

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
BENNY DUNN, DIRECTOR
bdunn@cityofdalton-ga.gov

P.O. Box 1205
Dalton, GA 30722-1205
Office: (706) 278-7077
FAX: (706) 278-1847



DENNIS MOCK, MAYOR

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

GARY CREWS
TYREE GOODLETT
ANNALEE HARLAN
DENISE WOOD

DISCUSSION POINTS FOR

DISCONTINUATION OF

RECYCLING GLASS at CURBSIDE

- **SAFETY ISSUES:**
 - Employees injured from broken glass in bins
 - Recently had three (3) recycling truck drivers cut badly with glass (All were placed on Workers Comp and missed working days)
 - Note: Oftentimes broken glass items are covered in the recycling bins with other recyclables, such as paper items.
 - Employees suffer back injuries due to the weight of the glass bins
 - One employee was on Workers Comp for months due to picking up a full bins of glass bottles.
 - Note: Glass items are heavier than the paper, aluminum or plastic items.
- **RECYCLING TRUCK ISSUES:**
 - Glass compartments on the Recycling trucks are the first to corrode and require expensive repairs.
 - The liquids found in beer, wine and soda bottles have a corrosive effect on the glass compartments.
 - Glass compartments require major repair work after 3 to 5 years of use.
 - Recycling trucks are only replaced every 8 to 10 years.
 - Glass compartment could be converted and used for paper, plastic and cardboard items, which are the largest recyclable items collected at curbside.
- **SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY ISSUES:**
 - Placing glass in the landfill will not create any “environmental issues” since glass is inert and doesn’t produce a significant amount of leachate. (Glass takes one million year to degrade)

- The revenue from selling the recyclable glass items is a “break even” venture since the cost of collecting, storing and transporting the glass to the buyer equals the sell value. (In 2018 the DWSWA had a net profit of \$3200 on glass recycling. This did not include the City’s cost for collection and transporting.)
 - Placing the glass items in the landfill would not require any additional landfill space. (The crushed glass will only fill the “present” voids within the landfill cell. Based on a bulk density of 100 lb/ft³, the 180 tons of glass collected in 2018 would have consumed 133 cu. yds. of air space. Crushed glass and sand like-materials do, in fact, increase the compacted density of garbage by filling voids not otherwise filled.)
 - Residents would still have the option of taking their glass recyclables to the SWA’s Transfer Stations. (The closest for City residents would be the MLK Transfer Station off of East MLK, Jr. Blvd. The farthest distance a resident would have to go to this location would be slightly over 5 miles.)
 - There would be an increase in the City’s tipping fees of approximately \$5,000 to cover the cost of disposing the glass items. This would well be offset by the reduced cost in truck compartment repairs and worker comp claims.
- **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:**
 - Recent survey by Public Works staff shows out of **4108** households that participate in the Curbside Recycling Program **1661** did some form of glass recycling (approximately **39%+**).
 - Numerous cities and counties in this area have discontinued the collection of glass. (Here are some: Chattanooga, Rome, Canton, Gainesville, LaGrange, Douglasville, Marietta, Kennesaw and Gwinnett County).
 - Public Works Committee proposed setting October 1, 2019 as the “cutoff” date. Plans are to use both radio and newspaper media, as well as Facebook and City’s webpage, to inform the public of this change. Also, PW staff plans to place “stickers” on the recycling bins to let each homeowner know about the change.