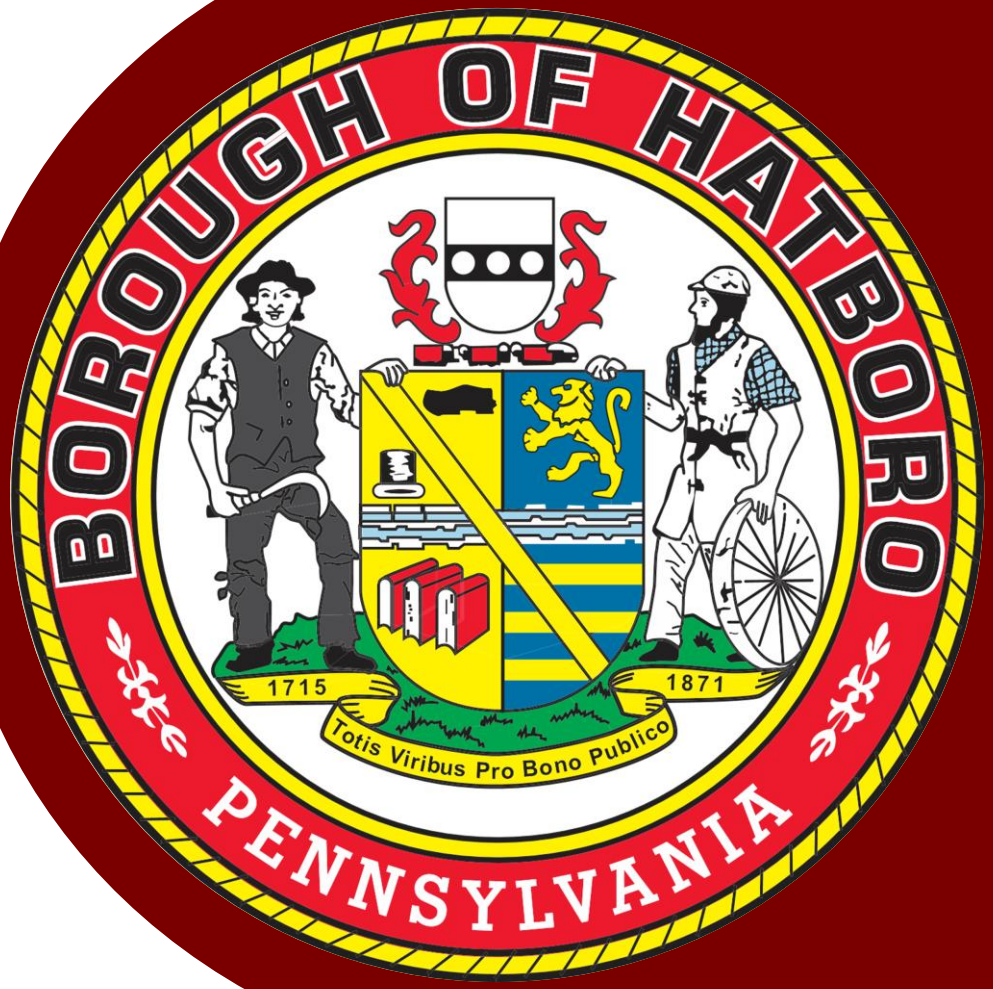


REFUSE PROGRAM

BOROUGH OF HATBORO

