

COG Refuse and Recycling Contract

2025-2030 Contract

2025-2030 Contract Costs for Year 1 (April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026)

All Weekly/Annual Services	* Monthly fee per Residence		Additional Services for Residents who choose these	Cost
95-gallon Cart Service + Unlimited Recycling	\$31.09		Extra Cart 95-gallon cart	\$19.24 /month
			Extra Cart 35-gallon cart	\$16.16 /month
65-gallon Cart Service + Unlimited Recycling	\$29.83		Replacement Cart	\$55.00 per cart
			Cart Exchange	\$25.00 each time
35-gallon Cart Service + Unlimited Recycling	\$28.01		Excess Refuse: cart overfull	\$4.00 per incident
			Excess Refuse: items or bags next to cart	\$4.00 per item or bag

* Costs modified by fuel cost, tipping fees, and the CPI by no more than a 5 % increase per year.

The Centre Region COG Refuse and Recycling Program is here to answer your questions and hear your concerns. **Send an email to recycler@crcog.net or call 814-234-7198.**

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I get door service?

This service is available without an extra charge for households where everyone in the household qualifies for accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or the townships have approved door service for age-related safety concerns. Call the COG R&R office for assistance with getting this service.

The new hauler will also provide door service for an additional fee. They will need to check the site to make sure it can be serviced, so please call the COG R&R office to get on the list of “site visits”.

I have a really long or steep driveway. What can I do?

There are some options and we will explore those on a case-by-case basis. The new hauler will do a “site visit” to see what the options are. Call the COG R&R Program office to get on that list.

What are the three cart sizes?

95-gallon cart: holds 6 fully filled garbage bags: best option for a family.

65- gallon cart: holds 4 fully filled garbage bags: great option for households of two people.

35-gallon cart: holds 2 fully filled garbage bags: perfect for one person, or two “low-wasters”.

If you want to see how big these are for yourself, we will have some set up for you around Centre Region and Benner Township. Go to www.crcog.net/refuse to see where these are.

Why is there so little cost difference between the three sizes of carts?

It costs the same amount for the truck to come out to your house no matter how much they pick up. That cost includes equipment, labor, insurance, fuel, invoicing you, and the cart itself. The difference is in the cost of disposing of the trash. At \$84/ton, the cost difference between 95 gallons and 65 gallons of trash is really quite small.

When will I get my cart and what will it cost me?

Your cart will be delivered to your home before the start of the contract. These are hauler-owned carts so there is no cost to you for the cart. By the way, the cart has an identification tag in it that is read by the truck when it is collected, so we know whose cart it is and if that address was serviced.

Can I use my own can or cart that I already have?

No, and you really do not want to do that anyway. Here's why:

- The new carts come with an electronic tag in them that is read by the truck's computer. That will help ensure everyone's trash that is out for collection gets collected. And the driver can immediately note any irregularities such as extra bags next to the cart or cart not out.
- The carts are designed to work with the lift arm for these new trucks.
- The carts are owned and maintained by the hauler.

What can I do with my old garbage can?

We're going to be collecting those for free and recycling them if possible. We'll publish those dates in the materials you will receive as we start the new contract.

What if I have more garbage than that every week?

If you recycle everything you can curbside (which, by the way, you are mandated to do by township ordinance), you're less likely to have that problem. But if you do need space for more trash every week, you can get a second can for an additional cost per month, dependent on the size of the second can you need.

If I request a second cart, will I be charged for that every month whether I place it out for collection or not?

Yes, you will be charged the "Extra Cart" fee every month.

What if I do not want to use a cart?

Residents will need to use a cart to allow the refuse to be collected by the automated arm.

How will I know where to place my cart?

Your cart will arrive with a brochure telling you what you need to know about using the cart. The cart will be delivered to your address and will be placed in the same location where you should place it every week.

Who must have an account with the new hauler?

All single-family homes and all apartments, condos, or townhomes in buildings of four or fewer units must have an account with the contracted hauler. Many multi-unit buildings, such as condos and townhomes, often choose to have curbside residential collection. The only other option is to have dumpsters.

