
From: Dave Brook [dbrook@easystreet.com]
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2004 12:03 PM
Subject: Garbage truck noise recommendations

Paul,

I read with interest the April 14 Recommendations about reducing noise of garbage collection. I was surprised that the option of some sort of voluntary compliance incentive wasn't mentioned. Particularly since collection at apartment buildings is competitive, I would think that a company advertising "certified quiet" could distinguish themselves from other haulers (and perhaps charge more?). With such a certification, one could include a requirement to contract with such company in a contract or good neighbor agreement. The same idea could be applied to parking lot sweeping operations, where it appears there's a huge variation in sound levels of equipment.

Not being a noise or garbage collection expert, but based on implementing voluntary programs in the energy conservation field, I can imagine 2 ways such a program might be done:

- Haulers would PAY to have drivers attend a 1 hour training class. Then specific vehicles and drivers could be tested and certified every 6-12 months (?) The truck could then display a Noise-friendly logo decal. Dumpsters with the sound deadening installed per specs could have the same logo decal placed on them. All of this would be done on a 100% cost recovery basis. The decals would enable a neighbor to more easily verify that the hauler/property owner was making a good faith effort.
- Or what about actually installing a sound meter on the truck with an alarm inside the cab: the alarm would be set to go off 5-10 db before the max. allowable level. to warn the driver to cut the revs on the engine or whatever. (The actual threshold would have to be adjusted for the fact that the microphone is right on top of the sound source.) This could be part of the whole voluntary compliance thing. (If a relatively inexpensive sound meter alarm doesn't exist I could put you in touch with someone who could modify an inexpensive sound meter to include the alarm.)

I hope these ideas are useful. In any case, keep up the good work. Thanks.

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