

## 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, Second Quarter, 2011

Date: July 15, 2011

### 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 second 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 second quarter of 2011, SSC collected 13,050,000 pounds of trash from our residential routes. This amount showed a substantial decrease of 44.7 percent from the second quarter of 2010, when trash service was unrestricted and residents were allowed unlimited disposal of household waste.

## **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 2,011,650 pounds of recyclable materials (15.4 percent of the residential waste stream) from the landfill during the second quarter of 2011. This was an increase of 20.3 percent from the second 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 72,777 gallons of used oil collected since the program began.

During the second quarter of 2011, residents recycled 1,817 gallons of used oil through the curbside program, a 12.9 percent increase from the second 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 933,000 pounds of household hazardous waste has been collected at the Meridian mobile collection site since the program began in 2001.

Second quarter collection numbers for 2011 were very close to 2010. During the second quarter of 2011, there were 41,975 pounds of HHW collected, which was an increase of 1.7 percent from the second quarter of 2010.

The number of participating homes continues to increase. The Meridian mobile collection site serviced 1,391 homes during the second quarter of 2011, an increase of 7.2 percent from the second 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 8,728,755 pounds of waste during the second quarter of 2011, a 2.2 percent decrease from the second quarter of 2010.

### Second Quarter Roll Off Collection Comparison

Material	2010 Pounds	2011 Pounds
Compact	4,572,000	3,771,500
Demolition	3,958,640	4,247,320
Loose	390,805	709,935
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,921,445</b>	<b>8,728,755</b>

SSC diverts several items from the landfill via our roll off program. During the second quarter of 2011, there were 1,009,018 pounds of materials recycled via the roll off program rather than taken to the landfill. This amount represented a decrease in diversion of 5.5 percent from the same timeframe in 2010.

### Second Quarter Roll Off Diversion Comparison

Commodity	2010 Pounds	2011 Pounds
Cardboard	762,785	791,745
Rock	90,000	30,000
Wood	97,500	19,500
Paper	43,430	46,310
Gypsum	60,000	60,000
Plastic Bottles	13,560	45,870
Metal	0	15,593
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,067,275</b>	<b>1,009,018</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 35,970,300 pounds of waste compacted at the transfer station during the second quarter of 2011, an increase of 11.3 percent over the second 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 second quarter of 2011, there were 1,806,530 pounds of materials recycled via the SSC transfer station rather than taken to the landfill. This was an increase in recycling of 20.8 percent over the second quarter of 2010.

### Second Quarter Transfer Station Diversion Comparison

Commodity	2010 Pounds	2011 Pounds
Wood	447,000	709,500
Grass	468,250	199,200
Rock	450,000	660,000
Metal	69,900	126,930
Cardboard	43,170	75,890
Carpet Pad	14,500	23,540
Tires	0	10,280
Refrigeration Units	3,150	1,190
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,496,040</b>	<b>1,806,530</b>

## **Commercial Collection**

Sanitary Services provides collection to each commercial business in Meridian at least once a week. Our front load trucks collected 8,728,300 pounds of waste during the second quarter of 2011, a decrease of 16.4 percent over the second 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 6,437,120 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 second quarter of 2011, there were 551,120 pounds of co-mingled recyclables collected from Meridian businesses. June of 2010 had an exceptionally high rate of recycling that was not matched in 2011, so the second quarter of 2011 saw a slight decrease of 0.5 percent overall in commercial recycling compared to the second quarter of 2010.