



### Cincinnati to Test First Big Belly Solar Trash Can in a Business District

Tuesday, August 9, 2011, 9:30am, Mt. Lookout Square

On Tuesday, August 9 at 9:30 am, the City of Cincinnati Public Services Department will install a Big Belly Solar powered trash can in the Cincinnati neighborhood business district in Mt. Lookout. About ten Big Belly Solar Cans are part of a pilot program in downtown, Mt. Adams, Northside and Mt. Lookout. More than 40 Big Bellies are already in use in Cincinnati Parks. City officials believe these environmentally-friendly trash cans, which are also compactors, may work well for business districts with frequently overflowing cans.

According to the Big Belly provider, "The Big Belly System will reduce collection frequency by up to 80%, freeing up resources, [and] slashing fuel costs." In addition to solar

powered trash compaction, the cans are equipped with sensors that monitor how full the can is, and Global Positioning Software that transmits data back to Public Services. Public Services will be notified when a can needs to be emptied and where it is located.

During the pilot program, Public Services will evaluate savings in City staff time spent emptying cans because the Big Belly cans have a larger capacity. They are placed in high-traffic areas where city officials believe they'll cut down on litter and contribute to a cleaner environment.

"It makes sense to test Big Bellies in the business districts getting revitalization work this summer," says Council Member Laure Quinlivan. Early this year, council members voted in favor of Quinlivan's motion to award capital funds to Mt. Lookout, Northside and Mt. Adams to complete streetscape projects that CNBDU (Cincinnati Business Districts United) presented

to city council members as unfunded but "shovel-ready".

Quinlivan will encourage Mt. Lookout to order the stub-out plate feature for its Big Belly can, designed for disposal of cigarette butts. "I go to yoga every Saturday morning in Mt. Lookout Square and I'm tired of seeing cigarette butts littering the sidewalks," says Quinlivan, who chairs the Mayor's Green Steering Committee.

Mt. Lookout business owners and residents will be on hand for the press conference, to watch a representative from Big Belly Solar demonstrate the operation of the can and explain how information is transmitted back to the department.



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