

Brush and Bulk Item Collection

Environmental Sustainability Board

John Bliss, Chair
February 14, 2017

Brush and Bulk Item Collection Program

Key Issues:

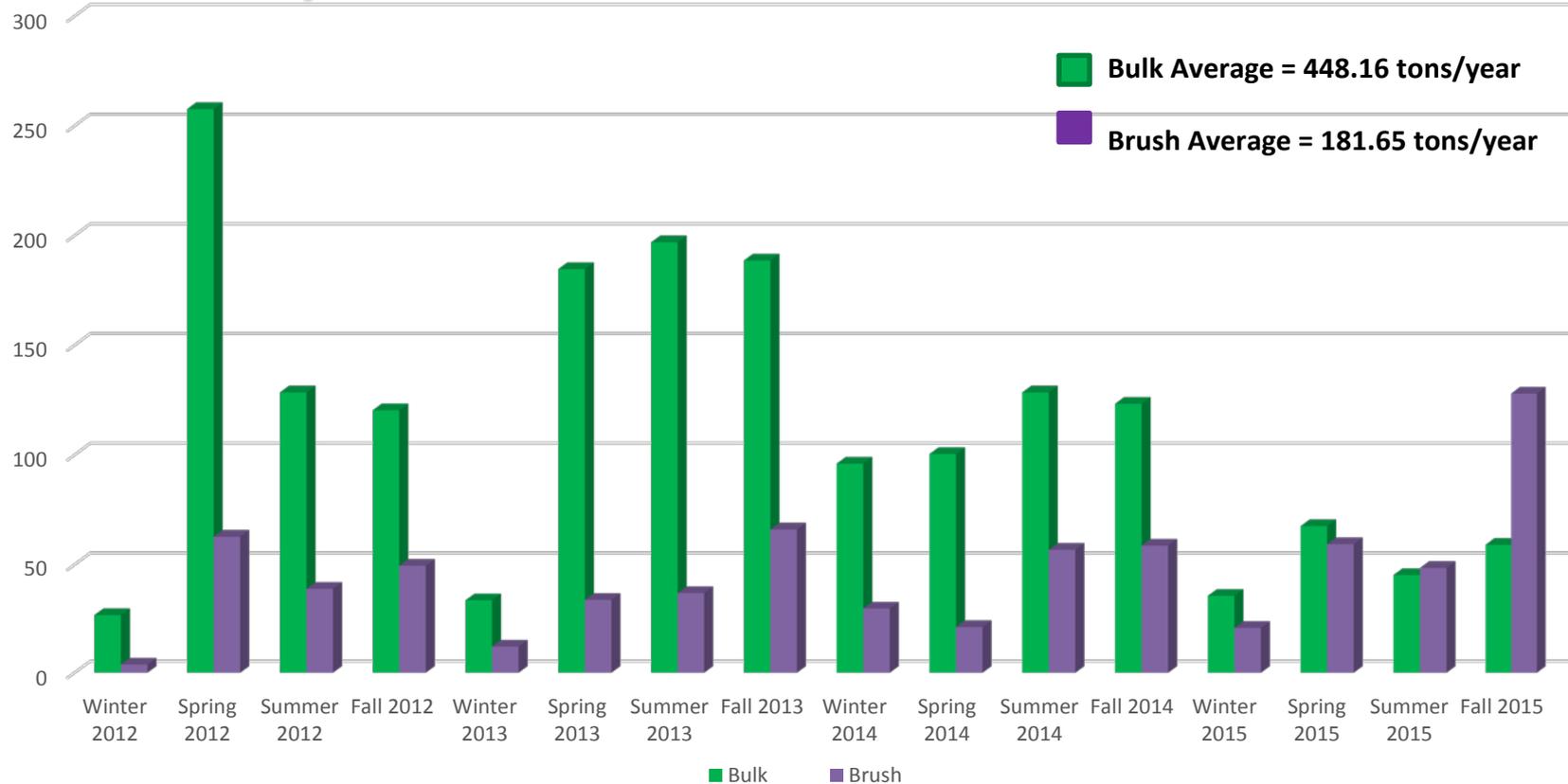
- ▶ Unsightliness
- ▶ Health and safety concerns
 - i.e. refrigerators/freezers and rodents
- ▶ Schedule
 - Collection is often delayed due to unknown volumes
 - Materials are set out too early or too late
- ▶ Contamination of brush material reduces overall potential diversion of brush
- ▶ Cost ~\$294K
 - Program does not optimize diversion of waste
 - Cannot be improved to mitigate concerns without additional resources



An example of a large, mixed, curbside deposit.



