

Edgewater, CO Move From Municipal to Contract Collection Strategy

Edgewater is a unique city with approximately 1,300 households. For 20+ years, refuse was collected by the city of Edgewater Department of Public Works (previous to the 2010 change, households paid about \$13/month for trash only service). In 2007-08, Edgewater determined that it was undercharging for this service in comparison to surrounding Colorado cities. Throughout 1995-2011, various educational programs and presentations were successful to update interested citizens - but did little to help assist decision makers in making a decision. In 2009-10, the city conducted an analysis of city waste services and identified a clear need for a fresh look at its collection system. Later that year, city collection equipment failure brought the decision process to a head.

The city ultimately decided to outsource collection of residential trash and recyclables, and undertook a competitive bidding process. Edgewater selected Allied as its official collection vendor in late 2010. The hauler agreement with Edgewater establishes Allied as the city's preferred hauler, but not as the city's exclusive hauler. Other haulers may serve Edgewater homes – currently about 96% of the city's residents utilize Allied's services.

The Allied agreement has a 5-year term and includes variable rate trash service - weekly 95 gallon collection for \$20/household-month; weekly 65 gallon for \$15 and weekly 32 gallon for \$10. There is also an every-other-week 32-gallon super-saver service for \$8/month. All trash service levels include curbside recycling (95-gallon carts) at no extra cost. Since this change was implemented, Edgewater has noted that 75% of Allied customers use the smallest trash container, and a majority of households take advantage of the recycling service.

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