

# Linden Introduces Automated Garbage Collection

A Greener Community...

Dear Linden Resident:

*The NEW Automated Garbage Collection Program has arrived-*

The Automated Garbage Collection Program is part of our continuing effort to provide the very best solid waste collection services to Linden residents. This program has been proven to be cost-effective for taxpayers and provides residents with a clean, convenient and attractive system for the disposal of household garbage.

The Program is being introduced in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Collection Districts in January, 2015. In February, 2015, it will begin in all or parts of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Collection Districts (your yearly collection schedule shows your home's Collection District with new Zone and is located on the top left corner of your schedule). There are many factors associated with the selection of the initial districts, mainly population size. Eventually, within a few years, the entire City will receive once-per-week residential Automated Collection. We will constantly monitor this system for possible improvements and advantages for residents.

This new system is designed to reduce the manpower needed to collect garbage; instead of a three-man work crew, only a single truck operator will be used. The trucks are larger, will collect once-per-week and can hold more refuse, reducing the number of trips to the County Incinerator, which will save on fuel. This system will also reduce lifting injuries and will result in fewer workman's compensation issues. These workers will be available to staff our other services, such as roadway, sewer, parks, trees and sidewalk maintenance and improvements.

Please note that Recycling and Bulk Trash services will not change in any way due to this program, although enhanced Recycling and Trash compliance will leave you more room in your garbage cart.

*What is the Automated Garbage Collection Program? It's easier, more effective and more efficient for residents than it might seem at first glance.*

Each household will receive one 95-gallon garbage collection container (referred to as a "cart") FREE-OF-CHARGE. The carts are City property and are assigned to the household using an individual serial number that corresponds to the address using a digital scanner. The cart is an industry-standard grade container with wheels, a lid and a handle. The cart can ONLY be used for garbage and can ONLY be emptied by an automated mechanism and are the ONLY containers that can be used to place garbage at the curb. One additional container per household can be rented for a one-time fee of \$60 or less, depending on market costs and inventory.

The Automated Garbage Collection Program is a one-day-per-week collection system. Your 'old' collection day will probably change to a different day of the week. Please carefully read your 2015 Collection Schedule once it arrives with your cart. If your new day falls on or near a Holiday that DPW is closed, that week's collection day may move one day forward or backward. Remember- this will not impact normal trash or recycling operations!

The Automated Garbage Collection Program is a major improvement in the way we collect household garbage. We are committed to making sure that Linden residents receive the best possible solid waste service. Detailed information is located on the website, [www.linden-nj.org](http://www.linden-nj.org), under PUBLIC WORKS; click on SANITATION.

Sincerely, your Linden Public Works Department

# Automated Garbage Collection Program

## Frequently Asked Questions and Guidelines

### What is the Automated Garbage Collection Program?

The Automated Garbage Collection Program utilizes automated garbage trucks with advanced collection technology and specially designed garbage containers (“carts”) to safely and efficiently collect curbside solid waste. Residents are provided with one green 95-gallon cart for disposing of their garbage.

### Will a 95-gallon container be sufficient?

Experience and research has shown that the 95-gallon cart handles most normal household garbage needs. A second green cart may be rented for a one-time fee of \$60, or the current cost of the cart. It is strongly suggested that you try using only one cart at the start of the program, you may never need another.

### What about parking on collection days?

Always place the container right up to the curb (or just before the pavement begins if you don't have curbs on your street), but not in the street. The mechanical arm of the truck can reach 10 feet, which is wider than a parked car. If your cart is too far off the curb and there is a parked car nearby, the truck may not reach it. Leave at least a 3-foot space between the cart and any other object such as a street sign, parked car, hydrant, tree, etc, or any other object that could obstruct the lifting and dumping of the cart by the truck operator. The cart will be returned to the exact location where it was placed.

### Do carts work in inclement weather?

The Automated Garbage Collection system has proven to work well in all types of weather, including rain and snow, and can withstand winds up to 45 mph. The specifically designed, non-removable hinged lids prevent them from being lost, run over, or blown away. The carts have smooth surfaces and lids to keep animals from getting into the cart.

### What kind of waste can I put in the cart?

The cart is designed to hold normal household garbage. It has a maximum weight of 300 lbs. filled and will roll easily even with a full load in it.

### What do I do if my cart is damaged, lost or stolen?

Do not mark or write on the carts. A serial number stamped on each container identifies the container and corresponds to the property and street address. Please notify the Public Works Department and/or the Police Department if the cart is damaged, lost or stolen. DPW- 908-474-8666 LPD- 908-474-8500.

### What if I have a cart I bought somewhere else?

The operator will not empty a cart, or any other container, unless it was given to you by the City. No exceptions.

## Automated Collection Guidelines

Normal garbage will be collected once per week according to the dates scheduled for your designated solid waste district and zone. Do not place any items alongside the cart as they will not be collected. If your recycling day corresponds with your garbage day, make sure your recyclables are more than 3-feet away from your cart.

If you *need* a second cart for your garbage, you may rent ONE additional cart from the City for a one-time fee of \$60 or market cost. If you sell your home or move, the container(s) must remain with the residence- they CANNOT be moved to a new location. Because of the computerized scanning system, we will be able to track cart theft or movement. You can call DPW at 908-474-8666 to rent a second cart. You are limited to a total of two (2) 95-gallon carts per household.

Do not place any bulky items, liquids of any kind, recyclables, or any other material other than garbage in your cart. The operator can view whatever is in the cart as it dumps.

Recycling and bulk trash collection are not impacted whatsoever by the Automated Collection System.