Brush and Bulk Item Collection: Summary 2012 – 2015

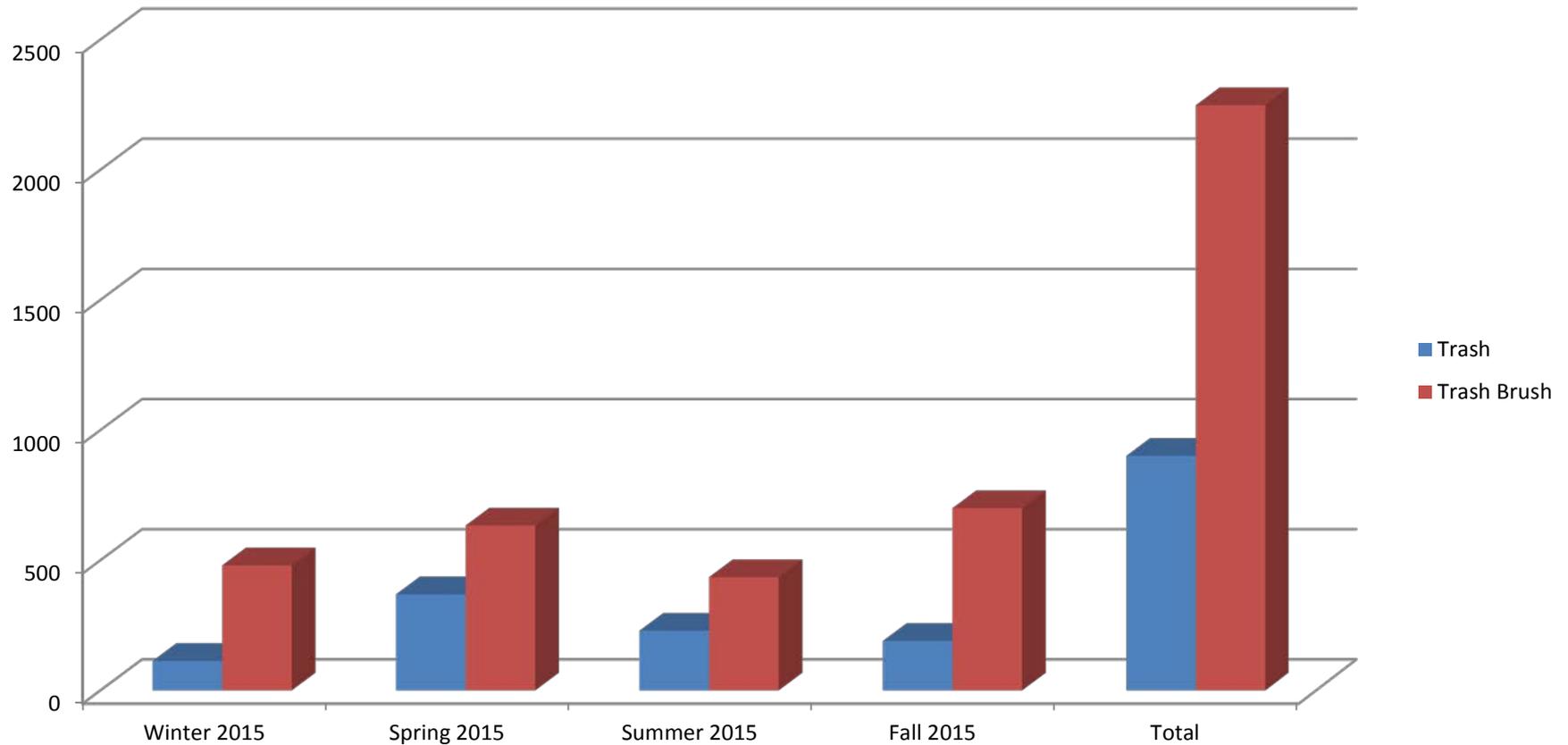


Stops Made:
Brush = 71%.
Bulk = 29%.