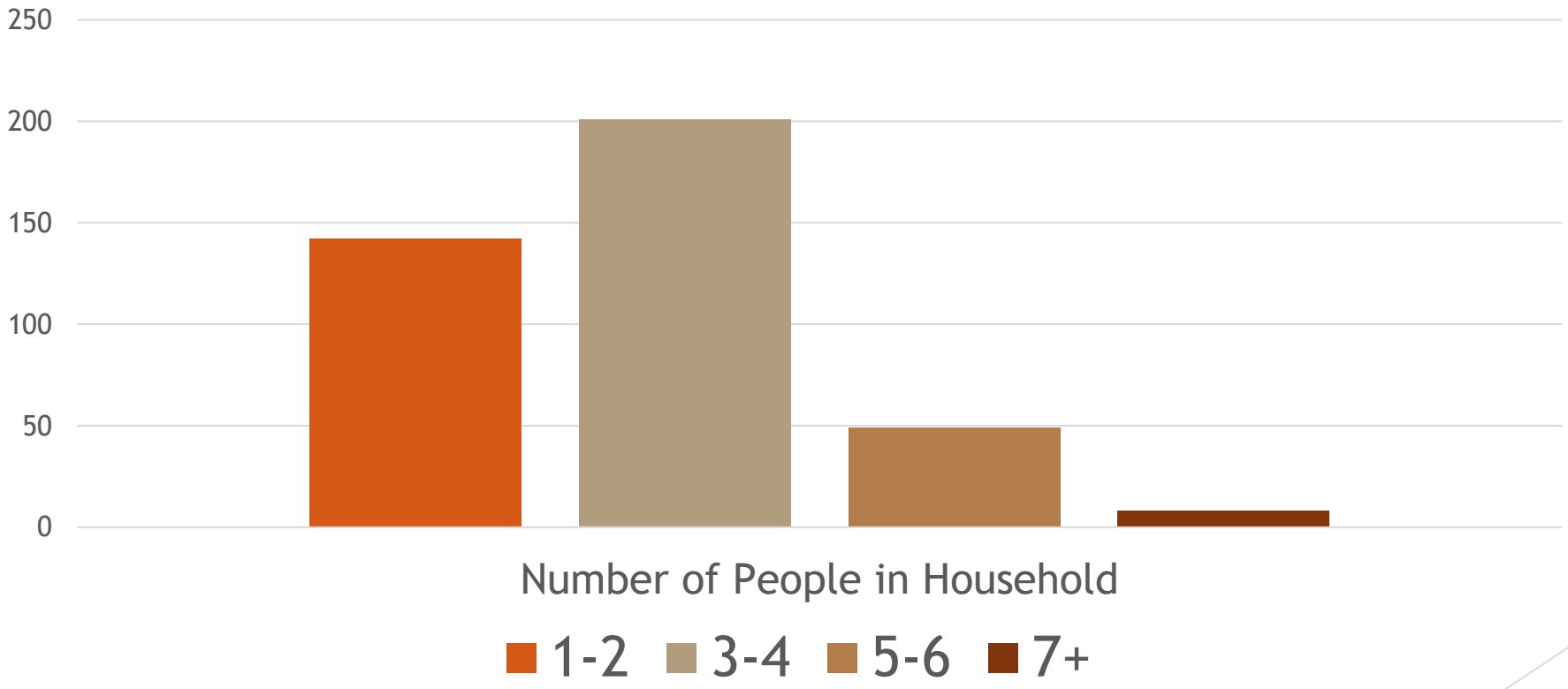
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