Is anyone exempt from this service?

Yes. Working farms of 10 or more acres are exempt. Houses where the use is now commercial are also exempt, but they must have some kind of trash collection by municipal ordinance. Similarly, buildings with 5 or more units may choose to have a dumpster and recycling carts rather than curbside collection.

Why did we change haulers?

- Our current contract is 2020-2025. Pennsylvania law allows Class 2 Townships to have a contract with a trash hauler for a maximum of 5 years.
- PA requires a competitive procurement process for any municipal contracts over \$23,200.
- We received 2 proposals through the competitive Request for Proposals process.

- Both proposals included similar services (automated cart collection, bulk waste limited to 2 items twice each year). Only Burgmeier’s proposal included the collection of bulk recyclables (appliances, electronics, and tires), Christmas tree collection, and the collection of extra items or excess trash every week.
- Combining the services from Burgmeier’s and billing through the Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority (CCRRA) gave us the lowest monthly costs for residents.

Who is the new hauler?

Burgmeier’s Hauling is a family-owned company based in Altoona. They provide waste hauling collection services in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Maryland. They have been in the refuse and recycling business for 46 years and have strong commitments to customer service, innovation, and sustainability within the solid waste sector.

The Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority (CCRRA) will continue to collect curbside recycling, and will also be providing billing, payments, and related customer service.

What is changing?

- The Collection process is changing from “hand collection” to “automated collection” using hauler-owned carts.
- Cart sizes will replace bag limits.
- Excess items next to carts will be collected for \$4 per item.
- You will need to schedule the collection of your large Bulk Waste items and your Bulk Recyclables. Collection will be scheduled within 2 weeks of your request.
- You are limited to scheduling the collection of large bulk waste items to 4 large bulk items (furniture, rugs, etc.) each year. Additional items will incur a fee, and we will post a price sheet annually. Small items can be placed in your cart weekly.
- You are limited to scheduling the collection of bulk recyclable items to 4 items each year. Bulk recyclables include appliances, tires (4 car tires = 1 item), and covered electronic devices (televisions, computers, printers).
- The Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority (CCRRA) will continue to collect your recycling curbside in the red bins.
- The CCRRA will be sending your invoices and providing customer service. You can pay as you always have, or you can actually drop your payments off at their office.

Why is Bulk Waste changing?

We did not require that haulers propose unlimited bulk waste collection two weeks per year because it is a very labor-intensive and expensive process and therefore excludes “smaller” companies. We left it up to the companies proposing on the contract to come up with a schedule and process, and neither expressed any interest in the old schedule and “anything goes” model. We know from the 2023 survey results and from driving around on bulk waste week that most residents do not put out all that much, especially of larger items. Therefore there is also a matter of equity: most people were paying for the collection and disposal of large amounts of material from just a few properties.

Won’t changing the bulk waste collection from “everything goes” two weeks per year to the new model increase illegal dumping?

All of our research says it won’t. Why?

- Residents can put smaller bulk items in their carts every week.
- We know from driving around during bulk waste weeks and from our 2023 survey results that very few houses had more than one or two large items out, and all that small stuff can go in the carts.

- Bulk collection will be on-demand so it will be gone when you need it to be rather than waiting until that week in May or October.
- Residents can pay a small fee to have the hauler pick up an item set beside the cart, a much more convenient option than driving around looking for an abandoned lot or an easy dumpster in the middle of the night.
- Illegal dumping is not the work of folks with regular refuse and bulk waste collection and options for the disposal of old couches and washing machines.
- There have always been “dumpers” from outside the area or from buildings without options for bulk waste who took advantage of our bulk waste weeks to dump their furniture and construction debris near “our” stuff, thereby increasing the cost for all of us. Scheduled collection eliminates that kind of dumping.

What about the “pickers” who go around during bulk waste week picking out metals and useful furniture for reuse or recycling?

