

Automated Side-loader Truck

A Move Toward Greater Curbside Collection Operational Efficiency

Frequently Asked Questions

The following questions and answers serve to enlighten residents on the automated side-loader truck (ASL) implementation project within DeKalb neighborhoods.

Project Implementation

What are ASLs and how do they operate?

An acronym for “automated side loader,” the ASL is a simple-to-operate automated sanitation collection truck with a six-foot automated arm reach; a lift capacity of 500 pounds; and an eight to eighteen second roll cart dump cycle. ASLs effectively facilitate the Sanitation Division’s approach toward garbage and recycling collection service routes using a single operator. ASLs are designed to keep noise at a minimum when the truck is idle; are built for lower fuel consumption; and are designed to handle roll carts of any size. To ensure the highest levels of efficiency within the operational, safety and communication functions, ASLs have been retrofitted to accommodate cameras, two-way radios and steering that facilitates navigation through tight turns in cul-de-sacs.

Will semi-automated rear-loader collection trucks still be used?

Yes. While we are introducing ASLs for servicing curbside garbage and recycling, rear-loader trucks will continue to be used for servicing curbside yard trimmings.

When will ASLs be introduced, and how long will the implementation process take?

While we have been conducting a pilot program throughout our service area since spring 2019, the ASL initiative will be rolled out in earnest in late fall 2019, and will be ongoing as more trucks are integrated into the Sanitation Division’s garbage and recycling collection fleet.

Which areas within the Sanitation Division service area will be affected by this initiative?

This initiative is a countywide implementation, and will be introduced within the Division’s entire service area - unincorporated DeKalb and the cities of Dunwoody, Brookhaven, Lithonia, Tucker, Stonecrest, Stone Mountain and Pine Lake.

Does this initiative change residents’ collection day?

Some residents’ collection days may be affected by the implementation of this initiative. This change is geared toward greater operational efficiencies as we more effectively recalibrate our residential collection routes. Residents whose collection days are affected will receive advance notice of this change via various communication channels, including a decal placed on their garbage roll carts.

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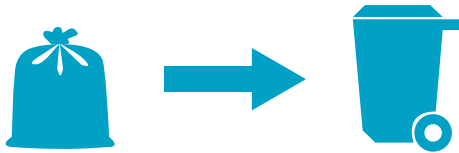


Curbside Preparation and Collection Procedures

How does this initiative change curbside collection procedures?

ASL use will only apply to garbage and recycling collection. Yard trimmings collection procedures will not be affected. Residents will be required to follow the garbage and recycling curbside collection procedures listed below. Further, two public service announcements (quick guide and detailed guide) provide visual demos on new curbside garbage and recycling preparation and collection procedures.

Place garbage in secure plastic bags prior to placement in the **green garbage roll cart**; place recyclable items loosely in the **blue recycling roll cart**.



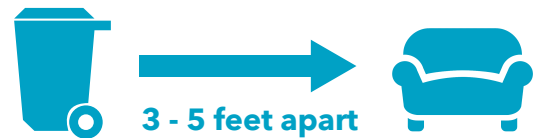
Place roll carts and other items at the curb; roll cart handles must face your home and lid openings must face the street.



Place roll carts and other items as far away as possible from flower beds, mailboxes, or anything that could impede servicing; vehicles should not block the collection truck's service area.



Roll carts, excess bagged garbage, bulky items and other items placed at the curb should be 3 - 5 feet apart.



Uncontainerized/excess curbside garbage

How should curbside uncontainerized/excess garbage be handled?

Households with excess garbage on a regular basis are strongly encouraged to obtain a larger-capacity 95-gallon garbage roll cart. Securing excess garbage in a county-provided roll cart eliminates the concern for household garbage being susceptible to outside elements such as animals and inclement weather; eliminates the need for Sanitation Division employees to manually service residents' excess garbage; and ensures quicker and more efficient servicing. This approach promotes more aesthetically pleasing neighborhoods through the reduction of excess uncontainerized curbside garbage. Further, as a friendly reminder, customer-provided containers are not approved for garbage placed curbside for collection.

