

City Of Torrington

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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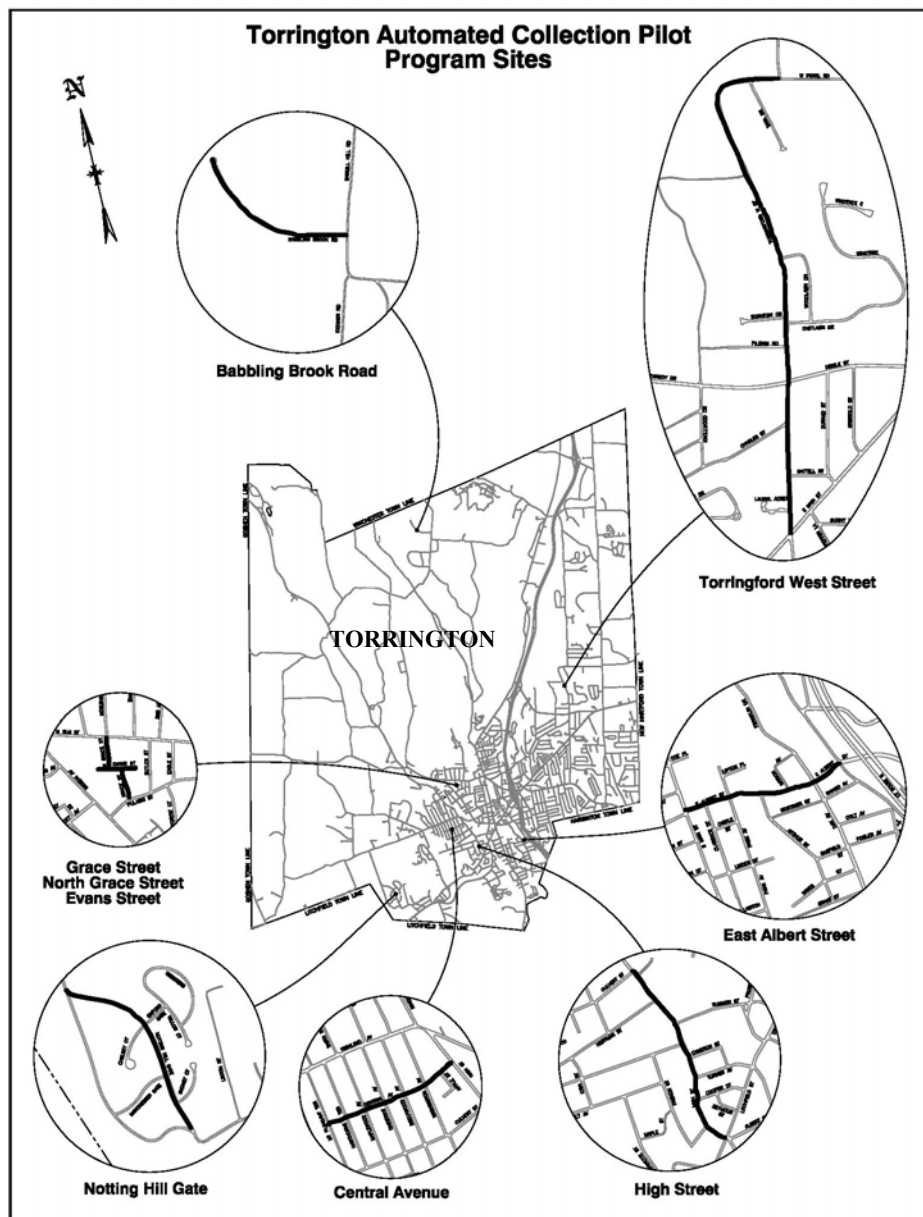
CITY OF TORRINGTON AUTOMATED REFUSE COLLECTION PILOT PROGRAM

On November 17th 2003, the City of Torrington began an Automated Refuse Collection Pilot Program in various areas throughout the city. Homes in the neighborhoods selected for the pilot program were provided with a 96-gallon cart for the scheduled weekly trash pick up.

The map shows the locations of the Pilot Program neighborhoods and includes the residential properties at the following addresses:

STREET	ADDRESSES
Babbling Brook Road (Entire Street)	#89 to #271
Grace Street (Entire Street)	#11 to #30
N. Grace Street (Entire Street)	#19 to #29
Evans Street (Entire Street)	#23 to #88
High Street (Culvert St. to Litchfield St.)	#168 to #466
Central Avenue (Entire Street)	#17 to #300
Torrington West Street (East Main St. to West Pearl Rd.)	#554 to #1340
East Albert Street (Entire Street)	#44 to #260
Notting Hill Gate (Entire Street)	#30 to #438

Additional addresses were added to the pilot program to include seventeen City Officials from various Boards and Committees.



What is Automated Collection?

Automated collection is a relatively new but thoroughly proven method of residential solid waste collection used by more and more municipalities as a cost-effective option to manual collection. Each home is provided with a special cart, which is easy to roll and place curbside on the designated collection day. The garbage trucks, equipped with a lifting device on the curbside, will lift, empty and return the carts to the same spot. The operator never has to leave the truck cab, but controls the entire loading operation from his seat. The entire collection process takes about 15 seconds to complete. The 96-gallon carts will hold up to 200 pounds of trash (as much as three typical garbage cans) but are still easy to roll to the curb. For the pilot program, the special collection trucks with the side collection arms were not used. The current rear loading trucks were fitted with the necessary cart lifting devices.

The program worked as follows:



Residents in the selected neighborhoods received notice of the program and instructions. There were 302 households in the program.