2020 Trash Survey Results

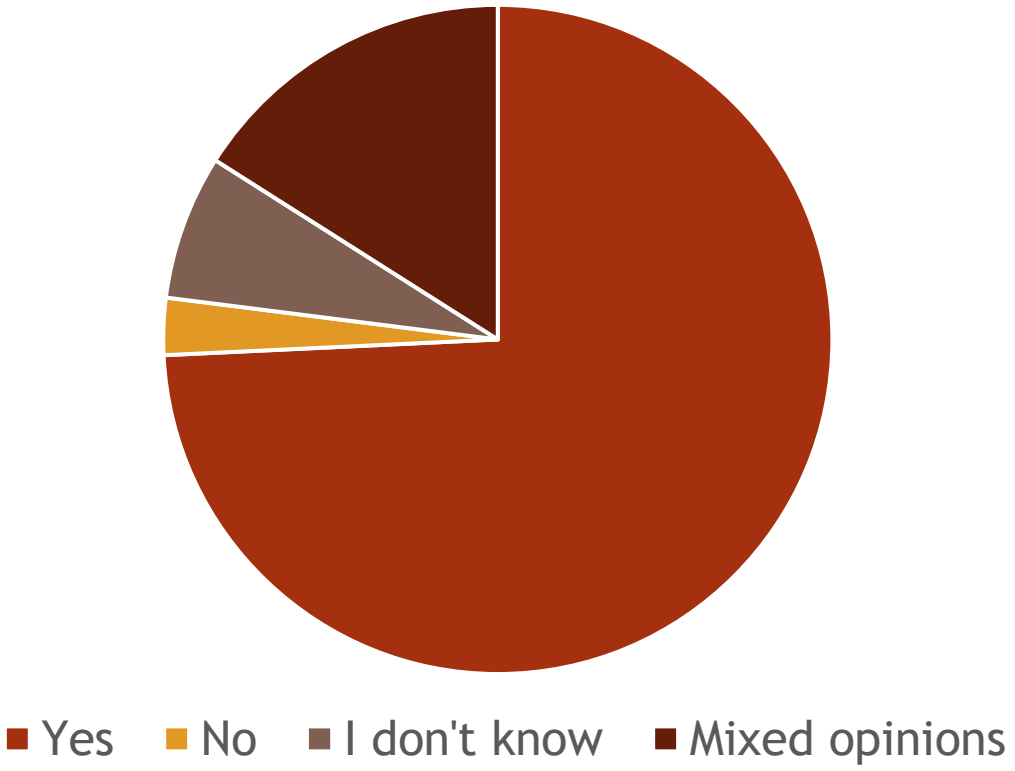
2020 Trash Survey

- Conducted in July/August 2020
- 400 Total Responses
- Basic survey with 7 questions to gauge feedback from residents on topics such as twice per week pickup, possibility of switching to once per week pickup, volume of recycling, and other feedback.

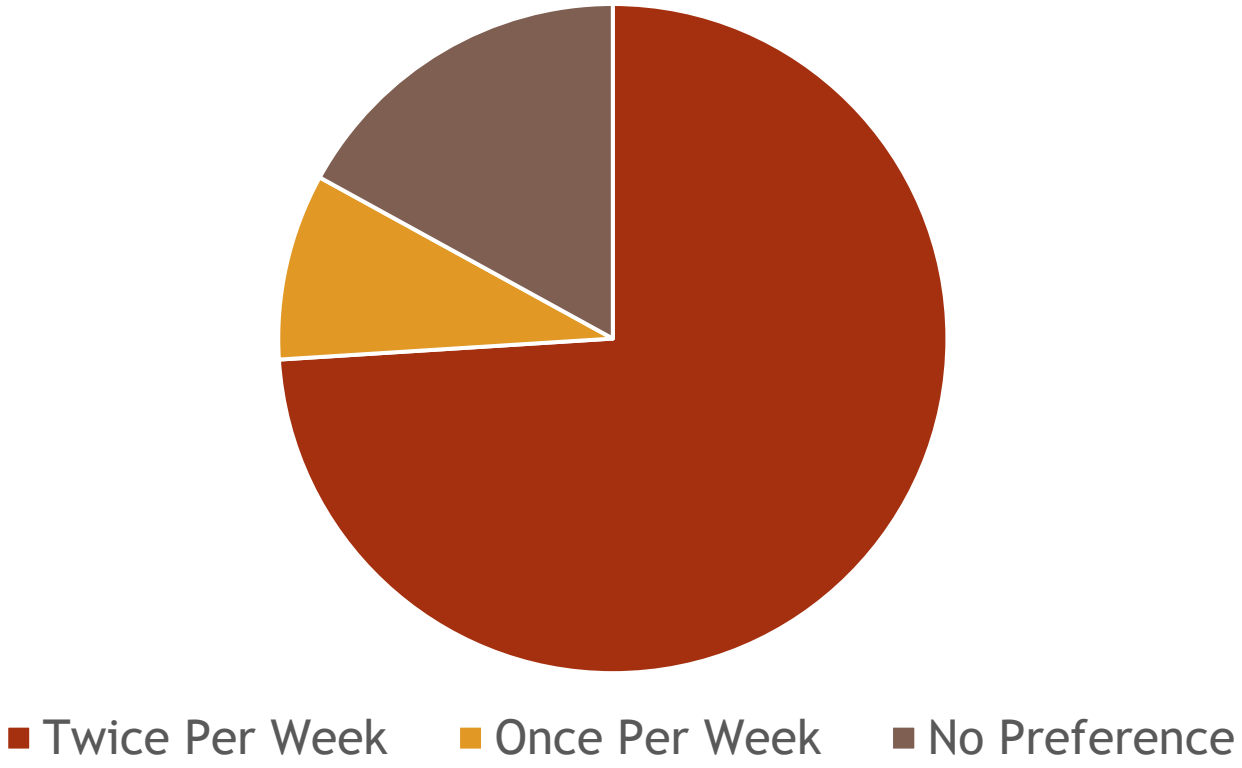
Number of People in Household?



