



CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
July 18, 2018 - 6:00 PM

A - Presentations:

B - Public Comments to the Council:

C - Consent Agenda:

D - Unfinished Business:

E - New Business:

1. Discuss and approve the new Republic Services contract
2. Discuss and approve Tri-City Blacktop quote for Park Avenue patching
3. Discuss USPS mail service

F - Committee Reports:

G - Mayor's Report:

H - Adjournment:

**EXTENSION FOR THE CONTRACT FOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION
AND DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICES**

This extension shall take effect on August 1, 2018 by and between the City of Panorama Park, an Iowa municipality (City) and ALLIED SERVICES, LLC d/b/a REPUBLIC SERVICES OF BETTENDORF (Contractor).

The City and the Contractor desire to extend the terms of the original contract with modification. Therefore, the City and Contractor agree to extend the contract with the modifications set forth below.

1. Term. Effective August 1, 2018 through March 31, 2025. The remaining terms in the original contract shall remain in full force and effect.
2. Payments. The City's per unit monthly costs shall be;

Solid Waste Collection and Disposal and Recycling Collection

August 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019.....	\$12.43
April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020.....	\$12.93
April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021.....	\$13.44
April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022.....	\$13.98
April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023.....	\$14.54
April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024.....	\$15.12
April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025.....	\$15.73

3. A Recycling Processing Charge shall be added per unit to the city's invoice;

Recycling Processing Charge

August 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019 Based on a \$0 cost per ton.....\$0.00 per home

Annual Recycling Adjustment. On April 1st of each year, Republic shall evaluate, and adjust if needed, the Recycling Processing Charge based on any changes in Commodity Sales, Processing Rates and/or Residual Costs. The Recycling Processing Charge over the most recent twelve month period shall be compared to the last identified Recycling Processing Charge to determine any change. A reduction in Recycling Processing Charge shall result in a decreased price for the Recycling Processing Services for the twelve months after the effective date of the Annual Recycling Adjustment. An increase in Recycling Processing Charge shall result in an increased price for the Recycling Services for the twelve months after the effective date of the Annual Recycling Adjustment. Should unforeseen circumstances cause at least a 20% change in Republic's Recycling Processing Charge, both parties agree to implement a mid-year adjustment to the Recycling Processing Charge.

This agreement shall be deemed part of the original contract agreement Effective April 1, 2015. Any reference to the original agreement shall include this Contact Extension.

This agreement was made and entered into the _____ day of July 2018.

PANORAMA PARK, IA

ALLIED SERVICES, LLC D/B/A
REPUBLIC SERVICES OF
BETTENDORF

By: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Its: _____

Its: _____

ISSUE BRIEF

China's Changing Policies on Imported Recyclables

April 2018

Overview

The Recycling industry has been very successful at providing environmental benefits including diverting material from landfills, conserving natural resources, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by displacing the use of raw materials. This success was accomplished through the combined efforts of both the public and private industry to collect, sort, bale and market the recyclables to their end-markets.

For years, China has been the single largest consumer of recyclable materials generated in the United States. In 2016, approximately 41% of paper recovered in North America was exported with about a quarter of recyclable paper exported to Chinese mills. Similarly, over 20% of post-consumer bottles and 33% of non-bottle rigid plastics from the U.S. were exported in 2015. The European Union exports over 95% of its plastic to China, and the US and the EU are the largest exporters of recovered paper into China. China consumed over 50% of the world's recycled paper and plastic in 2016.

Over the past year, China has taken a number of steps, including establishing bans and imposing strict quality standards, to restrict recyclable materials imported into China. These measures are already having significant impacts on recycling within the U.S., and the rest of the world. Because so much material had previously been absorbed by China, this decision leaves much of the material without sufficient end markets.

It may be some time before alternative markets can be developed to fully replace China. In the meantime, recyclers are struggling to manage recyclables in a manner that maintains current programs at economically viable levels.

Background

1. In February, as part of China's broader "National Sword" campaign, customs enforcement began a one-year crack down on illegal smuggling of "foreign waste."
2. On July 18, 2017, China notified the World Trade Association (WTO) of its intent to ban 24 materials from being imported. These include post-consumer plastic and mixed paper effective January 1, 2018.

3. On November 15, 2017, the Chinese announced a new quality standard for material limiting prohibitive to 0.5 percent. This requirement applies to all paper and paperboard materials, even those that are not banned (such as ONP or OCC) effective March 1, 2018.

4. On March 6, 2018, the Chinese Government announced a special action campaign entitled "Blue Sky 2018" focused on the banned materials. This campaign is targeted at cracking down on smuggling of the banned materials.

5. The China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) released a paper stating that a further stop to material imports will be in place by 2019. This international advisory body that includes some top Chinese officials signals that recycling restrictions from China may become tighter, not looser in the future.