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How can a larger-capacity 95-gallon garbage roll cart be obtained?

New and existing customers can obtain a 95-gallon garbage roll cart for a one-time \$15 prepaid fee. Requests can be processed through one of the following methods:

- In person (new and existing customers) by visiting:
Sanitation Division's administrative office, 3720 Leroy Scott Drive, Decatur, GA 30032
Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Online (existing customers only) by visiting www.dekalbsanitation.com. Click on the "Residential Collections," then "Roll Cart Requests" tabs.

Resident, Employee, Environmental and County Benefits

What are the benefits of this new initiative to DeKalb residents?

This move toward ASLs advances our Division's **curbside collection technology** so it aligns with the solid waste industry's nationwide trend and standards. ASLs bring **greater servicing efficiency** to the curbside garbage and recycling collection process. Through the use of standardized/uniform garbage and recycling containers, curbside servicing is timelier and more efficient.

What are the benefits of this new initiative to Sanitation Division employees?

Based on statistics, solid waste industry positions (and more specifically refuse collectors) are among the top five most dangerous jobs as it pertains to injuries and health risks. ASL use significantly **reduces employee liability concerns** based on the manual servicing of residents' garbage and recycling containers. ASL use advances our Division's quest to invest in our employees' well-being, and ensure safer and optimum working conditions for field collection teams.

Some employees within the residential garbage and recycling field collection operations are being promoted to the newly created refuse driver collector position specifically assigned to the ASL program. Other employees will be reassigned to assume other field collection responsibilities, including servicing bulky items and assisting with yard trimmings collection routes.

Does this initiative align with the County's environmental stewardship goals?

Certainly. ASLs are **friendlier to the environment** based on the use of compressed natural gas for operating these vehicles. CNG is produced from landfill gas at the county-owned Seminole Road Landfill.

What are the biggest cost-saving opportunities?

Based on the use of compressed natural gas (which is cheaper than regular gasoline) for fueling ASLs, decreased fuel costs reflect one of the largest cost savings of this initiative.

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Employee Training

How are Sanitation Division employees being trained to operate the ASLs?

Since spring 2019, our safety and field collection teams have been leading an intensive, interactive, hands-on and practical training process aimed at preparing our refuse driver collectors for operating ASLs. This low-cost, in-house training is ongoing, and we are committed to ensuring that all employees tasked with operating the ASLs are thoroughly trained and prepared for their new assignments.

Has an ASL pilot project been implemented?

Yes, since March 2019, we introduced several ASLs within DeKalb communities, giving refuse driver collectors an opportunity to practice servicing entire collection routes. To date, many employees have shown great promise as it pertains to servicing collection routes with greater operational efficiency. Further, the pilot program has demonstrated reduced work-related injuries for Sanitation Division employees; the ability to complete a full route (800-1,200 homes) within 7-8 hours, versus a rear-loader truck, which requires a three-person crew and 10 hours to complete; and decreased labor costs of \$300 per truck, per day.

Public Education

How will residents be informed of this initiative?

The Sanitation Division is engaging in a robust and comprehensive public relations campaign to ensure public education goals are successful. The communication channels and elements to be used include DeKalb County Television (DCTV); online platforms (website, etc.); social media platforms; homeowners associations, civic organizations and community groups; DeKalb County Board of Commissioners' communications channels; city government communications (for cities within our service area); public service announcement/infomercial; decals for placement on residents' roll carts; print and broadcast media; among others.

Will there be any direct communication to advise residents of their responsibilities?

While varying communication channels will be used to educate the public on this initiative, we will communicate most directly with residents through the placement of a decal on residents' garbage roll carts. These decals will outline changes to curbside preparation and collection procedures, providing residents with the steps they need to take to ensure their curbside collection preparation procedures align with our revised curbside collection procedures.

How can residents get answers to questions or share concerns on this initiative?

For questions or concerns, residents can contact the Sanitation Division's customer service team at (404) 294-2900 or sanitation@dekalbcountyga.gov, visit www.dekalbsanitation.com, or follow the Sanitation Division on Twitter @DKalbSanitation.