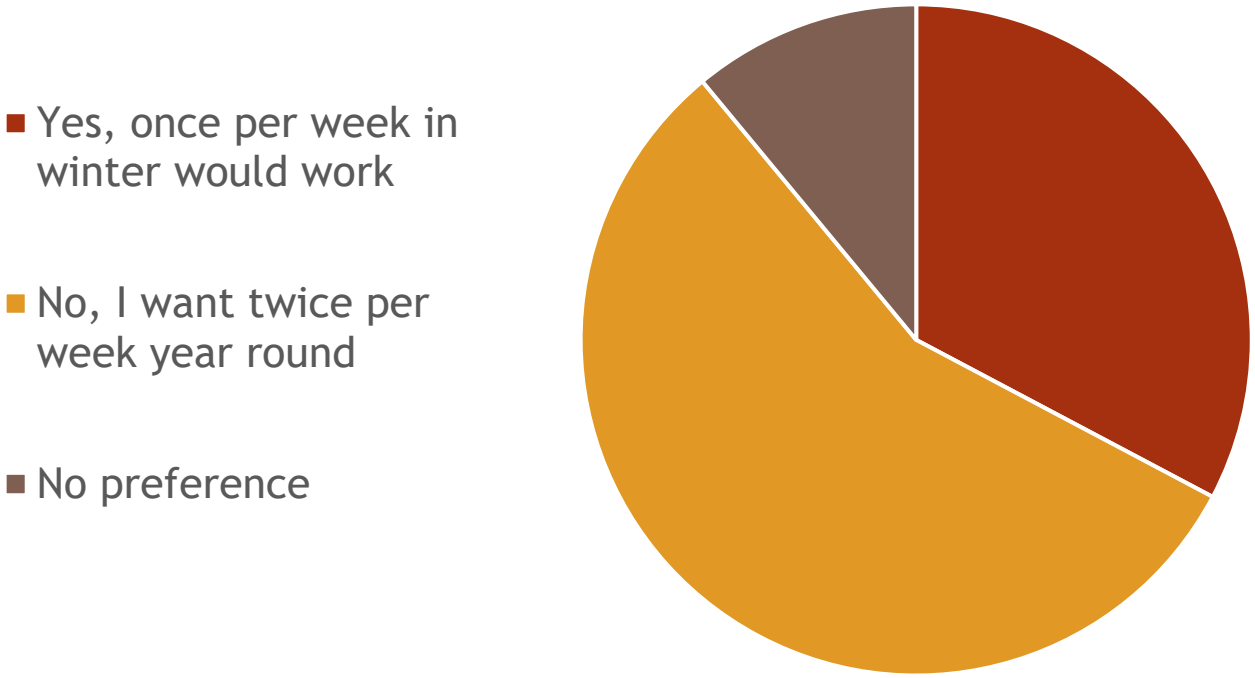
Hatboro Public Works provides your weekly garbage, recycling, and yard waste collection services. Do you believe these weekly garbage, recycling, and yard waste services are a good value for what you pay?



