

Town of Chapel Hill Solid Waste Options



Frequently Asked Questions about the Recycling Services & Transfer Station Request for Proposals

Q: What was the purpose of the Recycling Services & Transfer Station Request for Proposals (RFP)?

A: This RFP encourages qualified private service providers to propose public-private partnerships that provide the Towns with increased value. It is the intent of the Towns to consider an array of public-private partnering scenarios with well-qualified firms utilizing programs, facilities, and demonstrated methods of service to achieve the goals and objectives of the RFP. The Towns are interested in creating the best combination of partnerships with well-qualified service providers.

Q: Is the Town partnering with others for this project?

A: The Town of Chapel Hill, collectively with the Town of Carrboro and the Town of Hillsborough are working together to seek proposals from qualified firms for recycling services and the development of a Transfer Station.

Q: Why is the Town of Chapel Hill issuing a RFP for recycling services?

A: Recycling services within the Towns of Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and Hillsborough are currently provided by Orange County Recycling (OCR), a division of the Orange County Solid Waste Management Department, which offers a comprehensive and integrated recycling program throughout the County with programs for both the residential and commercial sectors. OCR has notified the Towns that certain aspects of the existing residential and commercial recycling programs may be changed or discontinued within the next year or so. This announcement has necessitated that the Towns explore potential alternate arrangements for collection, processing, and marketing of recyclable materials.

The Towns are pursuing a public-private partnerships for implementing recycling services for existing and future residences and commercial entities located within the Towns in order to maintain the recycling services historically provided by OCR and achieve the solid waste reduction goal of 61% per capita adopted by the Towns. This RFP is intended to solicit proposals from qualified private firms to implement a recycling program, provide services, and methods of delivery that are in the Towns' best interests.

Q: Why did the Town of Chapel Hill issue a RFP to develop a transfer station?

A: The solid waste collected by the Towns has historically been disposed at the Orange County Landfill (Landfill) located on Eubanks Road in Chapel Hill. Since 1999, the Landfill has been owned and operated by Orange County as the regional solid waste management and disposal facility for the County and surrounding municipalities of Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and Hillsborough.

When the County decided to cease acceptance and disposal of municipal solid waste (MSW) at the Orange County Landfill and formally close the MSW landfill unit on June 30, 2013, the Towns were required to implement alternate arrangements for disposal of their MSW. Therefore, the Towns are transitioning their disposal operations and direct hauling residential and commercial waste to existing transfer stations in Durham.

The Towns are pursuing public-private partnerships for the development of a TS in the vicinity of Chapel Hill, Carrboro, or Hillsborough to provide maximum flexibility on where the Towns dispose their waste and at what cost, to promote self-reliance and independence from the decisions of other entities, and to provide for additional flexibility in handling various waste streams and recyclables in the future. The RFP is intended to solicit proposals from qualified private firms to provide a solid waste transfer station facility, services, and methods of delivery that are in the Towns' best interests. The Towns' vision for this TS is that it also could potentially serve as a materials recovery facility to process and transfer recyclable materials, either within the proposed TS, or have the ability to expand and provide this service at a future date.