- It is important to note that it is a violation of the townships’ code of ordinances to take any recyclables from residents’ curbside piles.
- There have been repeated problems with these “pickers” leaving messes behind after they have sorted through piles.
- Many residents do not want others sorting through their waste or coming on their property.
- Many options exist for keeping your discarded items out of the landfill that work better than placing them at the curb and hoping someone comes along who wants them. We will be providing details on how to utilize non-profits, online platforms, metal recyclers, and other groups to dispose of your unwanted items in the most sustainable, responsible way possible.

What if I have more stuff than that I want to get rid of?

The hauler will schedule special pick ups at any time. Moreover, here in the Centre Region we have goals to reduce our solid waste being sent to the landfill in both the COG Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and the County Solid Waste Management Plan. Therefore, we encourage residents to explore re-use options by finding someone who wants that old dryer or donating that recliner. We have put together a list of resources to help you dispose of your materials without sending them to a landfill. Find those resources at www.crcog.net/refuse

If you now place out yard waste (leaves, brush, shrub and tree trimmings, and grass clippings) and that’s a good bit of your material, you should be aware that PA Act 101 does not permit these materials to be collected with your trash. We have aligned the contract and the municipal ordinance with that law, so you cannot place those materials out for your trash collection in the new contract.

What can I do with my yard waste?

Each of the townships collect leaves, brush, and shrub and tree trimmings curbside for composting, and you should utilize those collections. The frequency of collection varies by township. Grass clippings may be dropped off at several grass drop-off collection sites, but we strongly recommend grasscycling as the better alternative. Leafcycling is an equally sustainable way to manage your yard waste in the Fall. Because the municipal trucks cannot collect some garden waste such as weeds, garden plants, decorative grasses, and pinecones, you may place those materials in your cart for collection.

Why automated cart collection?

This is really a common, safer, and more efficient method of collecting refuse in the 21st century. Driving a refuse truck requires a CDL, and it has become increasingly problematic to find drivers with CDLs willing to get out of the truck and pick up bags of trash from over 580 households per day. It is so much safer for

drivers that automated collection often means lower insurance and workers' comp costs for the company. That means lower costs for residents. Finally, it actually leaves our streets cleaner as it limits interference from vectors (birds & animals that tear open bags).

Why is the cost increasing?

- Costs for the collection, processing, and disposal of waste have increased dramatically in the state and nation over the past several years. The drivers of this increase include salary demands (all drivers must have a CDL), insurance costs, and equipment costs, all of which have seen sharp increases. Our 2020-2025 contract held fees for residents fairly constant, so your fees were not previously impacted by the increases across the industry. The increase in fees in 2023 were the result of an increase in costs for the collection and processing of recycling set by the CCRRA.
- Some contracts in Pennsylvania increased by as much as 100%, with several contracts similar to ours reaching as high as \$58 per month. See this article on refuse collection costs in Central PA: <https://www.pennlive.com/news/2023/07/trashflation-why-does-trash-removal-cost-so-much-in-central-pa.html>

What if I don't live in the Centre Region full time?

The Centre Region COG's policy, set by the elected supervisors of the municipalities, provides credit for one quarter per year for part-time residences. Additional quarter credits are only available if an unexpected event has caused the resident to leave the home, such as the need to move into some kind of care facility.

I will not be at the house when carts are delivered next March. What can we do?

We will not deliver carts to any residences on hold (vacancy status for their one-quarter at that time). If you want to make sure the cart is or is not delivered, just give us a call.

My HOA or landlord pays my refuse invoice. How will I select my cart and schedule bulk collection?

We will be working on those details with each HOA and/or the property management companies, so you will need to contact your HOA or property manager.

What do I need to do now?

Register and choose your cart size using the QR code or instruction on the postcard you received or here: www.burgmeiers.com/cogcarts. **Make your selection by September 30, 2024.**

Who can I contact for more information?

The Centre Region COG Refuse and Recycling Program is here to answer your questions and hear your concerns. **Send an email to recycler@crcog.net or call 814-234-7198.**