



Frequency Asked Questions Nonexclusive Commercial Solid Waste Collection Franchise



What type of commercial solid waste collection system does the County have?

As of January 1, 2018, the County will have a Nonexclusive Commercial Solid Waste Collection Franchise (Nonexclusive Franchise) system. A nonexclusive franchise is a system in which a jurisdiction allows solid waste collection services to be provided by private waste haulers but requires haulers to enter into a nonexclusive agreement with the jurisdiction, in this case Okaloosa County. Under the County's Nonexclusive Franchise system, customers will have a choice of more than one waste hauler because the system is open to competition to all haulers that enter into a Nonexclusive Franchise Agreement (Agreement). The waste haulers deal directly with the public and businesses in competing for customers.

What is the definition of commercial solid waste collection?

It means solid waste collection service in the service area to commercial property. Commercial Property means any structure used or constructed for use for business operations, including all retail, professional, wholesale and industrial facilities, manufacturing facilities, non-profit enterprises, governmental/public agencies, and any other commercial enterprises offering goods or services to the public. For purposes of definition, the following are also considered commercial properties, this includes but is not limited to: hotels and motels; apartment complexes of greater than five dwelling units, unless some other arrangement for service is approved by the County; mobile home park of greater than five dwelling units; multi-family dwelling units of greater than five units; trailer/recreational vehicle parks; businesses and institutions, including but not limited to, manufacturing, industrial, institutional enterprises, and other such similar developed property types.

What is the Service Area?

The Service Area comprises all of unincorporated Okaloosa County.

What was the previous trash collection system in the Service Area?

Commercial solid waste collection service within the Service Area was previously provided by private waste haulers through an open-market system.

When did the Board of Commissioners authorize the non-exclusive franchise system?

On April 4, 2017 the Board of County Commissioners approved Ordinance 2017-05.

Who is required to obtain an Agreement?

All waste haulers who provide service or plan to provide solid waste services to commercial businesses in the Service Area will be required to enter into an Agreement.

How do I enter into an Agreement?

Waste haulers need to submit a completed application packet. The application instructions and forms may be obtained here: http://www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/pw/franchise_forms

Are there exemptions for haulers?

No, all waste haulers that intend to provide commercial solid waste collection service to customers within the Service Area will be required to enter into an Agreement.

What do I get as proof of entering into an Agreement?

Waste haulers will receive a copy of the executed Agreement between the County and the waste hauler.

What do I do if I do not have the Agreement by January 1, 2018?

Waste haulers will not be allowed to provide commercial solid waste services until the Agreement is fully executed.

What is the term of the Agreement?

Commencement is January 1, 2018 or the execution date, if later. Initial agreements will expire September 30, 2020. And will have a two year renewal cycle.

Is there a fee to apply for a franchise?

Yes, there is a \$500 non-refundable application fee.

Do I have to renew or reapply every year?

A new application will be required for each additional term.

Is there a fee associated with the Nonexclusive Franchise?

No, however an approved Nonexclusive Franchise hauler will be responsible for prompt payment of disposal charges (tipping fees).

Will the County be setting the service rates?

No, service rates are set, billed, and collected by non- exclusive franchise waste haulers. The tipping fee at the authorized disposal sites, effective January 1, 2018 is \$64.81 per ton, subject to annual adjustments.

Can I operate in the unincorporated areas without a franchise agreement?

No, County Ordinance 2017-05 states after January 1, 2018 no person or entity shall provide for the collection and/or disposal of Solid Waste from commercial business establishments and Multi-Family Dwelling Units without a valid franchise agreement.

Who may I contact if I need more information regarding the Nonexclusive Franchise?

You may contact swregistration@co.okaloosa.fl.us or phone (850) 689-5774.