Impact to U.S. Recycling

Higher costs and lower revenues:

- **Lower revenues due to depressed commodity prices.** The loss of the Chinese export markets has disrupted recyclable markets leading to lower revenues as some materials must be sold at significantly lower prices, sometimes even negative. As a result, the overall revenues from the combined recycling stream is depressed.
- **Higher processing costs.** In order to meet the new quality standards, MRFs are slowing down the lines and adding sorters. Processing at some facilities has been changed from negative sorts to positive sorts resulting in more effort to produce less salable material. These measures are reducing throughput and driving processing costs higher.
- **Higher transportation costs.** Regulatory requirements, a booming economy and a tight labor market already contributed to increased domestic freight costs. However, as material is diverted to international ports outside of China, shipping costs are also increasing as the backhaul advantage dissipates.

- **Higher capital costs.** To meet the higher quality standards, some MRFs are also accelerating and increasing capital expenditures.
- **Availability of outlets.** The ability of other markets, both domestic and the remaining Asian export market, to absorb all the recyclables have been severely strained. Some materials have not been able to find an economically viable end market. With few markets available, incidents of stockpiling (or landfilling) material have been reported.
- **Stockpiling issues.** Due to storage capacity issues, stockpiling is not a viable option. Warehousing is also an issue due to availability of space and costs of facilities. In either case, processed bales can deteriorate over time which creates unacceptable safety hazards and unmarketable recycled product.
- **Regional variations.** The impact varies by region and local markets across the country.
- **Development of new outlets.** With time, new outlets for markets are expected to develop. The timeline of new market development, however, is uncertain due to its dependence on establishing new facilities and infrastructure.
- **Review contracts.** Recycling requirements may need to be amended through force majeure provisions as this is a global situation. In addition, both recyclers and municipalities should review contracting provisions to ensure fair and equitable contracts. NWRA and SWANA worked together to develop a Joint Advisory on Designing Contracts for Processing of Municipal Recyclables along with two attachments. These documents should be utilized to inform future contracts.
- **Talk with regulators.** States may need to approve temporarily suspensions of recycling requirements where there is no market.

Communications Strategy

- **Develop a communication plan appropriate for your market area.** Make sure to be transparent in messaging providing clear information about the severity of the issue but avoid overstating it. Convey the commitment to working with customers and regulators. Provide recommendations on what should be recycled and how to minimize contamination.
- **Contact your state regulatory agency to ensure that they are aware of the issue.** Ensure key stakeholders know that we have been working at the federal level. Be careful in communicating the serious ramifications of this issue, while recognizing that there is significant uncertainty.
- **Consider engaging local industry groups to help with the messaging.** Work with your state's industry associations to convey a single message to cities "from the industry."
- **Communicate with transparency to your customers, and work to shore up the long-term benefits of recycling to reduce public backlash.** Although the U.S. exports a significant amount of recyclables, domestic markets do exist and may expand, perhaps as a direct result of China's actions.
- **This is a good time to develop and execute public education programs focused on quality.** Recycling the right materials correctly will help minimize the negative impacts of the current market constrictions. Work with local governments to focus messaging around recycled paper, cardboard, bottles and cans, and how to reduce contamination at the curb.

Actions to take

- **Ensure High Quality Recyclables** - High quality material is more likely to find a market. The new 0.5 percent prohibitives limit is far below any existing international standard. However, high quality material will be welcomed by both domestic and international markets. Focus on core recyclables to reduce contamination and avoid adding new products to the recyclable stream while trying to improve quality.
- **Work with the entire industry.** This is a global and an industry-wide issue, not a local or individual company issue. Our industry will benefit if we work together with city and state officials to develop solutions in the near term, and to work together for longer term solutions.
- **Communicate.** It is important to communicate with recycling partners to focus on quality and to develop solutions for your communities. See the communications strategy below for more suggestions.

For More Information:

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Recycling, Once Embraced by Businesses and Environmentalists, Now Under Siege

Local officials raise fees and send recyclables to landfills as economics erode



Workers at Cal-Waste Recovery Systems pre-sort raw recycling. The company has been struggling to sell its mixed-paper recycling to its usual customer, China. PHOTO: MAX WHITTAKER FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

The U.S. recycling industry is breaking down.

Prices for scrap paper and plastic have collapsed, leading local officials across the country to charge residents more to collect recyclables and send some to landfills. Used newspapers, cardboard boxes and plastic bottles are piling up at plants that can't make a profit processing them for export or domestic markets.

"Recycling as we know it isn't working," said James Warner, chief executive of the Solid Waste Management Authority in Lancaster County, Pa. "There's always been ups and downs in the market, but this is the biggest disruption that I can recall."

U.S. recycling programs took off in the 1990s as calls to bury less trash in landfills coincided with China's demand for materials such as corrugated cardboard to feed its economic boom. Shipping lines eagerly filled containers that had brought manufactured goods to the U.S. with paper, scrap metal and plastic bottles for the return trip to China.

