



BigBelly ready to take in trash

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The Big Belly is in town and it's hungry for garbage.

It can hold four times more than your average city trash can, and it will be compacting waste with its solar-powered abdominals at the downtown bus hub.

The city brought it in for a trial run in hopes that it might save money by cutting back on the twice-a-day garbage pickups required at the central bus stop, 214 S. Topeka.

During its eight-day stay, the city will monitor the trash muncher and see what types of maintenance issues it may have.

The cost-benefit analysis will be important. If it works, Wichita might join Boston, Cincinnati, New York City, Tempe, Ariz., and San Antonio in using the Big Belly to replace normal garbage cans in areas where they often overflow.

For more on the BigBelly, see their web site at www.bigbellysolar.com.