

Roundtable 8/17/17

Is Recycling Worth it?
The Successes, Issues, and Concerns for Communities

Presentations

1. Recycling Today and Tomorrow
2. One Community's Approach to Recycling

COMMENTS/DISCUSSIONS

1. Dave (LRPC)
 - NRRA's Article shared by Michael Dufore.
 - Increased level of China's "Green Fence" policy
 - China's notice to WTO of banning imports of paper and plastic products.
 - Mostly will affect plastics 3-7 open markets in USA
2. Terry (Bridgewater)
 - Paper, cardboard, metals are worth recycling
 - Transfer stations use recycling to get money in the door, not "make money"
 - Offsetting costs is important at transfer stations
 - Cost of processing goes up when there is more bulk to sort and recycle
 - There has been a transition in NH from 270 dumps to 3 landfills
 - Bethlehem wants to close their landfill
 - Large transport costs make recycling too expensive. A way to save money in long run is to buy a compactor. They are not expensive to buy/own.
 - Legislative level for recycling enforcement/regulation
 - Nuisance plastic bags (1000 lb bale a week?) are a huge problem.
3. Vicky (Andover)
 - Biggest problem that prevents people from recycling: people think its "cheaper to throw recyclables in the trash"
 - \$70 to \$40 a ton
 - Posters for cost of single stream/ton
 - Good info to residents will be helpful for recycling encouragement
 - Increases the cost of single stream, automatic sorting plants built for heavier plastics/paper didn't count on the number of plastic bags/hoses coming through machinery
 - Costs money to shut down recycling plants for a week at a time
 - Re-fit big plants to deal with lighter weight plastics, takes more of them to make a ton of recyclables
4. Cliff (Franklin)

- Diapers, pizza, rotors, shock absorbers, microwaves have been found in recycling bins
- Franklin has single stream recycling
- Would have to monitor certain neighborhoods to control contaminated recycling bins
- To get some residents to comply they would have to pull the barrels from them
- Tried tagging barrels, not a great outcome. Still had contaminants
- Suggested charge when there were contaminants found in the recycling bins, the town did not follow through with it
- Some people would probably rather put it in the woods than recycle

5. (Capone) Canterbury

- Pay as you go recycling costs. They have had no issues so far
- 2-3 neighbors would pitch in to get dumpster and collectively use it so it's cheaper for everyone
- No single stream, they sort.
- Mandatory recycling
- 3 personnel at transfer station
- Drive thru – plastic, glass, metal, electronics, paper
- Cost avoidance: 300 tons/year \$69/ton (Holderness)
- \$29,000 a year cost avoidance (Holderness)

6. Terry (Bridgewater)

- Environmental factor
- Cost avoidance
- Mandatory recycling
- Cheaper to dump in ocean, most people won't do that
- Works in a small town
- Drive around- easy drop offs
- Ban of most of it is the plastics
- Has explained to residents that when you throw plastics away, you're throwing oil away. This puts recycling into an economic/resource perspective instead of environmental
- Penacook likes plastics in waste stream because it fuels the turbine to create energy but still meets air quality requirement
- Sorting can show a profit at your expense

7. Clay (Tuftonboro)

- Shopping around is the only way to get around the costs
- Highly recommend Lee Transfer Station for information
- Went to see what the best approaches were at the other transfer stations, found out what he did not want to do at the Tuftonboro Transfer Station
- How do you pay for all this? He reached out to NRRA (Bonnie)
- Voluntary recycling in Tuftonboro

