



MANDATORY TRASH AND RECYCLING COLLECTION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. When does mandatory trash and recycling collection become effective?

Commercial collection is in effect and the City has asked that all commercial business owners be in compliance with City Ordinance 09-01 by 1st October, 2009. Please see attached letter from the Mayor. The City is required by the California Integrated Waste Management Board to have fully implemented the commercial collection programs no later than January 4th, 2010.

The residential program is in effect however we only have bins available for trash collection – the recycling bins are on order. The City is required by the California Integrated Waste Management Board to have full implementation of the residential collection programs no later than January 4th, 2010.

2. How do I sign up for trash and recycling collection?

Commercial customers can contact Benz Sanitation directly on 375-8495. Please see the attached rate schedule. Note you will be required to have one trash receptacle and one recycling receptacle.

Residential customers can sign up now for trash collection by contacting Benz Sanitation directly on 375-8495. We are asking residential customers to please watch the newspaper and City website and listen to the radio for announcements that recycling bins are available, at that time residents can sign-up for recycling collection. An initial rate of \$30.52 per month on each developed parcel within the boundaries of the City was approved at a Special Meeting of the City Council on September 10, 2009. This rate includes the collection of both the trash and the recycling bin. A 10% discount is available for those individuals who pay one year in advance or those income qualified individuals as outlined by the Public Utilities Commission, California Alternate Rate for Energy Program (CARE) and the Low Income Energy Efficiency Program (LIEE).

3. Can I have a copy of the City Ordinance pertaining to the mandatory programs?

Yes, these are available at the front counters at City Hall and the city website at www.ci.ridgecrest.ca.us

4. Does the Ordinance mandate that I have service?

Yes, Ordinance 09-01 mandates that every owner of residential or commercial premises occupied by any person shall subscribe for and pay for both trash and recycling collection.

5. **Can I still self-haul my CRV recyclables?**

Yes, Ordinance 09-01 allows for the self-hauling of trash and recycling however you are still required to sign up for mandatory trash and recycling services with Benz Sanitation.

6. **What materials can I place in my recycling bin/cart?**

Please see the attached list of acceptable materials for recycling.

7. **What if I would like to have more information in regards to the Mandatory collection programs.**

If you would like more information please do one of the following:

1. Address a letter as follows:

City Council

City of Ridgecrest

c/o Danielle Valentine, Recycling Coordinator

100W. California Ave, Ridgecrest Ca. 93555

Please include contact details and outline your questions, concerns and suggested solutions in your letter.

2. Send an email to:

dvalentine@ci.ridgecrest.ca.us

Please outline your questions, concerns and suggested solutions in your email.

3. Log on to the City website at:

www.ci.ridgecrest.ca.us

Choose the Contact Us tab

Choose the Community Development Department from the drop down menu

Follow the directions to complete your form.

Please outline your questions, concerns and suggested solutions in your form.

4. Come in to City Hall and ask to speak with Danielle Valentine, Recycling Coordinator – she will answer your questions and log any comments. You will need to provide your name, business name (if applicable) and contact details.

Please outline your questions, concerns and suggested solutions.

5. Contact Danielle Valentine, Recycling Coordinator on tel: 499-5062 – she will answer your questions and log your comments. You will need to provide your name, business name (if applicable) and contact details. *Please outline your questions, concerns and suggested solutions.*





CITY OF RIDGECREST

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Office of the Mayor

17th August, 2009

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Mayor

Ron Carter
Mayor Pro Tempore

Tom Wiknich
Vice Mayor

Marshall Holloway
Council Member

Jerry Taylor
Council Member

Michael D. Avery
City Manager

James McRea
Public Services Director

Tyrell Staheli
Finance Director

Dennis Speer
Public Works Director

Ron Strand
Chief of Police

James B. Ponak
Parks & Rec. Director

Rita Gable
City Clerk

The City Council of the City of Ridgecrest as mandated by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), and pursuant to Municipal Ordinance 09-01(enacted because of the CIWMB compliance order), now requires every owner of residential or commercial premises, occupied by any person, to subscribe for and pay our franchise waste hauler, Benz Sanitation, for separate solid waste and recycling collection. I am providing this letter for information and to assist in your understanding of our compliance with this new requirement.

Effective August 01, 2009 all commercial, multi-family (four or more units), institutional, and industrial users must subscribe to both solid waste collection and on-site commercial recycling services. Resolution 09-43 established and amended the fee schedule accordingly for service. The City Council would appreciate your swift participation and implementation of this required program. Benz Sanitation, Inc will be contacting you or your tenant during the months of August and September. You are not expected to pay or be billed for this service until you have been provided two bins, or one bin and one wheeled container, or other such agreement for service which provides for a separate recyclables collection, under the provision of the franchise agreement with Benz Sanitation. Failure to participate or obtain an agreement for mandatory service and recycling by October 01, 2009 will result in an Administrative Citation, an Infraction, or a Misdemeanor violation in accordance with the unlawful violation of the Ridgecrest Municipal Code as it pertains to the CIWMB order that the City must comply with. To subscribe for service please contact Benz Sanitation at 375-8495, or please feel free to contact the City's Recycling Coordinator at 449-5062.

Residential mandatory service and curbside pick-up of solid waste and recyclables will not begin until the Program of Service has been defined and the rate structure approved by Benz Sanitation and the City Council. Each residential property owner of a premise of one to three dwelling units must subscribe for, and pay for, service consisting of two wheeled solid waste and source separated recyclable container service. Individuals currently on the voluntary curbside service will be provided an additional blue cart for the separate collection of recyclable materials, while new users will be provided with two carts, blue for recyclable materials and the second cart for all other refuse. It is the responsibility of the property owner, not the occupant of the dwelling units, to execute an agreement with Benz Sanitation for service. Property owners will be responsible for the wheeled containers upon delivery. Residential properties may still self haul to the Ridgecrest Sanitation Landfill when the need arises, but must also subscribe to the mandatory service program for the City to conform with the CIWMB order. Recycling may also be done at any buy back center or the Mini Recycling and Drop Off Facility at the City Yards located at 656 W. Ridgecrest Blvd. during daylight hours. Commercial and residential solid waste and recycling must be in full compliance and operational throughout the City by CIWMB order before January 2010.

On behalf of the City Council members and Staff I would request your support as the City comes into compliance with the State CIWMB order. It is our hope that via this letter, and through continued community awareness, public engagement and participation to increase recycling via this change in the waste collection service will be completed via the deadline of January 10, 2010.

Steven P. Morgan

Steven P. Morgan
Mayor