As cities aggressively expanded recycling programs to keep more discarded household items out of landfills, the purity of U.S. scrap deteriorated as more trash infiltrated the recyclables. Discarded food, liquid-soaked paper and other contaminants recently accounted for as much as 20% of the material shipped to China, according to [Waste Management Inc.](#)'s estimates, double from five years ago.

The tedious and sometimes dangerous work of separating out that detritus at processing plants in China prompted officials there [to slash the contaminants limit](#) this year to 0.5%. China early this month suspended all imports of U.S. recycled materials until June 4, regardless of the quality. The recycling industry interpreted the move as part of the growing rift between the U.S. and China over trade policies and tariffs

The changes have effectively cut off exports from the U.S., the world's largest generator of scrap paper and plastic. Collectors, processors and the municipal governments that hire them are reconsidering what they will accept to recycle and how much homeowners will pay for that service. Many trash haulers and city agencies that paid for curbside collection by selling scrap said they are now losing money on almost every ton they handle.

The upended economics are likely to permanently change the U.S. recycling business, said William Moore, president of Moore & Associates, a recycled-paper consultancy in Atlanta.



Cal-Waste Recovery Systems plans to invest more than \$6 million on new sorting equipment to produce cleaner bales of recyclables. PHOTO: MAX WHITTAKER FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

“It’s going to take domestic demand to replace what China was buying,” he said. “It’s not going to be a quick turnaround. It’s going to be a long-term issue.”

The waste-management authority in Lancaster County this spring more than doubled the charge per ton that residential trash collectors must pay to deposit recyclables at its transfer station, starting June 1. The higher cost is expected to be passed on to residents though a 3% increase in the fees that haulers charge households for trash collection and disposal.

The additional transfer-station proceeds will help offset a \$40-a-ton fee that the authority will start paying this summer to a company to process the county’s recyclables. Before China raised its quality standards at the beginning of this year, that company was paying Lancaster County \$4 for every ton of recyclables.

Mr. Warner may limit the recyclable items collected from Lancaster County’s 500,000 residents to those that have retained some value, such as cans and corrugated cardboard. He said mixed plastic isn’t worth processing.

“You might as well put it in the trash from the get-go,” he said.

Environmentalists are hoping landfills are only a stopgap fix for the glut of recyclables while the industry finds new markets and reduces contaminants.

“Stuff is definitely getting thrown away in landfills. Nobody is happy about it,” said Dylan de Thomas, vice president of industry collaboration for the Recycling Partnership in Virginia. “There are very few landfill owners that don’t operate recycling facilities, too. They’d much rather be paid for those materials.”

Pacific Rim Recycling in Benicia, Calif., slowed operations at its plant early this year to meet China’s new standard. But company President Steve Moore said the more intensive sorting process takes too long to process scrap profitably. Pacific Rim idled its processing plant in February and furloughed 40 of its 45 employees.

“The cost is impossible. We can’t make money at it,” Steve Moore said. “We quit accepting stuff.”

China stopped taking shipments of U.S. mixed paper and mixed plastic in January. Steve Moore said mixed-paper shipments to other Asian countries now fetch \$5 a ton, down from as much as \$150 last year. Other buyers such as Vietnam and India have been flooded with scrap paper and plastic that would have been sold to China in years past.

Dave Vaccarezza, president of Cal-Waste Recovery Systems near Sacramento, Calif., intends to invest more than \$6 million in new sorting equipment to produce cleaner bales of recyclables.

“It’s going to cost the rate payer to recycle,” he said. “They’re going to demand we make our best effort to use those cans and bottles they put out.”



China stopped taking shipments of U.S. mixed paper and mixed plastic in January. Cal-Waste Recovery Systems workers sift through recycled trash. PHOTO: MAX WHITTAKER FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Sacramento County, which collects trash and recyclables from 151,000 homes, used to earn \$1.2 million a year selling the scrap to Waste Management and another processor from scrap. Now, the county is paying what will amount to about \$1 million a year, or roughly \$35 a ton, to defray the processors' costs. Waste Management paid the county \$250,000 to break the revenue-sharing contract and negotiate those terms.

County waste management director Doug Sloan expects those costs to keep climbing. "We've been put on notice that we need to do our part," he said. The county hasn't yet raised residential fees.

Some recyclers said residents and municipalities need to give up the "single-stream" approach of lumping used paper and cardboard together with glass, cans and plastic in one collection truck. Single-stream collections took hold in the waste-hauling industry about 20 years ago and continue to be widely used. Collecting paper separately would make curbside recycling service more expensive but cut down on contamination.

"We're our own worst enemies," said Michael Barry, president of Mid America Recycling, a processing-plant operator in Des Moines, Iowa, of single-stream recycling. "It's almost impossible to get the paper away from the containers."

Even relatively pure loads of paper have become tough to sell, Mr. Barry said, noting the domestic market for paper is saturated as well. He stockpiled paper bales at Mid America's warehouse, hoping prices would improve. They didn't. He has trucked 1,000 tons of paper to a landfill in recent weeks.

"We had to purge," he said. "There's no demand for it."