Waste Management delivered the 96-gallon carts to the selected neighborhoods on the regular collection day during the end of November 2003. Information on the pilot program and instructions for use was provided with the carts.

Participants were requested to put their normal household waste in the new cart, one (1) time per week on their regularly scheduled collection day. Recyclables were still put into the blue recycle bins for collection. Oversize items (furniture, appliances, etc.) were also placed curbside along with the new carts for collection.

The carts provided were the property of Waste Management and were maintained and provided at no cost to the City or area residents. Serial numbers were printed on each cart that identified it as being assigned to a specific address.

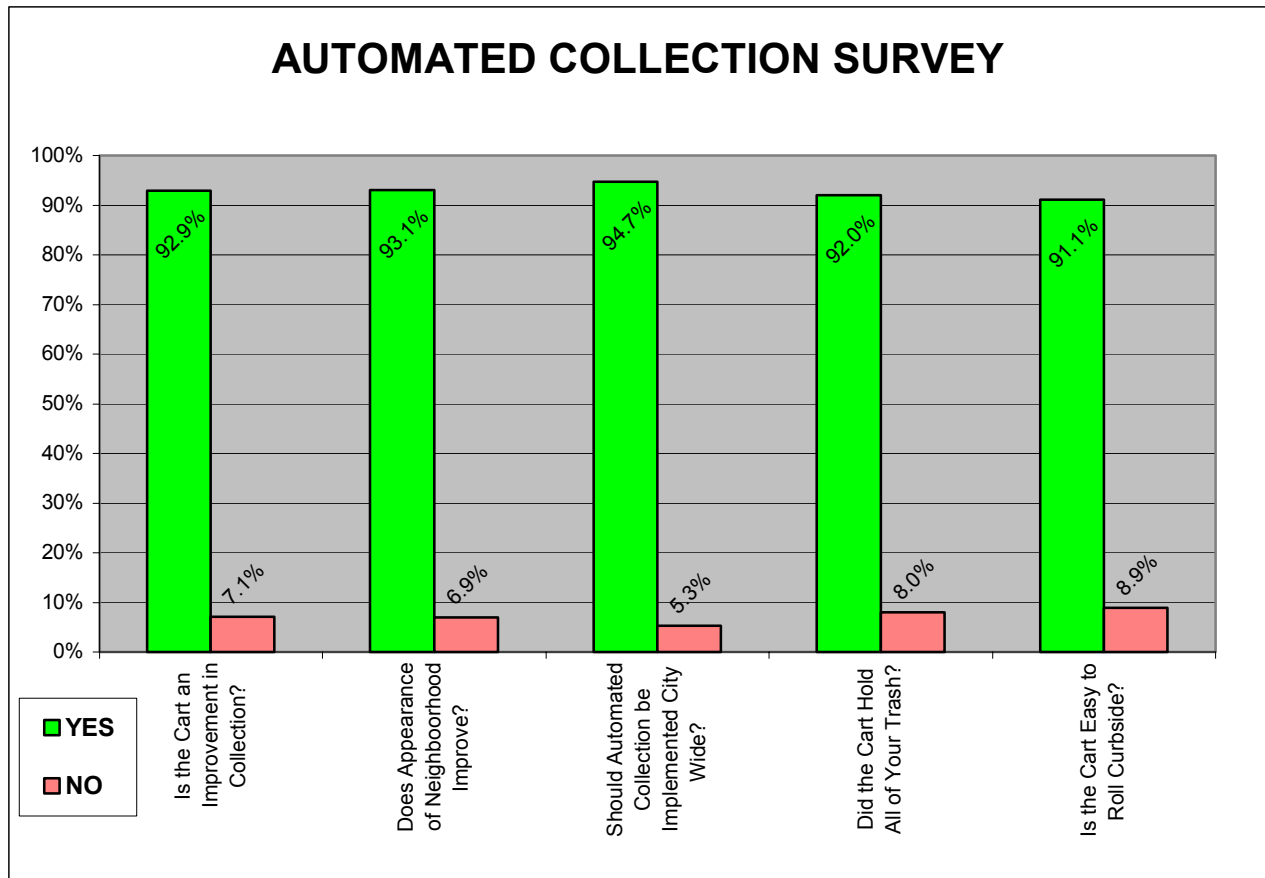
On January 26, 2004 the Pilot Program participants were mailed an "Automated Trash Collection Survey" with instructions and a request for their participation. The pilot program is ongoing and is expected to end June 30, 2004. A total of 285 surveys were mailed to all participants on the streets listed. The additional addresses (City Officials) were not surveyed.

The Automated Trash Collection Survey:

The questions asked of each participant in the pilot program included:

1. Is the cart (96-gallon receptacle) an improvement in the waste collection system?
2. Does the cart system improve the appearance of the neighborhood?
3. Should this system be implemented throughout the City?
4. Did the cart hold all of your weekly household trash?
5. Is the cart easy to roll to the curb?

Out of the 285 pilot program participants surveyed, over one hundred residents filled out and returned the survey forms. The following chart summarizes the results of the survey:



As clearly indicated by the survey results, over 90% of the participants are in favor of the program. Based on the numbers of survey responders, the Automated Collection Survey data is statistically relevant with less than a ten percent margin of error at a 95% confidence level.

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee has recommended that Automated Collection be implemented throughout the City of Torrington with a startup goal of October 1, 2004.

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee extends its gratitude and thanks to the pilot program participants. The efforts and input from all of the participants is important to the development of a successful program.