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Contact: Betsy Clayton, A.P.R.
Communications Director
Lee County Government
(239) 826-4606
bclayton@leegov.com

or

Molly Schweers
Lee County Solid Waste
(239) 533-8932 or mschweers@leegov.com

New garbage carts ready to roll out in East Lee County

FORT MYERS, FL, Aug. 20, 2015 – Residents in East Lee County including Lehigh Acres, Buckingham and Alva will receive new, 95-gallon wheeled garbage carts beginning Monday, Aug. 24. There are 47,000 households receiving the new carts in preparation for automated garbage collection which will begin in October.

Representatives for Progressive Waste Solutions, Inc., the contracted hauler for the area, estimate it will take six weeks to deliver all the carts. “We’ll be working six days a week over the next six weeks to get these carts out,” said Jim Wheatley, government affairs manager for Progressive.

Residents will also now receive same-day collection for all household waste, recyclables and yard waste. Collection of all materials will take place on the day previously used for garbage collection.

Lee County Solid Waste staff has been working with communities that have space limitations or outdoor storage restrictions to make sure each household receives an appropriately sized cart.

Getting the word out to residents and addressing any concerns they may have has been a major focus for both Progressive and Lee County. “We want to ensure that this transition goes as smoothly as possible,” said Pam Keyes, director of Lee County Public Utilities Department, “and are utilizing several different methods to reach residents.”

- Each affected household will receive an informational postcard explaining the upcoming change.
- The county has created a special web page with more information - leegov.com/solidwaste/collectionchanges
- Posters have been distributed to community gathering places such as libraries and recreation centers
- Public information announcements will print in local newspapers and run on the radio
- Affected home owner associations have been contacted directly
- Presentations have been made to local business groups.

Anyone having a service issue is asked to call Progressive’s customer service at 239-368-2300 or Lee County Solid Waste at 239-533-8000.

The Lee County Solid Waste Department is a nationally-recognized enterprise system providing residents and businesses safe, affordable waste disposal and recycling services. The system utilizes an energy-from-waste combustion process to create clean, renewable energy and single-stream recycling for material recovery.