

KEY METRICS

**90,000**

Curbside Carts

**150,000**

Population of Syracuse

**3 YEARS**Partnership with
Syracuse

CHALLENGES



The City of Syracuse, NY, serves a population of roughly 150,000 residents and manages an estimated 40,000–45,000 residential waste units. Historically, Syracuse relied on rear-load packer trucks and a non-standardized set of resident-owned containers or bags. This system lacked automation, contributed to worker injuries, and created excessive neighborhood litter.

Before the upgrade, Syracuse faced:

- High rates of worker injuries from heavy manual lifting
- Widespread street litter from torn bags and open recycling bins
- Operational inefficiencies and outdated rear-load equipment
- Low recycling participation
- Funding hurdles that repeatedly delayed modernization



SOLUTIONS



Syracuse partnered with Cascade Engineering to implement a citywide cart system supported by:

- Cascade trash & recycling carts (approx. 90,000 total)
- Retrofit tippers on existing rear-load packers
- Optimized Routing technology
- Public education support
- Partnership alignment with The Recycling Partnership

Implementation Timeline

From concept to full rollout spanned 3+ years, including:

- One year evaluating privatization/outsourcing options
- One year deploying trash carts across two phases
- One year preparing and deploying recycling carts

Cascade's relationship-focused approach provided Syracuse with trusted technical guidance throughout planning, council approvals, rollout, and post-launch support.

RESULTS



1

Cleaner, Safer Streets

- Dramatic reduction in neighborhood litter
- Reduced animal issues and windblown debris
- Residents noted visible improvements

2

Operational Improvements

- Automated lifting reduces material handling
- Standardizer containers increased route efficiency across city

3

Worker Safety

- \$2 million reduction in workers' compensation costs
- Major reduction in shoulder and back injuries

4

Growing Recycling Engagement

- Removed barriers to participation
- Participation studies underway with early indicators showing improvement

WHY CASCADE?



Syracuse credits Cascade's success to:

- Cascade engaged as a knowledge partner, not just a vendor.
- Responsive support during equipment trials, council meetings, and rollout
- The team helped address staff concerns directly—including bringing demo carts onsite and troubleshooting operational pushback.
- A partnership that "felt like a friendship, not a sale"

"I feel like Cascade is going to be there for me today, tomorrow, and the next day. Even though this project feels like it's over, there's still work all the time. There's always tweaking, but that relationship with Cascade and their team meant a lot to me."

-Ann Fordock
1st Deputy Commissioner

IMPACT



Syracuse's transition to cart-based collection represents a transformative upgrade—improving public health, staff safety, community cleanliness, and long-term operational sustainability.

