



[October 4, 2023]

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR RURAL CURBSIDE RECYCLING PILOT PROJECT

Dear Sir/Madam:

Boston Mountain Solid Waste District is soliciting qualifications from residential solid waste haulers licensed by Boston Mountain Solid Waste District to participate in a rural curbside recycling pilot project. Haulers do not need to currently offer recycling services to submit for this pilot program.

Boston Mountain Solid Waste District staff are directing the process. Mrs. Taylor Osburn, the Sustainability Coordinator for Boston Mountain Solid Waste District, is the contact person for inquiries related to this RFQ.

Qualifications and questions will be accepted digitally or via regular mail to one of the following addresses:

Taylor Osburn – tosburn@bmswd.com

Taylor Osburn

P.O. Box 228
Prairie Grove, AR
72753

All submittals must be received no later than 4:00 pm on October 31, 2023. Statements of qualifications not received by this time will not be accepted.

Boston Mountain Solid Waste District staff will review all submittals and notify the chosen hauler by November 13, 2023. You will be contacted if District staff have questions during the review process.

If you have any questions or need clarification regarding this RFQ, please contact Taylor Osburn at tosburn@bmswd.com or at (479) 236-8631.

Sincerely,

Taylor Osburn

Taylor Osburn, Sustainability Coordinator
Boston Mountain Solid Waste District

1. Introduction

Boston Mountain Solid Waste District (BMSWD) is inviting rural residential solid waste haulers licensed by BMSWD to submit their qualifications for participation in a rural curbside recycling pilot project. Haulers do not need to currently offer recycling services to submit qualifications but must have a desire to provide constructive feedback to BMSWD on rural curbside recycling.

With our region continuing to grow, our landfill will continue to fill up and move beyond the possibility of expansion permits. Northwest Arkansas's one available landfill will not remain open forever, and we are already seeing the implications of the landfill nearing capacity. To extend the life of the landfill and ensure environmental and financial stability, citizens and elected officials throughout BMSWD have expressed support for strong regional waste reduction and recycling programs. BMSWD recognizes that now is the time to create new programs for waste reduction and diversion that benefit residents, haulers, and BMSWD alike.

2. Background

About the District

Boston Mountain Solid Waste District is one of 18 regional districts in Arkansas, covering the Northwest Arkansas counties of Madison and Washington. The District provides environmentally sound and economically feasible solid waste management using an integrated approach of waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, disposal, and education. The District is a sub-agency for the state of Arkansas.

About the Region

Northwest Arkansas, which is the home of the University of Arkansas and the headquarters region of Walmart, Tyson Foods and J.B. Hunt Transport Service, is experiencing significant population and economic growth and that's been a consistent theme for three decades. The following tables demonstrate some of the growth in the region:

Cities with population over 2,000 within Boston Mountain Solid Waste District (estimate as of 2020)

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Population</i>
Elkins	3,602	Lincoln	12,941
Farmington	7,584	Prairie Grove	7,045
Fayetteville	93,949	Springdale	84,161
Huntsville	2,879	Tontitown	4,301
Johnson	3,609	West Fork	2,331
Goshen	2,102		

Unincorporated Areas of Washington and Madison County

	Washington County	Madison County	Total District Area
2020 Population	40,497	13,441	53,938
% change 2010 to 2020	+6.2%	+1.8%	+19.6%

Hauler Information

Boston Mountain Solid Waste District currently has 13 licensed residential solid waste haulers. Most of these haulers operate in either Washington or Madison County. Only a few haulers work in both Washington and Madison Counties. Only two haulers currently offer rural, curbside recycling.

3. Project Background and Description

The purpose of this partnership and pilot project is to identify successes and potential pain points of rural, curbside recycling for the purpose of increasing curbside recycling in Washington and Madison Counties. Boston Mountain’s current recycling program involves selling blue and green recycling bags to haulers at 50-cent per bag. Aluminum cans, steel cans, and #1 and #2 plastic bottles go into the green bag. Mixed paper, newspaper, and chipboard go into the blue bag. Cardboard is flattened and placed beneath the bags of recycling. BMSWD staff have identified the 50-cent fee as a barrier to rural curbside recycling. To encourage more recycling, BMSWD has decided to give a certain amount of blue and green bags to haulers for free to collect rural residential recycling curbside. To receive free bags, haulers must sign a recycling and education agreement, described in the following section under “Scope of Work.”

The rural curbside recycling pilot project will run for the first two quarters of 2024, from January 8 until June 30. Residents will be informed by BMSWD and the hauling company (via website, social media, or email) that they must contact either BMSWD or their trash hauler to participate in the rural recycling pilot project. Each quarter, haulers will receive and distribute to each participating household five recycling bags: three (3), 55 – 60-gallon, green bags for bottles and cans, and two (2), 20 – 30-gallon, blue bags for fibers, including paperboard. Aluminum cans, steel cans, and #1 and #2 plastic bottles go into the green bags. Mixed paper, newspaper, shredded paper, and paperboard go into the blue bags. Cardboard is to be flattened and placed beneath the bags of recycling.