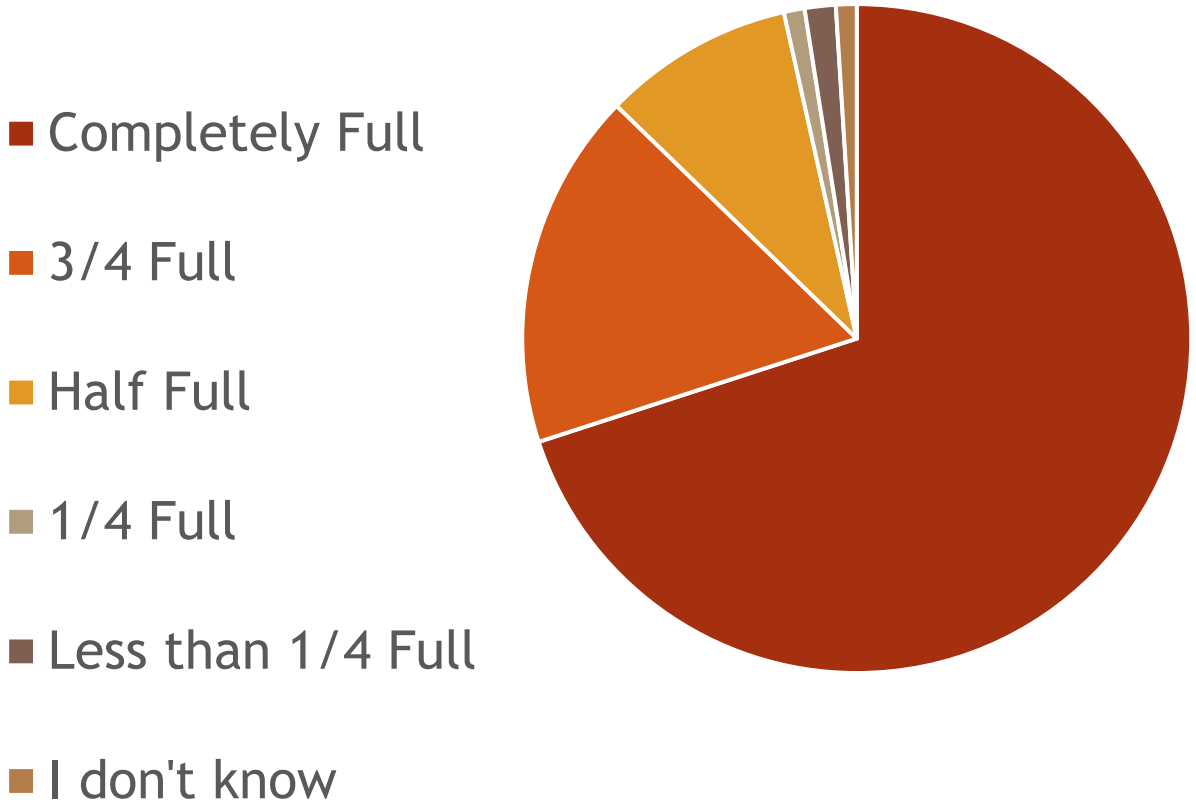
Do you prefer once or twice a week trash collection?



What are your thoughts on reducing twice per week trash collection to once per week collection during the winter months?



Generally speaking, how full is your blue recycling can on the day it is picked up by Public Works?



Why, or why not do you believe these services are of good value? – The Positives

- Trash Not Outsourced
- Reliable/Timely Collection
- Twice per week pickup
- Public Works cares about the community and its residents
- Public Works is helpful
- Services are better than other municipalities

Why, or why not do you believe these services are of good value? – The Negatives

- Limited to 50 Gallon Cans
- No bulk collection without additional fees
- No leaf vacuum for collection
- In-house collection is time consuming and prevents Public Works from completing other projects.
- The Borough only offers once per week recycling

Is there anything the Public Works Department can do to improve upon our refuse collection services?

- Continue twice per week collection
- Allow larger cans
- Continue providing services in-house as opposed to outsourcing
- Most responses were commending Public Works and their hard work/service to the Hatboro residents.

