

Pilot Bulk Waste Day Results



Main South June 9, 2007

- 28 Households participated
- 138 items collected, including
 - 8 hot water heaters
 - 3 refrigerators
 - 7 TVs & 3 monitors
 - 16 mattresses & 4 box springs
 - 9 sofas
 - 2 stoves
 - 1 washer
 - 5 doors
 - Tables, chairs, tires, sinks, dressers, dehumidifier, air conditioner, fan, gas heater, satellite dishes, and much more.
- 2.15 tons of trash were collected and removed by Waste Management.
- Collected \$666 gross, used as follows.
 - \$261 Millbury Street (Ballard) drop off fee
 - \$83.40 Truck rental
 - \$321.60 balance to use for other trash action activities & events.
- Volunteers
 - 19 volunteers (residents, REC staff, Clark students, Waste Management, and CDC workers) participated on Bulk waste day.
 - Over 20 volunteers including a number of neighborhood youth helped with door to door outreach in the 3 weeks leading up to the event.



Got Trash? Pilot Bulk Waste Collection day is a success.

(From RECOrd, Summer 2007)



What do you do with that old TV that no longer works? What about the sofa cluttering the back hall? Worcester's Department of Public Works runs a drop-off center at 1065 Millbury Street that allows residents to dispose of an unlimited number of bulk waste items in a timely manner and at a low cost, but for many people the question is: How do I get it there? There is a curbside pick-up program, but for many the fees are prohibitive.

So what happens? In many homes, those bulk items just pile up. This may not be too big a problem for those who have a garage, basement or attic, but for people in smaller homes it can become a concern. In Main South, where incomes are low, a lot of people live in small apartments, and many people don't have cars, bulk waste disposal can be a big challenge. In addition, the neighborhood has a highly mobile population, and as tenants move away, they, or their landlords, or the residents who replace them, must deal with the items they don't take with them. We've often wondered how much this all contributes to the problem of trash on the streets and the interesting items we find during Earth Day cleanups.

With this in mind, the environmental justice partnership of REC, Clark University, Family Health Center, and Worcester Youth Center, proposed holding a bulk waste collection day in the Main South Neighborhood. With help from Waste Management, Inc.; Worcester's DPW; the Main South CDC, the YMCA, and a committed group of local volunteers, we organized and carried out a pilot bulk waste collection on June 9 that removed several tons of bulk waste from neighborhood homes.



The event involved a lot of close planning with the city and other partners. Because our plan involved the use of volunteers for the collection, and thanks to Waste Management's generous offer to provide a packer truck, staff, and waste disposal for free, plus the provision of trucks by the Main South CDC, the YMCA, and two kind individuals, we were able to offer residents curbside pickup for the same fees charged at the DPW drop-off site.



In order to inform residents of this opportunity, while avoiding misunderstandings and rumors that could actually bring more trash into the neighborhood, we publicized the collection day by going door to door in our target neighborhood with flyers and registration forms. Over 20 volunteers, including a large youth contingent from the neighborhood and from the Worcester Youth Center, helped with this outreach in the 3 weeks leading up to the event.

On the day itself, in spite of a steady rain, 19 volunteers, including local residents, REC staff, Clark students, Waste Management workers, and CDC employees, turned out to drive around the neighborhood and pick up trash at the homes of participating households. Close to 30 households took part, and about 150 items were collected. Over the course of the morning, we took away eight hot water heaters; three refrigerators; two stoves; one washer; seven TVs and three monitors; 16 mattresses with four box springs; nine sofas; five doors; some tables, chairs, tires,

sinks, and dressers; a dehumidifier; an air conditioner; a fan; a gas heater; some satellite dishes; and much more. Clearly there is neighborhood demand for this type of bulk waste collection. In the coming months, we hope to hold a second collection in another part of Main South.