



Environmental Service Division

“Free Load” Guide

I. **Purpose**

To provide the County’s Solid Waste Facility (“Eco Station”) staff and customers clear guidelines regarding the administration of residential customer’s twelve (12) “Free Loads” included in the monthly residential services charge as provided in Section 32-18(c)(3) of the County Code of Ordinances.

II. **Guidelines**

- A.** A Free Load is defined as the disposal of residential non-hazardous solid waste without a tip or service fee. Free Loads only apply to residential customers participating in roll-cart curbside collection services.
- B.** Industrial and Commercial Businesses, tenants of Apartment Complexes, and residents of Condos that utilize commercial collection services (i.e. dumpsters and roll-off containers) are not eligible to participate in the Free Load program.
- C.** Beginning each calendar year on January 1, twelve (12) Free Loads are allotted to each eligible residential customer/address. Unused Free Loads do not roll over from year-to-year.
- D.** Free Loads are accepted at the Eco Station and Overlook Convenience Center. However, certain restrictions apply for disposal of items at the Overlook Convenience Center as noted in Paragraph E(2) and E(3) below and as posted at the facility.
- E.** Each visit containing the equivalent of a pickup truck load, or less, constitutes one Free Load. A pickup truck load is defined as the volume of a standard pickup truck bed from the floor-bed to the top rails, or the equivalent of three (3) cubic yards.
 - (1) Loads exceeding one pickup truck load, or three (3) cubic yard equivalent, may be counted as multiple Free Loads. A trailer load comprised of five (5) cubic yards of residential solid waste would count as two (2) Free Loads (one full 3 cubic yard Free Load and a partial 2 cubic yard Free Load). A pickup truck loaded to the top of the cab would likely count as two (2) Free Loads.
 - (2) The Overlook Convenience Center only accepts Free Loads of three (3) cubic yards or less. Free Loads exceeding three (3) cubic yards must be taken to the Los Alamos Eco Station.
 - (3) Allowable items for disposal at the Eco Station that count as a Free Load deduction include non-hazardous solid waste, brush, asphalt, concrete, electronics, refrigerant containing units and automotive tires (maximum of 8). Allowable items for disposal at the Overlook Convenience Center include non-hazardous solid waste and brush only.

- (4) Any loads comprised completely of reusable items, as determined by staff, are accepted at both facilities, subject to this guide, including Free Load deduction(s).
 - (5) Other items that may be disposed of for free by residential customers without a tip fee or use of a Free Load deduction, include motor oil and anti-freeze from personal vehicles, mixed recycling, metal, cardboard, glass, and batteries from personal vehicles not used for commercial purposes.
- F.** Residential customers must present a valid photo-identification displaying the eligible residential address, to County staff, to utilize Free Loads.
- (1) Environmental Services staff shall verify that the proof of identity matches the residential utility account holder information.
 - (2) Family members residing at the eligible customer's residence may utilize Free Loads for the utility account holder so long as the family member's identification address matches the eligible customer's address.
 - (3) If a family member's identification address does not match the eligible customer's address, the Free Load may still be accepted if the eligible customer has filed a Temporary Authorization form with the County, as described at G below.
 - (4) If the identification address of the person requesting to utilize a Free Load does not match the eligible customer's address, or a Temporary Authorization is not on file with the County, the individual presenting the waste for disposal will be charged according to the appropriate load rate schedule.
 - (5) Residential customers must accompany others transporting and disposing items on their behalf, or complete and provide a Temporary Authorization described below, to utilize their Free Load allowance in accordance with this guide.
- G.** Eligible residential customers may submit to the County a Temporary Authorization form allowing others, including tenants or hired contractors, to transport and dispose of acceptable materials on the eligible customer's behalf and utilize Free Loads in accordance with this guide.
- (1) To authorize others, the residential customer identified as the eligible utility account holder must provide the following information on a form provided by the County [SolidWaste@lacnm.us] to include, but not limited to the following information:
 - a) The eligible residential customer's name, address, phone number (landline/mobile) and the entire residential utility account number.
 - b) Name of the individual(s) authorized to use the Free Load, relationship (tenant, contractor, friend, etc.), authorized number of Free Load(s) to be used, the approximate date(s) of when the Free Load(s) will be delivered, an expiration date of the temporary authorization, the vehicle make and model delivering the waste for

disposal, and a description of the types of waste materials to be disposed (*See Paragraph E for allowable items*).

- H. When an eligible residential property with curbside roll-cart collection is being used as a rental property:
 - (1) The utility account holder is considered as the eligible residential customer and allotted a total of twelve (12) Free Loads each year per rental property.
 - (2) The account holder may authorize the tenant to utilize the Free loads (*See Paragraph G for procedures to authorize renters' use of Free Loads*).
- I. Any fraudulent use of the Free Load program, including but not limited to claiming construction or commercial/industrial waste is residential waste, will subject the utility account holder to a \$500 unauthorized user/illegal dumping fee, as allowed by County Code, Section 32-18.
- J. Customers that have exhausted their twelve (12) Free Loads within a calendar year, will be charged according to the current tip or service fee rate schedule for any additional loads.
- K. Customers can also donate one of their twelve (12) Free Loads each year to a thrift store that operates in Los Alamos County and accepts, recycles, and reuses materials from residents. The Donated Loads do not roll over from year-to-year and the donated Free Load must be documented on a Temporary Authorization form described in Paragraph G above.

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3/27/2024

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Date

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