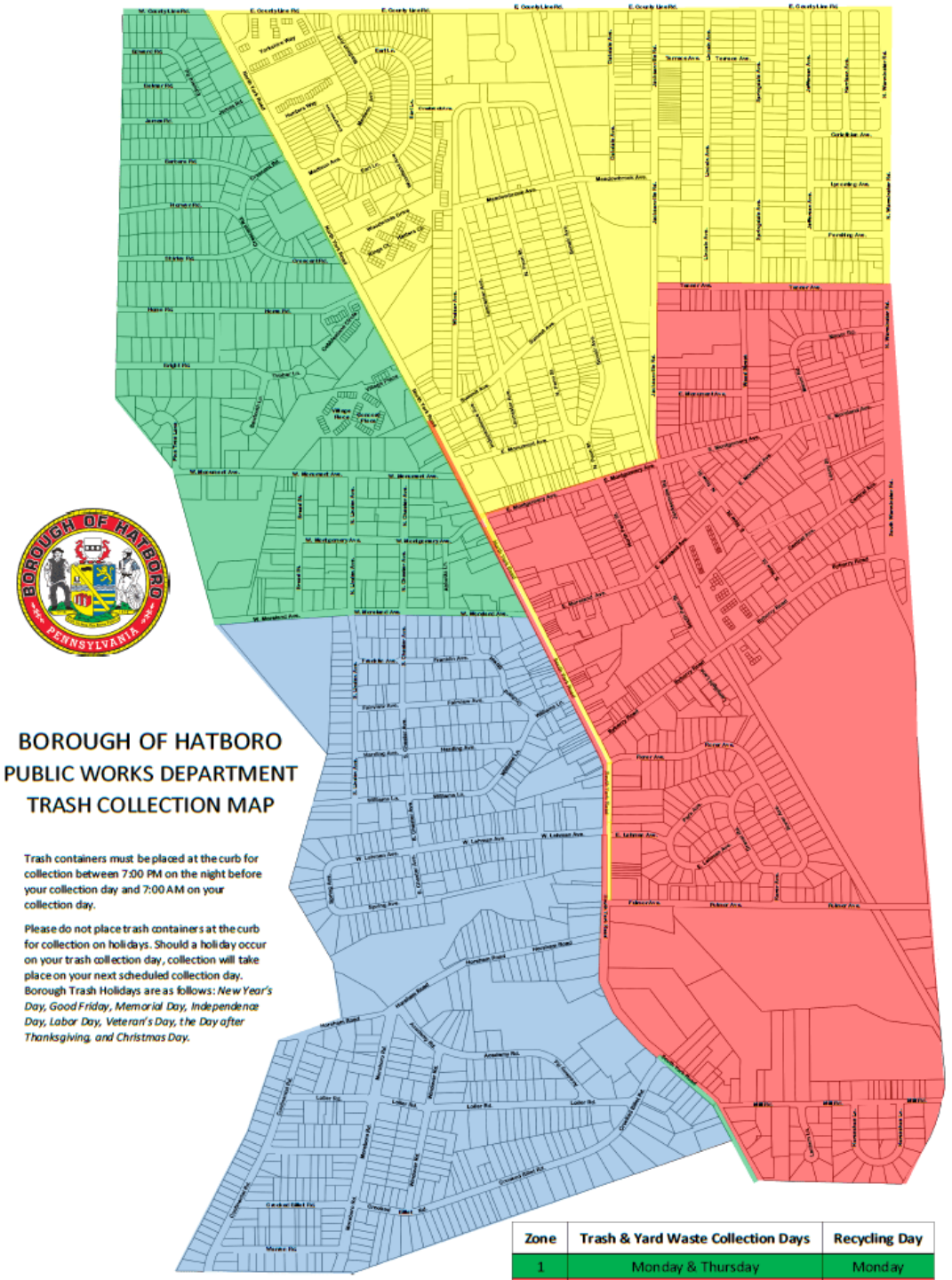
About Hatboro's Refuse Program

COLLECTION ROUTES

The Borough is broken down into four quadrants, each receiving:

- Twice per week trash collection
- Twice per week yard waste collection
- Once per week recycling collection

For instances where holidays conflict with recycling collection two weeks in a row (i.e. Christmas and New Years) the Borough holds a special recycling collection day for affected residents.



TRASH DISPOSAL SITE

COVANTA - PLYMOUTH

Location: 1155 Academy Drive
Conshohocken, PA 19428

Distance from Hatboro:
15.2 miles (one way)
30.4 miles (round trip)

Drivers take turnpike to travel to and from facility for disposal

Contract Montgomery County Consortium of Communities (Eastern)

Contract Length: Borough locked in with Covanta until December 31, 2027 with option to extend for three additional terms of 1 year each

TRASH FLEET INFORMATION

UNIT 14 - 2006
INTERNATIONAL 7400T



Unit 19
2017 Peterbilt PB348



Unit 18
1999 International 4900T



Borough's Trash Fleet is older and we are experiencing some issues with trucks lately due to their age, high number of miles, and wear/tear from collection

RECYCLING DISPOSAL SITE

REPUBLIC – KING OF PRUSSIA

Facility Address: 220 Saulin Blvd
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Distance from Borough:
20.2 miles (one way)
40.2 miles (round trip)

Drivers take turnpike to travel to and from facility for disposal

Contract Information: Borough is in a 7 year contract with Republic Services though the Montgomery County Consortium of Recycling Communities.

