



Ann Arbor Solid Waste

Development Review Overview

City Planning Commission Working Session

July 14, 2026



Solid Waste Unit Overview

Service Goal: *To provide safe and efficient solid waste services and opportunities for landfill diversion for residents and businesses in Ann Arbor to protect public health and the environment.*



Collection Operations

Oversees the collection of all solid waste (trash, compost, and recyclables) for all residential, multi-family and commercial customers with city limits. Collections are provided via a combination of both city trucks and crews as well as contracted services.



Programs & Sustainability

Develops strategic initiatives to advance sustainable materials management and circular economy goals. Leads education, outreach, and engagement for single-family, multi-family, and commercial customers to facilitate behavior change related to material consumption.



Contract Administration

Manages contracts for:

- Commercial trash franchise (WM)
- Residential curbside & commercial cart recycling (RAA)
- Drop Off Station, MRF, Compost Facility, Transfer Station



Long Term Planning

Reviews site plans to ensure solid waste can be serviced safely and efficiently once buildings are occupied. Safety includes consideration for our operators, pedestrians and other road users. Plans for future capacity and resources for collection, disposal and diversion services.



Solid Waste Collections Details

Solid Waste is part of the connection between individual behavior and citywide environmental performance.





Regulatory Framework

Chapter 26 City Code of Ordinances

Solid Waste Management chapter establishes authority and administrative process.

Solid Waste Regulations

Administrative rules adopted under Chapter 26 §2:8. Provide detailed operational and design standards required for development plan submittals.

Article 12 Public Services Standard Specifications

Standard Details SD-SW-1 through SD-SW-6B. Physical design standards for dumpster enclosures, truck access paths, turning radii, and vehicle clearances.

Chapter 55 City Code of Ordinances

Governs dumpster placement, screening, and landscaping in conjunction with Chapter 26.



Administrative Approval Authority Ch. 26 §2:2(6)(d)

Ch. 26 §2:2(6)(d) — Legal Basis for Development Review:

"The city shall provide for an administrative approval process for the location of solid waste containers for customers, including all required physical improvements necessary for those solid waste containers (e.g., concrete pads, screening)."





Storage, Placement & Enclosure Requirements

Container Storage Ch. 26 §2:2(6)

Must be in a building or screened from public ROW. Space designated for solid waste used solely for that purpose (SW Regs R2:4).

Dumpster Placement SW Regs R2:4

Must be pre-approved by PSAA to permit safe vehicle access. Must comply with Ch. 55 UDC for screening and landscaping.

Enclosure Design Article 12

Per SD-SW-1 through SD-SW-6B. Fully dimensioned on plans. Min. 2 ft between dumpster and walls. Not within a utility easement.

Vehicle Access Article 12

Max 30-ft reversing distance on private property. Forward exit to public street required. Alternatives need PSAA approval for documented site constraints.



Required Plan Submissions SW Regulations R2:5(1)(J)

1

Waste Generation Calcs

Refuse and Recyclables quantities; on-site storage capacity shown as sufficient.

2

Container Storage Plan

Location, size, and type labeled. Must be in a building or screened from public ROW.

3

Collection Location Plan

May differ from storage. Dumpster enclosures per Article 12, fully dimensioned.

4

Solid Waste Narrative

Service days/week, staging responsibilities, parking restrictions needed for collection access, and other notes.

5

Vehicle Swept Path

Per Article 12 clearances. Max 30-ft reverse on private property; forward exit to public street.



What the City Evaluates During Site Plan Review

- Expected volume of solid waste generated, based on proposed uses
- Number, size, and type of containers and adequacy for proposed uses
- Storage location(s), collection location(s), and solid waste service path
- Vehicle clearances and truck turning movements on site
- Maximum 30-foot reversing distance for collection vehicles on private property (Article 12)
- Forward vehicle access required from private property to the public street
- Whether the proposed plan reflects reasonable human behavior



Container Type Assignment: Ch. 26 §2:2(4)(a) & SW Regs R2:5

Residential Customer: means a location that receives Solid Waste collection services and is a Dwelling as defined by Chapter 105, Section 8:500 of the Code of the City of Ann Arbor and is primarily used for residential purposes. Residential Customer does not include mixed-use (Commercial and Residential) locations.

Dwelling Unit Style	Curb Cart Service Setout Location	Does Required Public or Private** Street Frontage exist to allow for all required Curb Carts?	Is the Public or Private** Street Accessible for Automated (Side Arm) Collection Truck Service?	Solid Waste Container Type
Detached	Public or Private Street	Yes	Yes	Curb Cart
Detached	Public or Private Street	No	n/a	Dumpster
Detached	Private Driveway	Yes	Yes	Curb Cart
Detached	Private Driveway	n/a	n/a	Dumpster
Attached	Public Street	Yes	Yes	Curb Cart
Attached	Public Street	No	n/a	Dumpster
Attached	Private Driveway	No	n/a	Dumpster





No Parking
Mondays
6am – 10am

Photo
taken
Monday at
9:17am



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Looking to the Future

- Continue to work with the developer community and city staff to ensure safe and efficient solid waste collection services.
- Increased densification will require identifying possible new collection methodologies, technologies and planning.
- Staff keep informed about industry trends and opportunities to improve services and programs.



Thank you!

Questions?