



Date: **April 7, 2026**

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Author and title: Melanie Grebitus, Program Analyst II

Title: **Purchase of Solar-Powered Compacting Trash and Recycling Containers**

Jen Callaway, Town Manager

Recommended Action: That Town Council authorize town staff to purchase solar-powered compacting trash and recycling containers in FY 2025/26, and FY 2026/27 pending Council approval of the 2027 CIP budget, from EcoVision Environmental for a total cost not to exceed \$185,000.

Discussion: On June 10, 2025, as part of the Fiscal Year 2025/26 budget approval, the Town Council approved \$125,000 in funding for FY 2025/26 for CIP C1822: Source Separated Public Recycling Containers. This project funds the three-phase purchase of new public trash and recycling containers to replace existing public litter containers in downtown Truckee. CIP C1822 was originally approved in FY 17/18, and the first phase of new compactors were purchased and installed in 2023. This next purchase will authorize the final two phases of procurement of trash and recycling receptacles. These containers include solar-powered compactors within the trash receptacle, increasing capacity by up to three times. Pending approval of the FY 2026/27 CIP budget, the Town will purchase the last phase of containers in FY 2027 with a not-to-exceed cost of \$60,000. This will finalize the replacement of all downtown containers with standardized brown, side-by-side trash and recycling compactors.

If approved, the Town plans to purchase 12 sets of compacting trash and recycling containers (total of 24 containers) in FY 2025/26, and five sets (total of 10 containers) in FY 2026/27, pending Town Council approval of the FY 2026/27 budget. As further discussed in the fiscal impact section below, staff anticipated that final costs will likely be lower than budgeted amounts, however staff have recommended budgeting a contingency due to the uncertainty of fluctuating international freight costs.

The new containers will replace all old-style, 32-gallon trash containers currently downtown, which no longer provide adequate capacity for the volume of trash generated in higher-trafficked areas downtown. The old-style cans are also not compliant with state requirements to provide side-by-side trash and recycling collection. In addition, the open-top old-style cans do not sufficiently protect trash from wildlife as required by the Town of Truckee Municipal Code.



Figure 1: Brown compacting trash and recycling receptacles installed in phase one of implementation

The purchase and installation of the compacting trash and recycling containers is occurring in three phases:

- **Phase one** included the purchase of ten sets of containers in summer 2023, which were installed along Donner Pass Rd to the West of Spring St (2), near the Train Depot (3), in the new West River Street Park (2), and along the new West River Streetscape (3).
- **Phase two** scheduled for FY 2025/26 includes purchasing 12 sets of compactors and prioritizes the Commercial Row section of downtown, where there is the most pedestrian traffic and more frequent overflow issues with the existing containers. New containers will also be installed along Donner Pass Rd to the East of Bridge St, and to the West of Spring St. If approved, containers will be purchased in April 2026 and can be expected to arrive in ten weeks due to shipping from overseas. The cans will be installed in summer 2026.
- **Phase three** is scheduled for FY 2026/27, pending Council approval of the FY 2026/27 CIP budget. Five sets of containers will be purchased to replace the remaining old-style cans along Donner Pass Rd to the West of Spring St.

When phase three is complete, all containers downtown will be the standardized brown, side-by-side trash and recycling compactors. Container sizes will vary between 100 L and 120 L, depending on the pedestrian traffic volume in different areas of downtown. Compactors will also be configured with monitoring software to monitor container fill levels and get ahead of any overflow issues. The new brown trash compactors will also allow the gray compacting trash and recycling containers to be returned to the Railyard area, where they were originally intended to be installed. These containers were brought into downtown from the Railyard as a temporary solution to provide an increase in trash capacity downtown.

Town staff have received feedback from the Truckee Downtown Merchants Association (TDMA) regarding trash receptacle overflow issues in Commercial Row and are therefore recommending prioritizing this section downtown for the next implementation phase. Staff have also coordinated with the Historic Planning Advisory Commission (HPAC) to ensure the container color and signage aligns with the historic feel of downtown. If approved, staff plan to further coordinate the details of the phase two and three installation timelines with the TDMA Trash Committee.

The Town received three competitive bids for the first purchase made in 2023 and proceeded with the phase one purchase from the vendor with the lowest cost, as approved by the Town Council on June 27, 2023. However, this vendor became nonresponsive to subsequent requests, so Town staff obtained an updated bid for phase two purchases from the second-lowest original bidder, EcoVision Environmental.

Priority:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Enhanced Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Climate and Greenhouse Gas Reduction	<input type="checkbox"/>	Housing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Infrastructure Investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency and Wildfire Preparedness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Core Service

Fiscal Impact: The approved FY 2025/26 budget for CIP C1822 includes \$125,000 for purchase of these containers, and \$60,000 will be included in the proposed FY 2026/27 budget for Town Council approval. The estimated cost is \$113,000 for 12 containers in FY2025/26, and \$54,000 for five containers in FY2026/27, totaling \$167,000 across the two years. Staff are requesting a slightly higher not-to-exceed amount of \$185,000 to allow for current uncertainty with freight costs, particularly for the future phase three order, as these containers are shipped from overseas. CIP C1822 is funded from the Solid Waste Fund reserve balance. The Solid Waste Fund is an enterprise fund receiving no support from the General Fund. The purchases are planned in phases to gradually draw down from the Solid Waste Fund reserve balance.

Public Communication: Agenda posting. Town staff have discussed this topic at TDMA Trash Committee Meetings, TDMA Board Meetings, and with individual downtown businesses. Staff have received feedback about volume issues with existing containers from TDMA and individual businesses and have shared the replacement plan with TDMA staff and board. Town staff plan to meet with TDMA again before containers are installed to discuss details of phase two and three installation plans.

Attachments: None.