Sustainability and Waste in Apache Junction

Arizona State University
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Introduction & Background

Apache Junction looking for constructive suggestions to improve waste collection services and HHW policies

- AJ does not currently require curbside trash pickup
- “If we can’t see it, it doesn’t exist”
- Landfill possibly affecting development
- Republic Services landfill is scheduled to close when full, but prospective date keeps getting pushed back
- Residents can’t use transfer stations or landfills in neighboring cities.
Apache Junction Solid Waste Management Practices

- 3 waste contractors offer subscription services
- One neighborhood cleanup, four dump days a year
- One transfer station
- Once a year hazardous waste collection
City Case-study Benchmarking

- Comparable Cities:
  - Buckeye
  - Queen Creek
  - Fountain Hills
- These were chosen because:
  - Similar population
  - Geographic similarities
  - Successful waste management program
Buckeye
Buckeye

- Located in the middle of Maricopa County with a population of 63,000, Buckeye stretches 392 square miles across Arizona.

- Buckeye’s Best Practices:
  - Single waste service provider
  - Relatively cheap service fee
  - Recycling education program
Queen Creek
Queen Creek

- Located southeast from Phoenix, AZ, with a population of about 33,000, Queen Creek covers 28.5 square miles.
  - Queen Creek was the first to implement 1x week trash and recycling pickup in the valley.
- Best Practices:
  - Single waste service provider
  - Very cheap service fee
  - Long-term contract

[do more blue logo]

QueenCreek.org/DoMoreBlue
Fountain Hills
Fountain Hills

- Located Northeast of Phoenix, AZ, with a population of 23,000, Fountain Hills covers 18.2 square miles.
- Fountain Hills formed some of their waste program around Queen Creek’s.
- Best Practices:
  - Multiple service and rates options
  - Very cheap service fee
  - Republic Rewards Program

**Curbside Trash and Recycling Service Schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREA*</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPTION#</th>
<th>TRASH (TAN LID)</th>
<th>RECYCLE (BLUE LID)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 x per week</td>
<td>1 x per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 x per week (2 cans)</td>
<td>1 x per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2 x per week*</td>
<td>1 x per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2 x per week*</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Fountain Hills residents can place their account on vacation hold for up to 6 months, 1 time per year, at no charge.
* Please note: your service days will be only one day apart for additional trash service.
Current Policies & Compliance

Is Apache Junction in compliance with State and County waste collection mandates?

• Apache Junction City Code: Article 9-5 Collection of Residential Solid Waste
  • Article 9-5-1 - Legislative purpose
  • Article 9-5-3 - Residential solid waste collection agency
  • Article 9-5-7 - Appeals

• No mandate requiring residents to have a waste collection contract

• No mandate addressing proper disposal of hazardous waste
Current Policies & Compliance

Is Apache Junction in compliance with State and County waste collection mandates?

• Arizona Administrative Code: Title 18, Chapter 13
  • Article 3 - Refuse and other objectionable wastes
    • R18-13-305 - Collection required

• Maricopa County Environmental Health Code: Chapter II - Sewage and Waste
  • Section 5 - Non-hazardous solid waste collection and disposal services
    • Regulation 6 - Collection required

• Pinal County Environmental Health Code: Chapter X
  • Regulation 5 - Collection may be required
Tools & Resources: Policies & Programs

• EPA: Managing and Transforming Waste Streams Tool
  • Best practices and working programs
  • Customize search based on; sector, materials, diversion potential, local authority, etc.

• Example 1: Monteray, CA - Last Chance Mercantile
  • Reuse center for sale of household items, furniture, paints, construction materials, etc.

• Example 2: Tucson, AZ - Right Size Your Can
  • Volume-based service
  • Potential to save residents money
Where are collection sites for HHW?

• Maricopa County
  • Waste tire collection center, free to residents (Queen Creek, AZ)
  • Green waste, used oil, HHW items (transfer stations)

• Pinal County
  • White appliance and waste tire collection centers (Florence, AZ)
  • HHW collection center (Coolidge, AZ)

Can Maricopa or Pinal County better serve Apache Junction?
Recommendations: Short Term

- Establish a Solid Waste Task Force (Consult with City of Queen Creek)
  - Address possible issues of non-compliance

- Utilize solid waste management networks
  - IMCA (International City/County Management Association)
    - Bullhead City, AZ has been involved in a partnership with IMCA on solid waste
  - Maricopa Association of Governments - Solid Waste Management Planning
    - Apache Junction is already a member of the association

- Establish a HHW and/or reuse center in AJ
  - Engage neighboring cities with the possibility of a partnership or
  - Private contract for HHW disposal

- Engage the community (Consult with City of Buckeye)
  - Will residents be willing to participate?
  - Introduce the idea early in the process and get feedback
Recommendations: Long Term

• Require residents to have solid waste collection
  • Consider combining waste collection service bill with water bill
  • As Apache Junction grows it must stay competitive

• Consider contracting with one service provider
  • Utilize and modify existing contracts from nearby cities
  • Likely more cost effective

• Draft a Request for Proposal (RFP) that suites the needs of Apache Junction
  • Gradual increase of rates for low income residents?
  • Vacation hold service for winter only residents
  • Include recycling service