Weight:
Brush = 29%.
Bulk = 71%.

***By number of stops made, the data indicates the demand for brush collection is far greater than for bulk item collection.

Number of Stops Made to Collect Brush and Bulk Items



*In 2015 brush collection accounted for 71% of all stops.

**In 2015 LAC made 2,248 brush stops and 901 bulk item stops. Total stops made ~3149.

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Brush & Bulk Item Collection: # of Participants Per Area

Brush and Bulk Item Collection # of Participants Per Area

Los Alamos									
	Barranca	Denver Steel	North Mesa	Western Area	Walnut/North Comm.	Townsite	Ponderosa	Quemazon	Total
Winter 2015	87	23	54	75	75	29	17	28	388
Spring 2015	148	11	145	62	62	8	22	7	465
Summer 2015	151	13	79	68	56	44	3	11	425
Fall 2015	183	2	34	26	62	92	2	9	410
Total	569	49	312	231	255	173	44	55	1688

White Rock				
	Old Town	Pajarito	La Vista	Total
Winter 2015	112	62	31	205
Spring 2015	281	184	72	537
Summer 2015	192	37	10	239
Fall 2015	268	142	70	480
Total	853	425	183	1461

	LA/WR Combined Total Participants
Winter 2015	593
Spring 2015	1002
Summer 2015	664
Fall 2015	890
Total	3149

Timeline

- ▶ July 2015, County Council asked ESB to review the program
- ▶ January 27 to March 13, ESB conducted Open Forum
 - 247 attendees; 113 responses
- ▶ March 17, ESB Public Mtg
- ▶ March 31, ESB Special Mtg
- ▶ April 21, ESB approved recommendation for Council
- ▶ May 16, ESB presented recommendation to Council
- ▶ May 19, ESB considered Council feedback
- ▶ July 21; ESB approved final recommendation

Do You Have Thoughts on the Brush & Bulk Item Collection Program?

Join the Discussion:

Environmental Sustainability Board Meeting:

March 17th, 5:30 p.m.
Municipal Building,
B&C Conference Room,
Suite 110

Share your comments in the Open Forum
<http://tinyurl.com/h42t3j3>



Goals

- ▶ Eliminate unsightly bulk trash on street
- ▶ Improve collection to prevent long periods of brush on street
- ▶ No increased cost
- ▶ Increase diversion of organic yard waste by composting instead of sending to landfill
- ▶ Continue to provide a desired service with improved satisfaction



Constraints and Assumptions

- ▶ Only current resources available
- ▶ No increased cost
- ▶ Future hauling and landfill costs will increase
- ▶ Program is popular and community wishes it to continue



Open Forum Results

Would you support a curbside organics roll-cart program? Acceptable items would include all yard trimmings, pine needles, grass clippings, leaves, and branches.

- Yes 83.2%
- No 16.8%



Open Forum Results

What modifications do you suggest to improve the brush and bulk item collection program?
Choose all that apply.

	Percent
Collect brush and yard trimmings only	48.7%
Collect large appliances or furniture only	42.5%
Eliminate program	7.1%
Schedule and pay for a pick up as needed	44.2%
Reduce collection frequency	23.0%

*This was a multiple choice question and thus total is greater than 100%.

Open Forum Results

Do you have any additional feedback about how the County might lower the costs of this program or make other changes to the program that are not listed here and could be beneficial?

► Responses:

- Use the curbside organics roll carts, then only schedule large appliance and furniture on quarterly pick-ups.
- Collecting brush and yard trimmings for recycling using roll-carts is much more appealing than piles placed on the curbside for weeks on end.
- Don't allow large appliances and furniture curbside pickup. It is an eyesore, especially when it takes weeks, if not months, for the pickups to occur. I like the idea of scheduling/paying for pickup of these larger items.
- I feel this program is extremely beneficial and should not be changed at all. I don't have a truck and even if I did, I wouldn't be able to load heavy appliances and some yard trimmings. I would pay more on my utility bill to keep this service.
- I think it should be for brush only, with maybe a pickup service for furniture/appliances at a fee.
- Charging a small fee and doing it as needed would save money, gas and time.
- Adding an organics roll-cart would allow the quarterly pickups to be discontinued (with the possible exception of one in January for Christmas trees only). For bulk items, it would be great to be able to schedule and pay for a pickup (as long as the cost was reasonable).



