

Background

The labor agreement between Waste Management and Teamsters Local 174 expired on March 31, 2010 and Teamsters Local 174 garbage and yard waste drivers went on Wednesday April 21, 2010.

1) What city services are affected by this strike?

The expiring agreement covers Waste Management's (WM) garbage and yard waste drivers in Northwest and South Seattle. WM's recycling drivers and all of CleanScapes drivers in other areas of the City are covered by other labor agreements and not part of this negotiation.

2) Am I affected by the strike?

Some SPU customers in northwest and south Seattle who normally have their garbage and yard waste collected Wednesdays will not receive collection services today. Not all Wednesday customers are affected. Approximately 18,000 residential customers could be affected by the strike action today in the following approximate areas:

- N. 105th St to N. 85th St, W. of SR-99
- Delridge Way SW to Beacon Ave. S, from S. Royal Brougham to SW Roxbury St.

Waste Management's collection contract with Seattle covers only about half of the city's solid waste customers, in portions of northwest and south Seattle. Drivers in other areas of Seattle are covered by separate labor agreements and are not part of the current negotiations. Customers in those areas should continue to put all of their garbage and yard waste out on their regular collection day.

View a detailed [map of the affected area](#).

3) My garbage has not been collected - what should I do?

Those customers whose collections are missed Wednesday of this week (4/21) are asked to put all of their garbage and yard waste out next week on their regular collection day (4/28).

4) Is recycling affected?

The City's recycling services are covered by a different contract, and should not be affected by the strike. All customers are asked to keep their recycling out.

5) I do not live in one of the areas affected by the strike and my garbage has not been collected; what should I do?

You can report a missed garbage, recycling or yard waste collection after 6 p.m. on the day it was missed or within two working days by calling **(206) 684-3000** or visiting **www.seattle.gov/util/Services/Garbage**.

6) My garbage has not been collected; can I take my garbage and yard waste to the transfer station for free?

Customers whose collections have been delayed by a week will be permitted to set out double their normal amount of garbage at no additional charge. Customers can choose to take garbage/yard waste to the transfer station but will incur the applicable charges.

7) What is the City of Seattle's role in this labor issue?

This issue is between Waste Management and their union employees. The City of Seattle is not part of the negotiations. However, the City does support a speedy and successful outcome.

8) What are the City's expectations of the solid waste contractors?

- a. The two parties continue good faith negotiations toward a successful outcome.
- b. Waste Management is required to continue services in the event of any disruption. Specifically, any missed collections due to any labor complications must be collected later in the week, or the following week. WM would not be paid for any non-service.
- c. The protection of public health and safety will continue to be the City's guiding principle during any collection disruption.

9) What potential fines could the company face for missed collections?

Waste Management could face fines of \$250 per block. Given the company collects up to 6,000 blocks per day, fines could total \$300,000/day or \$1.5 million/week.

10) Will this strike affect my rates?

No, rates will not be affected by labor action.

11) Will SPU make sure that I am not charged for the missed collection?

Customers whose collections have been delayed by a week will be permitted to set out double their normal amount of garbage at no additional charge. Your charges won't change, but you'll be able to set out double the amount the following week.

12) How many solid waste customers does SPU serve?

Approximately 150,000 single-family, 6,000 multi-family and 9,000 business customers. Approximately 90,000 single-family customers are served by Waste Management.

13) Who can the public call to voice a complaint/opinion?

Customers with solid waste service problems can contact the SPU call center at 206-684-3000.

Customers with questions or concerns about the labor negotiations should contact Waste Management or Teamsters Local 174.