Contract Terms: Ends 2029

Due to the high cost of hauling, all communities in the consortium are direct-hauling recyclables to the facility in King of Prussia (cheapest option). The consortium will re-evaluate this as time goes on to see if there is a more cost efficient transportation method.

RECYCLING FLEET INFORMATION

Unit 9
2014 International 7400SBA



Borough's Recycling Fleet is newer than the Borough's Trash Fleet thanks to the Department of Environmental Protection's 902 recycling grants. This program covers 90% of the cost of a recycling truck for municipalities.

The downside to this program is that vehicles purchased can only be used for recycling. Which means these vehicles cannot be repurposed into trash trucks if one of the older vehicles breaks down.

Unit 20
2020 Mack 64BR



YARD WASTE DISPOSAL SITE

UPPER MORELAND COMPOSTING SITE – UMHJSA GROUNDS

Collection Site Address:

2875 Terwood Road

Willow Grove, PA 19090

Distance from Borough:

2.5 miles (one way)

5 miles (round trip)

Collection Site is owned by Upper Moreland Township. Borough is one of select Municipalities permitted to dump at this location.

All yard waste dumped at this location is composted into mulch. This mulch is then returned back to the Borough and placed in the mulch bin in Memorial Park for residents to utilize free of charge.

Discussion Regarding Once Per Week Pickup

Once Per Week Pickup Challenges: Volume of Refuse

- One of the largest expenses for trash collection is the tipping (or dump) fees that the Borough pays in order to dispose of the trash collected by Public Works.
- Tipping fees are charged **per ton**.
  - When a truck arrives at the dump, the truck is weighed on a scale which calculates the total tons of refuse that is being dumped at the facility. The Borough is then billed by the dump for the total amount of refuse disposed of at the dump.
- Collecting once per week as opposed to twice per week will generate the same tonnage per week. Public Works will just be visiting each property once per week as opposed to twice per week.
- Cutting to once per week pickup would make each collection date the equivalent of a “double day” for trash.
  - Double days take place when a holiday falls on a regularly scheduled pickup date and residents must hold their trash until their next scheduled pickup, therefore increasing the volume of trash at each household on a given pickup day.
  - Think twice the amount of trash in a single pickup day
  - If a holiday falls on a trash day, Public Works would need to hold a special pickup for residents. Otherwise, residents would need to hold their trash for a week until their next pickup which can lead to a large volume of trash as well as sanitary/property maintenance issues from accumulating trash.

Once Per Week Pickup Challenges: Volume of Refuse

- Prior Councils purchased smaller trash trucks which will fill faster than a larger trash vehicle would.
  - The smaller trucks were purchased with twice per week collection in mind as larger trucks were more costly and unnecessary when performing twice per week pickup.
- The Borough currently owns 3 trash trucks.
  - Two trucks are used regularly and the oldest truck is reserved as a spare.
  - The spare truck is used in the event of an emergency when a truck breaks down OR when it's a double day.
- During a regular trash day, two trucks are typically used and the third is reserved for a spare/overflow
  - The spare truck is older and is typically only used when another truck is broken down or when trash is heavier (i.e. a double pickup day)
- A typical double day requires 3 trucks to be used instead of 2 trucks like a regular route would require.
  - When a truck becomes full, it can no longer collect trash. The truck would need to be sent to the dump immediately or swapped for the spare truck and taken to the dump later in the business day.
  - The spare truck would need to be used more frequently than it is now which will increase the wear and tear on the already aged vehicle. This means that the Borough runs the risk of not having a spare vehicle in the event of a breakdown/failure of equipment AND the Borough risks not being able to provide trash pickup.
- Having 3 trucks out for collection will result in 3 laborers being sent to the dump each collection day as opposed to two drivers in a given trash day. OR it would result in the two drivers needing to go to the dump multiple times.

