

Peterson, J., and S. Hughes. Governing Garbage: How Can Local Government Advance Environmental Aims in Sectors Where Service is Privately Delivered? Presented at the Urban Affairs Association, March 17,2016.

In 2014, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) set a waste diversion goal of 75% to be reached in the state's urban areas by 2030. Some form of organics recycling is needed in order to reach this 75% goal and, as a result, municipalities have been tasked with creating and implementing organics recycling programs. A challenge municipalities face in meeting these targets is that waste management services are predominantly provided by private companies, either through "organized" or "open" delivery systems. In organized systems, one hauler is contracted to service a given area, whereas in open systems, households are able to choose between multiple haulers in an open market. This paper examines the different mechanisms through which open and organized service delivery systems are governed in order to identify factors that facilitate environmental reforms in each type of system. Drawing on data collected from over two dozen interviews with government and industry stakeholders we find that organized systems allow for more government oversight and control over environmental policy reforms, while a more diverse set of tools is necessary to facilitate reforms in open delivery systems. This paper advances research in urban studies on collaborative governance and provides a more nuanced understanding of the role that the private sector plays in shaping municipal service delivery outcomes.