Recommendation (April 2016):

- ▶ The bulk trash and brush pick up program be modified to provide a brush pickup two times each year and a bulk trash pickup two times each year in alternating quarters.
 - 12 Free Loads are retained
 - Pick-up may be scheduled for a fee
- ▶ The ESB also recommends that an additional roll cart service for organic yard trimmings be pursued.



Improvements Since April

- ▶ Collaborated with Code Enforcement to enforce violations.
- ▶ Educated residents about the program and potential violations.
- ▶ Implemented “set out no sooner than” as part of the schedule. (10 days prior to collection date.)
- ▶ Implemented size restrictions to 8 cubic yards per household.



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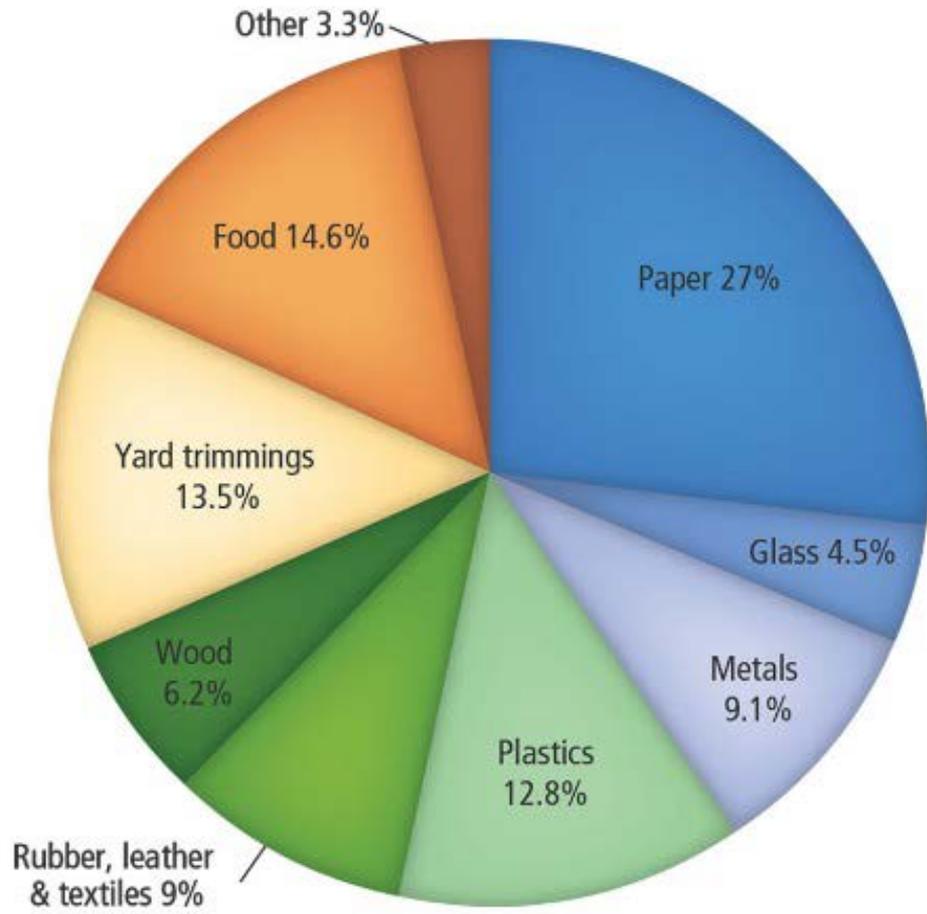
Waste Sort Studies

(Pounds)	Mar 25	Sep 29	Total	
Total Sorted Waste	6,280	8,170	14,450	100%
Food	880	1,580	2,460	17%
Yard Trimmings	720	1,340	2,060	14%
Mixed Recycling	400	600	1,000	7%
Glass	400	475	875	6%
Cardboard	180	20	200	1.4%
Trash	3,700	4,025	7,725	53%
Total Diversion Potential				44%

Diversion Potential for Organic Yard Trimming Roll-Cart

- ▶ In 2015 LAC residents generated **~7,268 tons** of material (yard trimmings & brush, recycle, bulk & trash).
- ▶ Based on the Waste Sort data, **14% or 1,017 tons** of brush could be diverted.
- ▶ In 2015 only **256 tons or 22%** of all residential brush was collected using Brush and Bulk Item Collection Program.
- ▶ This data is consistent with national average of 13.5%.





