

## MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Tammy DeWeerd  
Members of the Meridian City Council:  
Mr. David Zaremba, President  
Mr. Brad Hoaglund, Vice President  
Mr. Keith Bird  
Mr. Charlie Rountree  
Members of the Meridian Solid Waste Advisory Commission

From: Sanitary Services Company, Inc. (SSC)

Subject: Summary of Solid Waste Collection and Recycling, Fourth Quarter, 2011

Date: January 18, 2012

### Introduction

Sanitary Services Company is dedicated to providing reliable solid waste collection; innovative, effective recycling and waste reduction programs; quality customer service; valuable public outreach and education efforts; and strong community involvement to the areas we service.

This quarterly report includes solid waste and recycling information for the fourth calendar quarter of 2011. We have included data for the prior year for comparison purposes. More detailed information is available upon request. Please contact SSC at 888-3999 if you have comments or questions regarding this report.

### Residential Trash Collection

In July of 2010, trash collection in Meridian changed from a rear-loader unlimited collection program where residents could set out as much trash as they wanted, to a fully automated collection system where customers choose the size and number of wheeled trash carts they need and pay accordingly, thus making residents more accountable for the amount of trash they dispose of.

To help lower the amount of trash residents place at the curb, SSC encourages participation in the voluntary curbside recycling program, which is provided free of charge.

The new collection system has made an impact on the amount of trash that Meridian residents throw away. During the fourth quarter of 2011, SSC collected 6,244.2 tons (12,488,400 pounds) of trash from our residential routes. This amount represented a decrease of 19.5 percent from the fourth quarter of 2010.

## **Residential Curbside Recycling**

The residential voluntary curbside recycling program began in October of 2000 as a source separated system using a 15-gallon recycling bin. In Mid-October of 2009, the curbside recycling program changed to an automated, co-mingled system in which residents have their choice of using a 35-gallon, 65-gallon, or 95-gallon wheeled cart for recycling.

The following items are accepted for curbside recycling in Meridian: mixed waste paper (including telephone directories), corrugated cardboard, magazines and catalogs, aluminum and tin cans, newspaper, and all numbers of plastic bottles, tubs, jugs, and clamshells.

Meridian residents diverted 1,021.4 tons (2,042,700 pounds) of recyclable materials (16.4 percent of the residential waste stream) from the landfill during the fourth quarter of 2011. This was a slight increase of 1.7 percent in recycling from the fourth quarter of 2010.

## **Used Oil Recycling**

Curbside collection of used motor oil was first offered to Meridian residents in May of 1999, and used cooking oil was added to the program in July of 2006. Meridian is the only city in the Treasure Valley to offer used cooking oil recycling to its residents. There have been 80,185 gallons of used oil collected since the program began.

During the fourth quarter of 2011, residents recycled 973 gallons of used oil through the curbside program, an 18.0 percent decrease from the fourth quarter of 2010.

## **Household Hazardous Waste Collection**

The Meridian Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection site, located in the SSC parking lot, is the busiest mobile collection site in Ada County. Meridian residents can drop off their HHW between noon and 7:00 p.m. every Monday except major holidays.

Nearly 502.0 tons (1,004,000 pounds) of household hazardous waste has been collected at the Meridian mobile collection site since the program began in 2001.

Fourth quarter collection numbers for 2011 were lower than in 2010. During the fourth quarter of 2011, there were close to 17.2 tons (34,367 pounds) of HHW collected, which was a 4.5 percent decrease from the fourth quarter of 2010.

The number of participating homes dropped during the fourth quarter of 2011. The Meridian mobile collection site serviced 1,228 homes during this time period, a decrease of nearly 23.5 percent from the fourth quarter of 2010.

## Roll Off Refuse Collection

Roll off services are provided to permanent accounts that have compactors or roll off boxes, and temporary accounts that utilize mini roll off boxes (6, 8, and 10 cubic yard boxes) or our larger 20, 30, or 40 cubic yard boxes.

The SSC roll off system collected 3,934.2 tons (7,868,380 pounds) of waste during the fourth quarter of 2011, a 6.2 percent decrease from the fourth quarter of 2010.

### Fourth Quarter Roll Off Collection Comparison

Material	2010 Tons	2011 Tons
Compact	2,285.0	1,762.0
Demolition	1,402.0	2,014.7
Loose	508.0	157.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,195.0</b>	<b>3,934.2</b>

SSC diverts several items from the landfill via our roll off program. During the fourth quarter of 2011, there were 891.3 tons (1,782,520 pounds) of materials recycled via the roll off program rather than taken to the landfill. This amount represented an increase in diversion of 35.6 percent from the same timeframe in 2010.

### Fourth Quarter Roll Off Diversion Comparison

Commodity	2010 Tons	2011 Tons
Cardboard	431.7	398.5
Rock	15.0	0
Wood	18.0	5.3
Leaves	144.0	411.0
Paper	15.1	21.4
Gypsum	0	30.0
Plastic Bottles	15.6	23.9
Metal	18.0	1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>657.4</b>	<b>891.3</b>

## SSC Transfer Station Collection

The SSC transfer station accepts waste from commercial trucks, residential trucks, roll off trucks, mini roll off trucks, and public vehicles.

There were 15,568.7 tons (31,137,300 pounds) of waste compacted at the transfer station during the fourth quarter of 2011, an increase of 13.7 percent over the fourth quarter of 2010.

This figure included waste from Kuna and unincorporated Ada County, which SSC does not provide trash collection services to. The waste was taken to the Ada County Landfill for disposal.

In addition to solid waste drop off, SSC provides recycling opportunities for several items at our transfer station.

During the fourth quarter of 2011, there were 841.9 tons (1,683,750 pounds) of materials recycled via the SSC transfer station rather than taken to the landfill. This was an increase in recycling of 41.9 percent over the fourth quarter of 2010.

### Fourth Quarter Transfer Station Diversion Comparison

Commodity	2010 Tons	2011 Tons
Wood	149.3	207.0
Grass	60.0	15.0
Rock	90.0	106.5
Metal	42.3	74.9
Leaves	216.0	384.0
Cardboard	25.9	41.9
Carpet Pad	4.8	7.8
Tires	4.3	4.0
Refrigeration Units	0.7	0.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>593.3</b>	<b>841.9</b>

## **Commercial Collection**

Sanitary Services provides collection to each commercial business in Meridian at least once a week. Our front load trucks collected 4,648.4 tons (9,296,700 pounds) of waste during the fourth quarter of 2011, a decrease of 10.9 percent over the fourth quarter of 2010.

In November of 2007, SSC began offering a Commercial Co-Mingled Recycling Program utilizing 95-gallon carts for small businesses, and specialized 5-yard containers for larger businesses. Numerous businesses and every school within Meridian City limits participate in this successful recycling program, and approximately 3,733.0 tons (7,466,000 pounds) of materials have been recycled through their efforts.

Items that can be recycled in this recycling program include: newspapers, corrugated cardboard, magazines and catalogs, aluminum and tin cans, mixed waste paper, and plastic bottles and jugs.

During the fourth quarter of 2011, there were 262.6 tons (525,200 pounds) of co-mingled recyclables collected from Meridian businesses. The fourth quarter of 2011 saw a small decrease of 2.3 percent in commercial recycling compared to the fourth quarter of 2010.