

# Could Smaller Trash Cans Boost Recycling? NO!

by [Christina Caldwell](#) 03/01/12 [11 Comments](#)



Summit County, Utah is hoping smaller trash bins will promote recycling.  
Photo: Michael Coté via Flickr March 1, 2012

It's a simple idea. The less space you have, the less space you have to store things. The county council in Utah's Summit County is hoping the same principle applies to trash. In an effort to get more people to recycle, the county wants to reduce the size of curbside trash bins and increase the size of recycling bins, a proposal that could benefit everyone. [However, the opposite is really what is being introduced. Prior to July 2, 2012 residents had a 65-gallon can to recycle weekly. After July 2, 2012 residents have a 95-gallon can for recycling every two weeks. Multiply 65 times 4= 260 gallons; multiply 95 times 2= 190 gallons, resulting in 70 less gallons of recyclable capacity per residence.]

Recycling brings in money for the area, Summit County manager Bob Jasper told [The Park Record](#). Plus, recycling has the added benefit of keeping Utah's pristine beauty intact for generations to come. Of course, with change comes opposition. Residents who have grown used to the larger trash bins can pay for a receptacle with more space, Jasper says.

The request for proposal (RFP) would shrink trash bin sizes from 95 gallons to 65 gallons, which officials hope will show residents just how much trash they throw away in a given week. Recycling bins would increase to 95 gallons [to be picked up only twice a month], leaving plenty of room for the glass, cardboard, newspaper and other recyclables that could otherwise find their way to the trash.

The RFP also includes an expansion of recycling programs to rural areas of the county, including curbside pickup and *more drop-sites* for recyclables.

“We want everyone to have more access to recycling,” Jasper told *The Park Record*.

“We want to bring curbside recycling to the smaller cities and have large recycling drop-off areas for the rural areas. The potential carriers that have seen our RFP so far seem to like it.”

Comments Posted:

Koleman Smith posted at <http://earth911.com/news/2012/03/01/utah-county-promotes-recycling-by-reducing-trash-bin-sizes/>

"Utah's Summit County, in an effort to get more people to recycle, wants to reduce the size of curbside trash bins to 65-gallons and increase the size of recycling bins to 95-gallons, a proposal that could benefit everyone." However, the opposite is really what is being introduced.

Prior to July 2, 2012 residents had a 65-gallon can to recycle weekly and a 95-gallon can for trash, also picked up weekly.

After July 2, 2012 residents have a 65-gallon trash can picked up weekly, and a 95-gallon can for recycling every two weeks.

Multiply 65 times 4= 260 gallons; multiply 95 times 2= 190 gallons, resulting in 70 less gallons of recyclable capacity per residence. Summit County Manager Bob Jasper, Waste Management's Cliff Blonquist and Recycle Utah's Insa Riepen were asked what could residents do with the overflow of recyclable materials now that curbside pickup is being reduced by 30%. They responded that residents could load them up in their personal vehicles then deliver them either to the Park City Recycle Center or to the Three Mile landfill in Wanship. What these managers are saying is that increased traffic by multiple residents is a better environmental solution. Many more vehicles emitting carbon and filling the roadways with increased County trips of average 15 miles each to deliver recyclable materials does not sound environmentally responsible or good service to residents. Someone did not think this through. The overwhelmed populace is more likely to place recyclable materials into their weekly 65-gallon trash can when the recycle can is full until the twice monthly recycle can is emptied at their curb. I predict that fewer materials will be recycled with this new program not more, as Jasper envisions.

[READ: Think 2 Recycling Bins Are a Hassle? Try Sorting 34](#)

[When Solid Waste Manager Cliff Blonquist and Recycle Utah Insa Riepen were asked what could residents do with the overflow of recyclable materials now that curbside pickup is being reduced by 30% they responded that residents could load them up in their personal vehicles then deliver them either to the Park City Recycle Center or to the Three Mile landfill in Wanship. Jasper and other waste disposal managers are saying that increased traffic by multiple residents is a better environmental solution. Many more vehicles emitting carbon and filling the roadways with increased trips to deliver recyclable materials does not sound environmentally responsible.]