Total MSW Generation (by Material), 2013
254 Million Tons (before recycling)

Final Recommendation

Collect brush only utilizing an “Organic Yard Trimming Roll–Cart” and offer a paid scheduled collection for bulk items.

- Maximizes diversion of organic yard trimmings.
 - Includes: All yard trimmings, pine needles, grass clippings, leaves and branches.
- Best option for reducing curbside unsightliness.
- Most cost effective option.
 - It is believed to be revenue neutral after an initial investment and perhaps create savings in out–years
- If approved, implementation plan to be developed and expected to take 18–24 months
- Interim period to implement Alternative A starting April 2017



Final Recommendation – Fiscal Impact

Cost Estimate of Organic Yard Trimming Roll-Cart Program		
	Initial Investment	Annual
Roll Carts (6850)	\$ 335,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
Side Loader	\$ 295,000.00	
Side Loader Equipment Maintenance		\$ 43,000.00
Two Equipment Operators (1 additional FTE)		\$ 100,000.00
Fuel		\$ 8,000.00
Total	\$ 630,000.00	\$ 186,000.00

Brush and Bulk Item Program vs. Organic Yard Trimming Roll-Cart Program

	Brush and Bulk Item Program	Organic Yard Trimming Roll-Cart Program	Annual Savings
Annual Costs	\$ 294,370.00	\$ 186,000.00	\$108,370.00

Alternative A

Collect brush on a quarterly basis and offer a paid scheduled collection of bulk items at a reduced cost of \$25 per collection.

- Further reduces cost
- May provide modest improvement in diversion by reducing contamination of organic yard waste
- Reduces unsightliness of bulk trash items
- May provide modest improvement in diversion by reducing contamination of organic yard waste



Alternative A – Fiscal Impact

Brush and Bulk Item Collection Program vs. Brush Only Collection Program

	Brush and Bulk Item Collection Program	Brush Only Collection Program	Cost avoided (Based on average # of stops made)
Annual Costs	\$ 294,370.20	\$ 209,002.84	\$ 85,367.36

Potential Revenue - \$25 Paid Scheduled Collection

	Bulk Stops	Potential Revenue (100% participation)	Potential Revenue (50% participation)
2015	901	\$ 22,525.00	\$ 11,262.50

*In 2015 brush collection accounted for 71% of all stops.

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Alternative B

Collect brush and bulk items separately in alternate quarters and offer a paid scheduled collection of brush or bulk items at a reduced cost of \$25 per collection.

- Will reduce the cost of the program
- Only modest improvement in diverted waste
- May not address unsightliness
- Example
 - Winter – Collect Bulk Items
 - Spring – Collect Brush Items
 - Summer – Collect Bulk Items
 - Fall – Collect Brush Items



Alternative B – Fiscal Impact

Brush and Bulk Item Program vs. Brush & Bulk Collection in Alternating Quarters

	Brush and Bulk Item Program	Brush & Bulk Collection in Alternating Quarters	Cost Avoided
Annual Costs	\$ 294,370.20	Unknown	Unknown

Potential Revenue - \$25 Paid Scheduled Collection

	Brush and Bulk Stops Avoided (Average)	Potential Revenue (50% participation)	Potential Revenue (25% participation)
2015	1574	\$ 19,675.00	\$ 9,837.50

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Conclusion

- ▶ The Environmental Sustainability Board is prepared to assist staff in the planning and implementation of your selected program.
- ▶ Important Points:
 - LAC has an opportunity to increase diversion rates targeting organic yard trimmings.
 - Rio Rancho Landfill will close within next 5–8 years.
 - Hauling and tipping fees will continue to increase annually.
 - Residents can currently schedule a collection for \$67/hour plus tipping fees.
 - Residents will retain 12 Free Loads.
 - In 2015, approximately 9,662 free loads were used. (3,152 loads were brush)
 - Annually, ~2 free loads per household are used.

