

**City of Santa Cruz
Solid Waste Worker**



**CITY OF SANTA CRUZ
SOLID WASTE WORKER**

**Reports to
Supervises
Bargaining Unit**

**Resource Recovery Supervisor
Non-supervisory
Service**

BASIC FUNCTION

Under supervision, operates a variety of collection vehicles and collects refuse and recyclable materials on prescribed City routes; cleans and services collection vehicles; repairs and maintains refuse and recycling containers; and performs related work as required. Incumbents may work independently or as a member of a small crew.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This classification is distinguished from the next higher classification of Resource Recovery Supervisor in that the latter classification is the supervisory level classification responsible for the day to day operations, maintenance, and supervision of the Sanitation/Recycling Collections division.

TYPICAL DUTIES *(May include, but are not limited to, those duties listed below.)*

- Operates packer trucks, recycling trucks, front loader vehicles, roll-off container vehicles and street sweeping vehicles as assigned.
- Drives collection vehicles along routes on public streets while encountering heavy traffic and maneuvering tight and confined spaces.
- Lifts, carries, loads, and empties recycling, sweeper, and refuse containers.
- Drives to landfill site or processing facility when collection vehicle is loaded and unloads refuse or recyclables.
- Ensures vehicles are in proper working order; performs checks on vehicle parts and equipment according to vehicle check-out procedures.
- Cleans and services collection vehicles; repairs and maintains refuse and recycling containers.
- Receives crew assignments from supervisor; reviews "start-stop" orders for refuse and recycling collection; may direct crew activities on route.
- Assists in training other Sanitation Division employees in the safe and proper methods of performing Solid Waste Worker skills.
- Notifies customers when material is unacceptable, verbally or in writing.
- Tactfully responds to questions and comments from the public.
- Updates customer records and route information; completes daily can-count reports and other work records.

**City of Santa Cruz
Solid Waste Worker**

- Delivers recycle and garbage carts used for special events as needed.
- Maintains work areas in a clean and orderly condition, including cleaning alleys of illegal dumping and minor tree trimming to ensure safe passage of vehicles.
- May be assigned to perform hand sweeping and steam cleaning of public thoroughfares that cannot be accessed by a City street sweeper.
- May be assigned to remove rocks, weeds, animal remains, bulk items such as furniture and shopping carts, and other debris from public sidewalks, paths, and other thoroughfares.
- Identifies security concerns, such as public loitering and behavioral issues and contacts law enforcement as necessary.
- May be assigned to assist in the maintenance shop.
- Performs other duties as required.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Must possess mobility to work in the field; strength, stamina, and mobility to perform medium to heavy physical work, to work in confining spaces, around machines and to climb and descend vehicles, and to operate varied vehicles, tools, and equipment; vision to read printed materials distinguish colors, such as color-coded cans and medical waste bags; and hearing and speech to communicate in person and over the telephone or radio and distinguish various sounds in noisy environments such as voices of co-workers and equipment horns and signals. The job involves fieldwork requiring frequent walking in operational areas to identify problems or hazards. Finger dexterity is needed to operate above-mentioned tools and equipment. Positions in this classification bend, stoop, kneel, reach, and climb to perform work and inspect work sites. Employees must possess the ability to lift, carry, push, shovel, and pull materials and objects repetitively up to 40 pounds with occasional lifting of up to 65 pounds, and heavier weights with the use of proper equipment. Employees work in the field and are exposed to loud noise levels, cold and hot temperatures, inclement weather conditions, road hazards, vibration, mechanical and/or electrical hazards, dust, and hazardous physical substances and fumes. May be exposed to needles and excrement. Employees may interact with upset public in interpreting and enforcing departmental policies and procedures. May encounter public loitering and behavioral issues.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge:

- The operation and minor maintenance of a variety of tools, vehicles, and equipment.
- Techniques for providing a high level of customer service to the public and City staff, in person and over the telephone.
- Safe driving practices and laws.

**City of Santa Cruz
Solid Waste Worker**

Abilities:

- Learn basic solid waste collection and disposal principles, practices, vehicles, tools, and equipment for maintaining sanitation and cleanliness of a City, including residential solid waste collection.
- Safely and effectively use, operate, and maintain the full range of equipment and tools required for the work.
- Safely operates a heavily loaded three-axle truck and auxiliary hydraulic equipment.
- Perform heavy manual labor for extended periods of time in all types of weather.
- Follow verbal and written instructions.
- Adapt to new technologies and systems.
- Maintain accurate logs, records, and basic reports of work performed.
- Communicate effectively in person and over the telephone.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.
- Act in a courteous and diplomatic manner when dealing with the public.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

Any combination of education and experience that provides the above knowledge, skills, and abilities combined with any required licenses is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the required qualifications is to possess the equivalent of the following:

- High School degree or equivalent; and
- Some experience in the maintenance and repair of tools, equipment, and vehicles .

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Willingness to begin work at 5 a.m.
- Willingness to work weekends, holidays and overtime as required.

LICENSES

- Possession at time of hire and continued maintenance of a valid California Class B driver's license and a safe driving record.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

- Familiarity with the Santa Cruz area and names of City streets.
- Ability to operate repair equipment such as welder, sprayer and sandblaster.

**City of Santa Cruz
Solid Waste Worker**

Classification No.: 191
Date of Issue: 01/98
Supersedes: 01/98
Update: 02/12

Career Ladder

- Superintendent of Resource Recovery
- Resource Recovery Supervisor
- *Solid Waste Worker*