- 70-75% recycling rate in the summer, out of state people are most likely better at recycling because it's most likely mandatory where they are from
 - Revenue is the key motivation to older folk not environmental
 - Summer months are much bigger and productive
 - 3 full time and 3 part time employees
 - 2, 42-yard closed top compactors
 - 3 vertical bailers
 - Residents to do own sorting they try to teach them the best way to do that
 - 35-gallon containers, dump in and quality control the contents
 - 1 glass crusher- 80 tons/year get out of compactors
 - \$7,000 saved by crushing glass by bringing it for roadway uses
 - 30- yard open top container for steel and cans
 - 30- yard open top containers for plastics (1-7),
 - WM takes it, \$30/ton to get rid of it, keeps it out of the compactor.
 - They don't make or spend money on recycling plastics
 - Black waterproof gaylord
 - Scrap metal pile (15 yard open top container) make \$1100 a year
 - 30-yard containers for construction debris caused a \$30,000 increase
 - Building permit? For construction debris cost vs transportation
 - (8 cents/lb) offset costs
 - Increased revenue through zero labor costs, they take copper pipes/wires from bins and use it to bring in more \$
 - \$5000-6000 a year
 - Budget: 4 days a week, every weekend, Tuesdays and Thursdays
 - \$280-300,000 a year
 - Take in \$80-85,000 hard revenue, \$20-25,000 avoided costs
 - Used to be: 30,000 revenue avoided 10,000
 - Load trucks on "on-days" no excess labor costs to load trucks
 - Limitations are storage, need full truck load (22 tons) so it's difficult to find space to put waste until they have a full truck load.
 - Contracted with WM primarily (construction/plastics 5-year contract with 2-year extension), also Casella. Sometimes not competitive.
 - Electronics (20 yard container)
 - Tires- closed container
 - 40X60 foot building recyclables
 - Commercial haulers want single stream, they avoided it
 - Aluminum 15-16,000 lbs, 51-62.5 cents lb (shopping around)
8. Terry (Bridgewater)
- Better off with multiple vendors instead of being in a contract with one company allows for a better price most of the time
9. Steve (Bristol)

- Statton island (hurricane sandy) caused huge piles of debris that needed to be separated so some could be recycled
- There is a piece of machinery that extracts water from garbage it was patented in NH, needs to find where the information about that is.
- That machine would be important to communities (such as in Africa) that have minimal water, they could extract it from waste.
- Tax bill, doesn't have color. Cost of recyclable items.
- Schools started picking up on recycling, little kids are recycling
- FEMA separate debris from disasters, 8 story building taken apart.
- Manchester releases a lot of methane gas from waste
- Trash get shipped from MBL to Bethlehem
- Price of getting the equipment to separate
- Composting FEMA in Holyoke

10. Walter (Moultonborough)

- A major source of where recyclable material is coming from is packaging
- Minimize the consumption and use of packaging and materials will reduce the need to discard of it
- Grocery chains have pre-packaged everything

11. Bridgewater

- Legislator needs to get involved more for major changes to happen
- C&D in state, other states have better rules
- Some materials get grinded up, mixed with dirt, and tested for asbestos and heavy metals (added expense) and used for road material

Other Communities Issues/Comments:

1. Northfield
 - a. Finding good vendors has been an issue
 - b. NRRRA has a large grouping of vendors as a resource
 - c. Have curbside pick-up
 - d. Take metal, TVs, microwaves- store it. **Need place to get rid of stored waste.**
2. Moultonborough
 - a. Single stream- 2nd year, always need to be monitored
 - b. Increased use of facility, volume increased
 - c. Seasonal-recreational town so the volume heavily fluctuates
 - d. Out of state residents already know single stream recycling, it makes the process go more smoothly
 - e. Sort separated took too much time
 - f. Biggest challenge: **plastic bags**
3. Franklin
 - a. Biggest challenge: **compliance and contamination**
 - b. Higher ups should take on the responsibilities
 - c. They have curbside pick up mostly everywhere not private roads
4. Holderness
 - a. Playing with the **fee structure** could cause many angry customers.
 - b. Challenges with disposal of **C&D and Tires**
 - c. Large obstacle of **educating public**
5. Tamworth
 - a. No mandatory recycling
 - b. A lot of interest in pay-as-you throw (more effective and economically better)
 - c. Want **input on PAYT**
6. Lisbon was success (PAYT)
7. Canterbury PAYT (role out and education) just started talking about when not if it's going to happen
8. Andover
 - a. "Do you take PAYT to town meeting?" "YES"
9. Bridgewater
 - a. Charge \$5/bag 5 gallon bag
 - b. Pay for dumpster
 - c. Looking into **compactor w/ grinder** to cut **transportation costs**
 - d. Looking into **scale for charging**
 - e. Motivated with economics
10. Tuftonboro
 - a. Large problem with changing the price for the **transfer station sticker price**

Takeaways:

- **Keep towns together and talking, more meetings like this one to share information**
- **LRPC could possibly assist with outreach to legislator about issues on packaging, create a louder voice for lakes region communities.**
- **Clay gave his phone number, willing to help other communities with finding vendors and with information that has worked or hasn't worked for his transfer station/community**
- **Look online for surrounding communities' information**