a reasonable cost should be 10% lower than what I pay now because by consolidating pickup, the city can hold a competitive bid with a select group of garbage haulers. Lower rates should be negotiated than what an individual household currently pays. To assess a fair monthly/quarterly cost, the city should average what homeowners currently pay, less at least 10%.

0 Supports

Reply to kerry kirvida



[Bruce Kieffer](#) 20 days ago

This is really hard to comment on since we have no idea what the price would be. What do other cities charge? I pay \$60 a quarter now for a large cart.

0 Supports

Reply to Bruce Kieffer



[Joe Corbett](#) 20 days ago

We pay \$55/quarter for for a large cart only. I would expect the city rate to be comparable and offer a-la-carte options like adding/subtracting organics/yard waste as needed. Per other comments, I signed a 4-year contract and would want to make sure the city would phase this program in or pay early termination fees (mine is 6 months, or \$110).

Overall though, this is a great idea and I hope it happens. When we lived in MSP, the city awarded work to the 4 best bidders and divided the city into a grid. Edina has 4 haulers and could easily divide into quadrants using 62 and 100 as natural grid lines.

1 Support

Reply to Joe Corbett



[Greg Arnott](#) 18 days ago

I suggest reviewing the current garbage hauling rates in the City of St. Louis Park to get an idea of what the charges may be in Edina with city-wide hauling. For those who want to keep the organics option, St. Louis Park has it so there is no reason we can't include as an option for Edina residences.

Don't forget the St. Louis Park rates include yard waste which in Edina we pay separately. Also your current hauler may not be billing quarterly so you may not be able to compare the total of your current bill to the St. Louis Park quarterly rates. Then the size of the carts in St. Louis Park may not be the same as your current service so get out your computers and prepare a little spreadsheet.

0 Supports

14 March 2014

Speak Up Edina  
c/o Edina City Hall  
4801 West 50th Street  
Edina MN 55424

To Speak Up Edina personnel:

Regarding the online community discussion site, I am one of those who are computer illiterate, therefore do not have access to the site. Thank you for putting a notice in the West Extra section of the Star Tribune newspaper on Wednesday, March 12.

Put me on record as being against city-organized garbage collection. I dispute the arguments about saving money, reducing damage to streets, and benefitting the environment. Whose money would be saved?

A single hauler would need more trucks to serve those residents left without their chosen hauler. It would reduce the number of trucks, though, from three to one per street. Instead, I'm looking at construction vehicles for tear down/build new home sites. They do far more damage.

What would the environmental benefits be? Everyone is supposed to be going ho for the environment but where is the list of specific benefits? I'm not against "being green" just the hysteria about it.

Yours truly,

Mrs. Mary Louise Sharp  
4225 Crocker Avenue  
Edina Minnesota 55416-5011

## Re: Garbage hauling

Apparently it is too late to comment on the city website regarding garbage hauling, but I'd still like to comment anyway.

Elenia has gone through this question at least twice in the past and private hauling was always preferred by the public. There were a limited number of haulers, permitted by the city, to choose from, perhaps six. I agree with the person who noted that municipal hauling always seems to go up in price without any options to fall back on. If anyone remembers, our re-cyclables were to be hauled away free and that lasted for only a year or two and the "oh gee" "we need to charge"!

I just changed haulers about two or three years ago because of price and the fact that the previous hauler kept leaving the lid open - especially on rainy or snowy days! I'm not particularly interested in starting that argument again or begging to have someone walk one car length up my driveway to collect the garbage,

(I am on an alley and my yard and drive tilt"  
With a private hauler I can request  
certain specifics with a municipal one  
it becomes another new bunch of "rules"!  
No thanks.

May Martens  
4060 Adams Ave.

## Jordan Gilgenbach

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**To:** Jennifer Bennerotte  
**Subject:** RE: Organized Solid Waste Collection in Edina

**From:** Don Krebs <drk62@earthlink.net>  
**Date:** March 31, 2014 at 12:57:17 PM CDT  
**To:** <JBennerotte@EdinaMN.gov>  
**Subject:** Organized Solid Waste Collection in Edina  
**Reply-To:** Don Krebs <drk62@earthlink.net>

I couldn't get on to the SpeakUp site, but felt compelled to put my comments into the Mix. I had previously commented on our neighborhood site and will reiterate those comments here. Please add them in during the City's deliberations.

We live on Naomi Drive. It is street that is one block long between 66th Street and Danen's Drive in Brookview Heights. Every week we have six collection trucks picking up on our block. They include

- + Vierkant Disposal
- + Allied Waste
- + Waste Management
- + Aspen
- + SWS
- + Edina Garbageman

Every other week we have Allied collecting recycling (a great program!). At least two of these trucks go up one side and down the other side on their routes. Collection starts at 7 AM and can continue to 2 PM. All of these company's do a great job, although I am sure that there are complaints now and then.

My career included working for an engineering firm that did collection studies across the country for cities, counties and states. I cannot recall one study over more than 25 years where organized collection did not come out as being cheaper for the customer and the community involved. Considering fuel burned, wear and tear on streets and equipment, safety of citizens (accidents happen) and collection workers (a dangerous field of work anyway), neighborhood cleanliness and environmental factors there is really no other direction to go than toward organized collection.

There are many options within organized collection, but I prefer a system that involves multiple districts within the City with open bidding to pre-qualified, privately run collection firms. Provisions of services to be provided must be established in the bid package along with the method of evaluation to be used for selection. Any bid package should be developed with the ability of collection firms to review and comment before the bid package is approved for bidding.

