

# Automated Trash & Recycling Collection

## A General Guide for Falmouth Residents



### CARTS ARE COMING!

#### FALMOUTH TRANSITIONS TO AUTOMATED CURBSIDE COLLECTION

Beginning this fall, Falmouth will transition to an automated waste collection system. Like many communities in Southern Maine, Falmouth contracts with Casella Waste Systems for residential curbside trash and recycling collection. Casella is now moving to an automated collection system which requires use of Town-owned trash and recycling carts along its routes. All communities contracting with Casella are required to transition to the new automated system. There is no other waste hauler in the region that offers rear loading municipal collection services.

#### Automated Collection

Automated collection requires specialized trucks with an automated side loader. From inside the truck, the driver controls a mechanical arm which grabs the trash or recycling cart and dumps it into the truck. These automated trucks save time, labor costs, and are generally safer for employees.

This system requires the purchase of new trash and recycling carts for every residence. These new carts are specifically created to function with the automated trucks' mechanical arm.

#### New Carts

Falmouth worked with neighboring communities in a joint bid process to purchase new trash and recycling carts for each residence. The Town awarded a contract to Toter, an industry leader, who offered a local representative for on-site assistance and high-quality stackable, fully recyclable carts, composed of up to 50% recycled content. The 64-gallon carts have wheels for easy maneuvering and attached lids to keep trash and recyclables dry and secure. Falmouth was fortunate to receive a grant of \$25,000 from The Recycling Partnership to fund a portion of the needed recycling carts. The grant will also cover the costs of some educational and outreach materials related to the transition. The Town will rely on uncommitted fund balances to pay for the remainder of the carts. Residents will not be charged for carts and their purchase will have no impact on the mil rate. The total cost to the Town for approximately 10,000 carts is about \$600,000.

#### Cart Delivery & Implementation

A FREE trash cart and a recycling cart will be delivered to residents' homes in late October or early November.

Exact dates have not yet been determined. The start date for implementing the new collection system is dependent upon Casella's receipt of their new automated trucks. We will work to keep residents notified of the timing of cart distribution through our usual communication channels. Additional information on cart placement and use will be included in a packet attached to the carts upon distribution.

#### Route Changes

As part of this transition, Casella will add an additional collection day (Monday) to Falmouth's collection schedule. As a result, collection days may change for some residents. Casella is still finalizing the new route. We will provide updates regarding route changes as information becomes available. The new schedule and routes will also be listed in the information packet attached to the carts upon delivery.

#### Yellow Trash Bags

Falmouth will continue its "Pay As You Throw" (PAYT) waste disposal fee structure. Yellow bags are still required for trash disposal. Recycling should be placed directly into the new recycling carts and not in a bag. Everything must be placed in the cart for collection. Additional bags, bins, or broken-down boxes sitting next to the carts cannot be collected.

#### More information

The Town will provide additional information regarding cart delivery and the implementation of the new collection system via its website, E-Alerts, social media sites, newsletter, direct mailings, and *Forecaster* ads. Residents are strongly encouraged to subscribe to News & Announcements E-Alerts to receive the most up-to-date information regarding this transition. Subscribe at:

[www.falmouthme.org/subscribe](http://www.falmouthme.org/subscribe)

Information can also be found on our website at:

[www.falmouthme.org/public-works-department](http://www.falmouthme.org/public-works-department)

