

## The Recycler

We at the Weare Transfer Station have noticed an increase in the amount of residents recycling, and we would like to say Thank You. Recycling DOES pay. Last year recycling returned in excess of \$98,000, and this is with an estimated 15%-20% of the residents recycling. This is a great start, but we would like to see 40% or higher, because there are still a lot of recyclables being thrown in with the household trash. This is only throwing away money. We hope this newsletter will inform the residents who have not started recycling, just how important this is.

First, some background. In 1992, Weare adopted a Mandatory Recycling Ordinance (MRO), stating that all recyclables would be removed from the household trash and sold. This was done to try to reduce the amount of trash Weare disposed of; however, this MRO was not being enforced. Now with the cost of transporting and disposal ever increasing, we are having to try to enforce something which should have been enforced in 1992. This is possible, but we need your help. For those of you who are already recycling, we Thank You, and those who haven't started yet, it still isn't too late to start.

Weare, on average, ships 2 trash trailers per week, and each of these trailers weighs approximately 16-18 tons. Unfortunately, there is still a tremendous amount of recyclables shipped to the incinerator. This is, literally, money up in smoke! Since April 1, 2007, we have been enforcing the MRO, to bring success to both endeavors. ie: the reduction of trash being shipped and the increase in recycling generated income. Every ton of recyclables removed from the trash, saves the town (you) \$75.00.

The estimated weight and price received of each recycled item is listed below, along with what is accepted in each category. Since the price of each item can fluctuate from week to week, and sometimes from day to day, we are using an average for convenience.

**Paper Products:** Newspaper, Non-Corrugated Beer/Soda containers, Shoe/Shirt boxes, Junk mail, Cereal boxes, Feedbags, Phone books, Paperback books, hardcover books (WITH COVERS REMOVED), and any other paper products. Shredded paper is accepted. NO plastic bags allowed in paper trailer!

We ship a container about every 4 - 8 weeks. The last shipment was 18 tons/load. This costs us \$400 for disposal but that is cheaper than sending it to the incinerator.

**Corrugated Cardboard:** Pizza Boxes (with inserts removed), other than wax-coated, cardboard, ALL cardboard is accepted, even if it is colored or wet.

Each bale weighs approx. 1100 lbs., and we pull 3-4 bales a week. The last shipment was 23 bales with a return of approx. \$2,000.00

**Plastic:** #1 and #2 plastic only. We tried accepting all forms of plastic, and found that we we're losing approx. \$10,000.00 annually! #1 plastic is usually the clear "water bottle" type and the #2 plastic is usually the white opaque ""milk jug"" type.

Each #1 bale weighs approx. 600 lbs. and a #2 bale approx. 1,000 lbs. We will pull a #1 bale every 2 days and a #2 bale every 2 weeks. We receive \$60 - \$80 per bale for #1 plastic and \$160 per bale for #2 plastic.

**Aluminum Cans:** All beverage cans i.e. beer, soda, energy. Not dog/cat food tins.

The problem with distinguishing the differences between tin and aluminum is difficult. One way is the type of lid the can has. If you have to completely remove the lid, it's more than likely a tin can. If the top has a pull top, then it's probably an aluminum can. NO aluminum foil or pie tins allowed in with aluminum cans. It is a different type of aluminum and reduces the price we receive for the cans.

We ship a 50-yard container approx. every 3 months. The last shipment was 4 tons with a return of over \$4,000.00!

**Tin Cans:** All tin cans are magnetic! This ties in with the aluminum cans above.

We ship a 50 yard container every 24 weeks, with a return of approx. \$1,000.00.

**Glass: All GLASS MUST BE REMOVED FROM HOUSEHOLD TRASH.** This is an item we would like to remove from the trash completely! It is a major contributor, along with paper products, to most of the weight shipped out. Since the household trash is incinerated, this is just useless weight we have to pay to ship. We do not, as of yet, have a vendor who accepts glass, but we are exploring all options. We DO have uses for the glass. We can crush it and use it for roadbed underlayment, thereby reducing the need for expensive crushed gravel.

Savings are the removal of excess weight from household trash.

**Iron:** NO items containing iron/metal allowed in household trash. The same reason having to do with glass, applies here, except we are being paid for the scrap metal.

We ship a 50-yard container every week. The last shipment was approx. 13 tons with a return of approximately \$1,000.00.

As you can see, with a little help from you, we can reduce the amount of trash shipped significantly.

Thank You for Recycling.

Matthew McLain

Transfer Station Foreman

Bill Straw

Transfer Station Attendant