If a household requests more recycling bags, haulers will distribute to the household up to five additional recycling bags per quarter. Any additional bags needed throughout the quarter will be 20-30 gallons each. At a maximum, this would equal up to six 55 – 60-gallon green bags (bottles and cans) and up to four 20 – 30-gallon blue bags (fibers) per quarter, for a maximum of up to 10 bags per household per quarter. Haulers and the District will inform residents that the bags only need to be placed at the curb when they are full. This will help maintain our inventory of bags.

BMSWD staff want to create a rural recycling program that benefits haulers, residents, and the District. Recyclables separated into the blue and green bags will be accepted at BMSWD at half the price of trash disposal (**\$31 a ton for dual-stream bagged recyclables vs. \$62 a ton for trash disposal**). Madison County Solid Waste and Recycling Center will also accept recyclables at half the cost of trash disposal (**\$80 a ton for dual-stream bagged recyclables vs. \$140 a ton for trash disposal**). Additionally, using a

pay-as-you-throw price system for solid waste encourages residents to throw away less and recycle more, further reducing the cost of waste disposal for haulers.

Residents in Washington and Madison Counties recycled 5,121 tons in 2022 through recycling drop-off centers. This shows a clear desire for recycling among our residents. Haulers that offer curbside recycling have a competitive advantage compared to haulers who do not offer this service. Additionally, city officials and BMSWD staff recognize the immediate need to increase waste diversion from the landfill, and curbside service is the most convenient method of recycling.

4. Scope of Work

As part of this pilot project, the selected hauler will:

1. Provide curbside recycling service to three socioeconomically diverse neighborhoods within the hauler's service area for the first six months of 2024 (2024 Q1 & Q2).
2. Assign a point of contact to serve as the liaison between the selected hauler and Taylor Osburn of BMSWD.
3. Partake in a preliminary meeting with BMSWD staff to discuss the pilot program in-person and sign the recycling and education agreement.
4. Partner with BMSWD staff on educating and informing residents about the pilot project.

The recycling and education agreement is as follows:

Hauler agrees to:

- ✓ Distribute recycling bags provided by BMSWD to recycling customers in the pilot project
 - ✓ Hand deliver, with recycling bags, recycling education material to residents in pilot project neighborhoods
 - ✓ Post recycling education materials on hauler's website and/or social media (if applicable). All educational materials will be provided to the hauler.
 - ✓ Bring the bags of recyclables to BMSWD or Madison County Solid Waste and Recycling
 - ✓ Go across the scale at BMSWD or Madison County Solid Waste and Recycling Center with bags of recyclables separately from bags of trash so that transfer station staff can record a recycling weight separate from trash weight and charge the hauler appropriately.
5. Have monthly meetings between the owner and/or recycling driver of the selected hauling business and BMSWD staff. The meetings will be to discuss resident participation in the program and provide feedback to BMSWD on overall implementation of the rural curbside recycling program. The meetings will take place at the beginning of the month at the selected hauler's business location, over Zoom, or phone call.

6. Hauler will keep BMSWD staff updated on how many recycling customers the hauler has in each neighborhood, along with successes and potential pain points of the implementing rural curbside recycling, including distributing bags and education. This information will be recorded on a spreadsheet provided by BMSWD and given to BMSWD staff at the monthly meetings.
7. The owner of the selected hauling business and the driver(s) participating in the curbside recycling service will have a project wrap-up meeting at the end of the 6-month period with BMSWD staff.

5. Submittal Requirements

The District’s intent is to select a hauler that wants to partner with BMSWD to implement a rural, curbside recycling pilot project in three socioeconomically diverse neighborhoods and identify successes of the program and areas that need improvement. Preference will be given to haulers that have diverse hauling routes, a pay-as-you-throw price system for services offered, and an online presence.

All respondents are required to include the following information in their submittal.

Qualifications and Experience-

1. Business name and number of years hauler has been in operation.
2. Name and contact information for the point of contact at the hauling company
3. The number of rural residential customers the hauler has.
4. Details on the hauler’s pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) payment options or a statement confirming no PAYT system.
5. A summary of why the hauler desires to be chosen for this pilot project.
6. A recommendation of at least three socioeconomically diverse neighborhoods within the hauler’s service area that could be used for this rural curbside recycling pilot.

6. Timeline

- a. Required meetings
 - i. Initial meeting project kickoff to discuss curbside recycling implementation and have hauler sign recycling and education agreement
 - ii. Project kickoff meeting close to pilot start date
 - iii. Monthly meetings for pilot project feedback
 - iv. Pilot closure meeting to discuss final thoughts

- b. Anticipated Project Timeline

Description	Date
Available of RFQ	October 4, 2023
Submittal due date	October 31, 2023, by 4:00 pm
Notify selected hauler	November 13, 2023
Initial project meeting (monthly meeting dates to be set at this time)	November 30, 2023
Residents notified by BMSWD about neighborhood selection for recycling pilot	December 4, 2024
Project kickoff meeting	January 3, 2024

Start rural curbside recycling pilot	January 8, 2024
Five monthly meetings throughout project period	Beginning of February, March, April, May, and June
Pilot complete	June 30, 2024
Pilot closure meeting	July 2, 2024