

*Rainbow Disposal Co., Inc.*

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# MODERNIZES TRASH COLLECTION

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*in Fountain Valley*



Employee-owned Rainbow Disposal Co., Inc. is proposing to modernize and automate trash collection in 2007.

Rainbow will bear the entire cost of modernization.

Trash collection rates to residents will remain stable.

Bin service collection in most mobile home parks and condo and apartment complexes will remain the same.

The successful conversion to automated collection depends on the cooperation of residents.

Rainbow has been a dependable community partner providing excellent service for 50 years.

## Why is Modernization and Automation Necessary?

There are four important reasons:

- **Safety of workers.** Each day drivers lift and throw 28,000 pounds of your trash into the trash truck. They have experienced, and continue to be at risk for needle sticks, cuts, bruises, back sprains, etc. Worker's compensation is a threat as is possible ergonomic legislation that may ban manual collection of trash in the future.
- **Increased collection efficiency.** Automated collection is faster.
- **Less trash going to landfills.** By separating recyclables Rainbow can recover more materials that are cleaner for recycling. State law requires us to divert 50% of our waste from the landfill. That requirement could go higher.
- **A cleaner environment.** Rainbow will be buying a new fleet of quieter, less polluting and safer trucks. New air quality requirements will begin going into effect in 2007. Carts with attached lids keep trash and litter from escaping into streets, beaches and storm drains and prevent vermin from scavenging.



## What Are the Benefits to Residents?

- Free carts with wheels and sturdy attached lids
- Continued once-a-week collection of all waste
- Flexible 10/4 Pickup Program
- Cleaner streets, beaches and neighborhoods
- Information to help you prepare trash for pickup
- Personalized customer service and a telephone help line
- Instructions and diagrams on carts

Rainbow will also reconfigure the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Huntington Beach, taking advantage of technological improvements that yield more recyclables. These better sorting technologies depend on cleaner recyclables. The existing MRF will also be

upgraded with new technology. Rainbow will continue to process all materials as we do now.

Rainbow is also adding a MRF to process construction and demolition waste, so fewer materials will go to the landfill.



Before...

After...

Additional carts and the 10/4 Pickup Program will be available.



## How will this Affect Me?

Most homes will get three carts: Brown for trash, green for yard waste and blue for recyclables. All recyclables (paper, glass, plastic, etc.) can be placed together in the blue cart. Residents with special needs or living in attached dwellings, or those with zero lot lines may require 65 gallon carts. An additional cart for recyclables and yard waste will be delivered free upon request. An additional trash cart will be available for a one-time delivery fee to-be-determined. Special free pickups of bulky items currently limited to one item per pickup twice a year, will be expanded to ten items per pickup four times a year (10/4 Pickup Program). Those items may include bagged trash as well as old appliances or furniture.

# Questions & Answers

**Q How can Rainbow incur the costs of modernization of trash collection (purchase of carts, trucks, new technology for the Materials Recovery Facility or MRF) and not pass those on to customers?**

Automation of trash collection will not increase rates above and beyond the normal cost of living increases. Here's how Rainbow will be able to do that:

1. This project qualifies for long-term, low-cost financing with the California Pollution Control Financing Authority.
2. Curbside separation of recyclables and yard waste results in a cleaner waste stream that is more valuable in the commodities market. This will help stabilize rates.
3. Automated collection is faster. This increases efficiency and lowers costs (*see the next question below*).
4. Long-term contracts provide Rainbow the ability to stretch costs of equipment purchases over longer periods of time. This results in less cost per year. These savings help offset the capital investment.

**Q Will the increased efficiency of collection and processing result in a reduction of employees at Rainbow?**

Through normal attrition and re-assignment of current workers to new positions created by modernization, our workforce will be naturally reduced over time.



**Q Won't sorting out recyclables and placing them in one cart at the curb make it easier for scavengers?**

Scavenging is a municipal code violation and enforcement is a matter that may have to be reviewed in the near future. However, many residents currently encourage scavengers by placing separated newspapers and recyclables at curbside. We urge people not to do that. We will encourage everyone to place recyclables inside the new recycling carts.

**Q If residents have to separate trash themselves, why will there still be a "recycling fee?"**

Rainbow employees will continue to sort all your refuse at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). Separating it into three "waste streams" (trash, recyclable, yard waste) picked up by three different trucks greatly reduces the contamination of those materials, especially separating out the green/yard waste. Because all recyclables (glass, plastic, paper, aluminum) will be commingled, Rainbow must still separate those materials. There is much better sorting technology available today (hence better efficiency). This new technology depends upon having less contaminated waste streams.

**Q Who will keep the new carts clean? What if they break?**

Residents can continue to use plastic bags as a method to keep trash and green waste carts clean. Broken carts will be replaced, unless that breakage was caused by deliberate abuse.

**Q What about residents who put out more than three trash carts? Will we pay more?**

Now, residents are restricted to containers weighing no more than 32 gallons, as our workers cannot lift more than that. A 95-gallon cart holds about 3 times that amount, so each resident's capacity per cart is triple the current capacity. If a resident needs more than one cart for yard waste or recyclables, an additional cart can be delivered for free. If you require more than one 95-gallon cart for trash, you may have an additional cart for a one-time delivery charge. We will not charge a monthly fee for additional carts as most cities do.

**Q What about those times we put out lots of yard clippings? We won't be able to put those in one cart even if it is 95-gallons.**

We want to continue to pick up all of your trash and understand there are times when you will have additional yard clippings, party trash or things to discard after cleaning out the garage. That is why we are initiating the **10/4 Pick Up Program**. Up to 4 times per year, you may contact Rainbow to schedule a special free pick up of up to 10 items (bagged trash or yard clippings in bags or bulky items). We believe this will take care of your periodic overflow needs.

**Q If we cannot fit a 95-gallon cart on our side yard, will we be able to have two smaller ones instead?**

Yes. For most residents, space will not be a problem. The new 95-gallon cart is only six-and-half inches wider than your existing 32-gallon cart with lids on. You may downsize to 65-gallon carts if the 95-gallon carts just don't work for you. It all depends upon the amount of trash you generate. Carts are taller and

the wheels are sturdy making them easy to move. Remember, if the yard waste or recyclable carts are not full on trash day, don't put them out. Only the trash cart should be taken to the curb every week.

**Q I already take my recyclables to a center now for a refund. Why shouldn't I?**

By all means, please continue to do so if you wish.

**Q Why will trucks have cameras?**

Their purpose is for safety. Rainbow will be re-fleeting with quieter, less polluting and safer trucks. Cameras help drivers from hitting parked cars or other obstacles when backing up.

**Q What changes do I have to make with a trash compactor in my kitchen?**

Automated collection is still about one year away from implementation. It will then take about six months to complete the transition. Closer to that time, there will be a comprehensive public education campaign to help you with additional questions, including how to prepare your trash for pick up, where to place your carts at the curb, and how to employ kitchen trash compactors, etc.





## *What If I Have Questions?*

Rainbow's mission is to serve the waste collection, disposal and recycling needs of customers with efficiency while ensuring a safe and rewarding career for employees.

For more information,  
please do not hesitate to call  
Rainbow Disposal at  
**(714) 847-3581**

Further information can also be found  
on our website:

**[www.rainbowdisposal.com](http://www.rainbowdisposal.com)**



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