Once Per Week Pickup Challenges:
Volume of Refuse vs. Time for Collection

- A larger volume of trash on a given pickup day means laborers take longer to complete the collection routes.
  - This prevents laborers from completing other responsibilities and projects which will either prevent or delay other responsibilities from being done.
  - This could also cause unnecessary overtime expenses for jobs that need to be done immediately but cannot take place during business hours due to the amount of time it takes to complete trash routes.
  - When routes take longer to complete, it delays when the drivers can get to the dump. Drivers can be at the dump for upwards of a few hours depending on the amount of trucks there to dump. This could result in overtime for Drivers who cannot make it back to the shop prior to 3:00 PM
    - The dump is quicker and less crowded the earlier trucks can get there. The later in the day a truck arrives, the longer it takes for the driver to empty the truck.
    - Please note: The Borough is REQUIRED to go to the dump each day. Trash cannot be stored at Public Works or in trucks overnight.
    - The earlier a truck can dump, the shorter amount of time we take to dump.

Once Per Week Pickup Challenges:
Volume of Refuse vs. Time for Collection

- Each trash truck requires one driver and two laborers on the back of the truck for collection.
- Public Works currently has a staff of 18
  - 9 CDL Drivers
    - This includes the 1 Mechanic (who also has CDL and can fill in as driver)
  - 9 Non-CDL Drivers
- Current refuse collection structure requires:
  - Trash Truck 1: 1 driver/2 laborers
  - Trash Truck 2: 1 driver/2 laborers
  - Recycling Truck 1: 1 driver/2 laborers
  - Recycling Truck 2: 1 driver/2 laborers
  - Yard Waste Truck: 2 laborers
  - TOTAL Employees for Pickup: 14

Once Per Week Pickup Challenges: Time for Collection vs. Labor

- On the typical day, refuse Collection currently takes approximately 4 hours from start to finish.
- Once employees are finished collecting refuse, they begin to perform other duties of the department including but not limited to:

Parks Maintenance/Repairs (mowing, trail maintenance, footbridge maintenance, playground maintenance, tree/vegetation maintenance etc.)	**Traffic Signal Maintenance/Repairs** (maintenance and repair of signals and internal components)	**Storm Drain Maintenance/Repairs** (cleaning of culverts, removal of debris from storm drain, installation of inlet bags, repairs to inlets, etc.)	**Street Sweeping** (regular sweeping of all streets within the Borough to remove trash, debris, and other materials from the roadway)	**Line Painting** (painting lines for roads, sidewalks, crosswalks, etc.)
Facility Maintenance/Repairs (cleaning of facilities, maintenance of HVAC systems, repairs to buildings and systems, etc.)	**Snow Removal** (plowing/salting of streets, plowing of parking lots at Borough properties, shoveling of Borough-owned sidewalks, maintenance and repair of all plows, trucks, and associated equipment)	**Streetlight Maintenance/Repairs** (installation of new streetlights, maintenance/repair of existing streetlights)	**PA-One Call Markings** (respond to PA-1 Call requests to mark Borough utilities)	**Sidewalk and Curb Maintenance (**Maintenance and repair of sidewalks at Borough owned properties.)
Road Maintenance/Repairs **Hatboro Pool Repairs/Maintenance**	**Vehicle Maintenance** (Maintenance and repair of all vehicles owned by the Borough of Hatboro including the Police Department fleet. Repairs to all Borough owned equipment including mowers, generators, etc.)	**Street Sign Maintenance and Installation** (Install street signs, replace faded or damaged signs, etc.)	**Emergency Support** (Emergency response in storms and other events for downed trees, severe accidents requiring cleanup, etc.)	**Sidewalk and Curb Inspections** (Perform sidewalk and curb inspections for any properties that obtain permits to replace sidewalk and curb in Borough)

Once Per Week Pickup Challenges: Time for Collection vs. Labor

- Longer trash routes and collection times directly impact the amount of time staff has available to perform these other duties.
- Some of these duties are time sensitive and need to be performed during operating hours
  - Some residents have discussed the possibility of staggering hours; however, the Public Works Department is versatile meaning that employees do not just collect trash during the day.
  - Once employees are done collecting refuse, they immediately move on to the next task – many of which require multiple men to complete.
  - If the Borough were to stagger employees, that would reduce the amount of men available to complete the department's duties on a given day which could cause delays in performing work and/or cause unnecessary overtime for other employees. Longer trash routes and collection times directly impact the amount of time staff has available to perform these other duties.