Finally, I want to wish you the best in your evaluations of organized collection. Everyone (including me) likes their "garbage man" because they almost always do a tough job well. However, the public welfare, use of limited public funds and the overall environment is best served by organizing the City's solid waste collection services.

## Jordan Gilgenbach

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**From:** claire lee <craftyclaire55@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2014 9:00 AM  
**To:** Jordan Gilgenbach  
**Subject:** Re: Speak Up, Edina comments

Jordan,

Here's my comment on the garbage hauling issue. Thanks for helping me out this morning.

I live at the beginning of a long dead end that includes 3 cul-de-sacs. We have at least 6 different garbage hauling companies that come back and forth on our street each week, that doesn't even include the recycling truck. I would love to see some limits set on how many haulers can be traveling our neighborhoods. Maybe the city could contract with 2 vendors (1 green hauler and 1 regular) and give residents a choice of who they would want to contract with. We would still have a choice and it would cut down on the number of haulers. There could be a 2 yr. contract and then reevaluate the service.

Claire Lee

On Mar 31, 2014, at 8:49 AM, Jordan Gilgenbach wrote:

Hi Claire,

If we can't get the online system to work, please feel free to email me your comments directly.

Thanks!

---

**Jordan Gilgenbach, Communications Coordinator**

<image001.gif> 952-826-0396 | Fax 952-826-0389 | Cell 612-363-3564  
[jgilgenbach@EdinaMN.gov](mailto:jgilgenbach@EdinaMN.gov) | [www.EdinaMN.gov](http://www.EdinaMN.gov)

...For Living, Learning, Raising Families & Doing Business

## Jordan Gilgenbach

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**From:** L L ERICKSEN <emmajune4@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2014 4:19 PM  
**To:** Jordan Gilgenbach  
**Subject:** Garbage service

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Jordan,

Thank you for taking my comments this way and not on the Speak Up, Edina! website.

While on one hand I think have a single garbage hauler has a lot of merit, I don't think it is the best solution for people like me.

I do not have garbage service. Since I live alone, I generate one tall kitchen can of garbage every 3-4 weeks. My neighbor has graciously allowed me to use their service when I need it.

I really don't want to pay for way more service than I need or want. While the haulers say they charge by the amount of trash, it assumes you fill at least on large can a week and goes up from there. The system does not encourage people to cut down on the amount of trash they generate.

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The single sort recycling provide through the city contract is fantastic. I love it.

One problem I have though is yard and tree waste. The county used to allow you to haul it to their drop off site in the north metro. That has since stopped. I have composted some of it and tagged onto another neighbor, but would prefer the city recycle it as part of the recycling program or provide a drop off site even if there is a fee. I am not sure why the city did not include it in their recycling program.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Laura Ericksen  
6037 Wooddale Avenue South

\*\*\*\*\*

Laura Ericksen >^..^<  
[EmmaJune4@msn.com](mailto:EmmaJune4@msn.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

Topic: Organize hauling?

Do you prefer to choose your garbage hauler, or would you prefer the City hold contracts (like recycling) with haulers so only one garbage hauler would be used per zone or City-wide? Why or why not?

I prefer to choose my own garbage hauler. I believe in competition - we're still a free country. Big isn't necessarily good. I believe in a locally owned company.

Topic: Pros and Cons of Garbage Hauling

What are your biggest concerns if the City were to move to a City-contracted garbage hauler? What are the benefits of keeping it the way it is?

With one hauler, they totally control everything. I'm very concerned about what you can put out if something doesn't fit in the container. St. Louis Park has one hauler & restricts everything. The cover has to be shut tight or they won't pick it up - nothing extra.

Topic: Cost

The City provides a single recycling hauler, and residents are billed quarterly with their water bills. Would you support a similar payment structure? How much do you would be willing to pay per quarter for City-contracted garbage service?

I believe in free enterprise. After having a large company like Allied, it's so nice to work with a locally owned company like Vierpart. They care more about us than our the big organizations. If we can't get it to the street, they will come to the house & get it. There isn't any contract. We pay \$54 a qtr. with everything included.

Topic: Organize hauling?

Do you prefer to choose your garbage hauler, or would you prefer the City hold contracts (like recycling) with haulers so only one garbage hauler would be used per zone or City-wide? Why or why not?

Choose our own! Preferably a maximum of 3 Co's in our area because of weight restrictions. Competition is the name of the game for better service + competitive prices

Topic: Pros and Cons of Garbage Hauling

What are your biggest concerns if the City were to move to a City-contracted garbage hauler? What are the benefits of keeping it the way it is?

City hauling in St. Louis Park is a catastrophe!!!  
No way - Competition is a must in any business venture!

Topic: Cost

The City provides a single recycling hauler, and residents are billed quarterly with their water bills. Would you support a similar payment structure? How much do you would be willing to pay per quarter for City-contracted garbage service?

Keep city contracted, if only one hauler, out of it - keep price the same per quarter of \$54.00 for everything included. And having great service

*Voicemail received from resident. No name or phone number.*

Hi, Jordan

I'm a resident of Browndale Avenue, and have been a resident for over 40 years. And I'm just responding to the Speak Up, Edina. I really don't want to type a message, I just want to give my opinions.

I am so against our government, our local government, our national government taking away our choices. We have a right to make choices, and I am totally happy with my garbage company. I've had it for 40 years and I don't want to change my company and I don't want my city to tell me I have to change my company.

It's probably the most dominant hauler within the community here, but I just resent being, our choices being taken away from us. I am so strong on that. So that I hope, I hope that doesn't happen, and I see your asking for people's opinions. Mine is very much against government, or City of Edina telling us who we can choose and who we can't choose.

Thanks you very much for listening. Goodbye.