



City of Ketchum

February 1, 2021

Mayor Bradshaw and City Councilors
City of Ketchum
Ketchum, Idaho

Mayor Bradshaw and City Councilors:

Discussion and Background for Joint Meeting with Blaine County and City of Hailey on New Recycling Opportunities

Recommendation and Summary

As you know, city staff has been working with Clear Creek Disposal to evaluate service enhancements associated with a new Franchise Agreement. This evaluation has been in partnership with the City of Hailey, Blaine County, Southern Idaho Solid Waste District as well as interested non-profit partners such as the Environmental Resource Center, Sun Valley Institute for Resilience and Ketchum Sustainability Advisory Committee.

Originally, staff had intended to present detailed recommendations during your February 1st meeting. Last week, Blaine County reached out to city staff and requested to first hold a Joint Meeting between the county and two cities to ensure all parties were operating from the same basic information. The revised proposed scope for the February 1 Council meeting will be to provide background and answer questions so that Mayor and Council feel prepared for the proposed Joint Meeting on February 4th at 4:30pm.

Introduction and History

The starting point for the project was a waste audit for Blaine County conducted by Warm Springs Consulting (*attachment #1*) which concluded there were two major opportunity areas to explore:

- 23.5% of waste stream consisted organic materials.
- 18.1% included recyclable materials such as cardboard, paper and plastic.

In addition to those opportunities, two other related topics were explored:

- How to reduce the contamination and other negative impacts associated with the community drop off recycling sites (*attached photo*).
- How to reduce the occurrence of bears and other animals being attracted to trash containers, resulting in the euthanizing those animals.

The group evaluated multiple service scenarios but is recommending the following new services:

- Curbside co-mingled recycling versus the current approach where residents must sort their recyclables. National evidence and experience in other western communities have demonstrated that this change can result in 65%-100% increase of recyclable material. The new service would also allow for the collection of cardboard at the curbside. Customers would receive a new container on wheels. It would be collected every other week.

- Curbside collection of organic materials (food/yard waste). Customers would receive a cart and pickup would occur every other week (off-set with comingled recycling).
- Collection of glass would still occur at drop-off sites.

These recommendations carry logistical/role changes between Blaine County and the Southern Idaho Waste District at the Ohio Gulch Facility. The details will be discussed at the Joint Meeting. For Clear Creek Disposal, there would be operational changes as well; ranging from the need to purchase and distribute additional carts as well as new trucks. All of this would result in an increase in monthly costs for customers. Staff has evaluated some initial costs numbers with Clear Creek, but Blaine County has requested we hold off releasing them until after the Joint Meeting to ensure the assumptions the numbers were based on have everyone's buy-in.

Analysis/Next Steps

Following next week's Joint Meeting, staff would schedule a follow-up session with City Council at the February 16th meeting date to get policy direction. Should the Council support the initial recommendations, staff would strongly encourage that we engage the community to get robust resident feedback regarding the goals of the proposed service changes, associated costs, and customer impact (e.g. more carts at their home and change of pick-up schedule). Staff would return to Council with findings from the public input to determine if the Council is still supportive of the proposed service changes.

Implementation of the proposed service enhancements could be rolled out in two ways:

- **Phased:** The organic curbside option could be rolled out first as it requires less lead time.
- **Combined:** Launch both programs as they are meant to work together on an every other week pick-up basis. This option would not likely be launched for 1 ½ - 2 years due to the lead time for a comingled recycling program.

Sustainability Impact

The Ketchum Sustainability Action Plan lists these potential service improvements as items to explore to reduce the amount of solid waste going to the regional landfill.

Financial Impact

Clear Creek has proposed an initial rate adjustment to address inflation in costs associated with existing service as there has not been a rate adjustment in several years. Clear Creek has also developed an initial cost estimate for each associated service enhancement. Should the Council support moving forward with the two new service enhancements, staff would recommend establishing a Solid Waste Trust Account to allow for fluctuations in the recycling commodities market in a given year so as to avoid sporadic customer rate adjustments.

Attachments:

1. Waste Audit findings
2. Photo of existing recycling drop-off centers

Blaine County (March Subcategory Proportions)

Residuals, Generally

2.5%

C&D

8.7%

Textiles

7.4%

Carpet

4.0%

Non compostable Wood

9.8%

Ferrous Metals

2.1%

Clear Bottles

1.8%

Non- Corrugated

2.9%

Corrugated Cardboard

4.2%

Mixed Paper Waste

3.6%

Compostable Paper

5.1%

Bags and Film

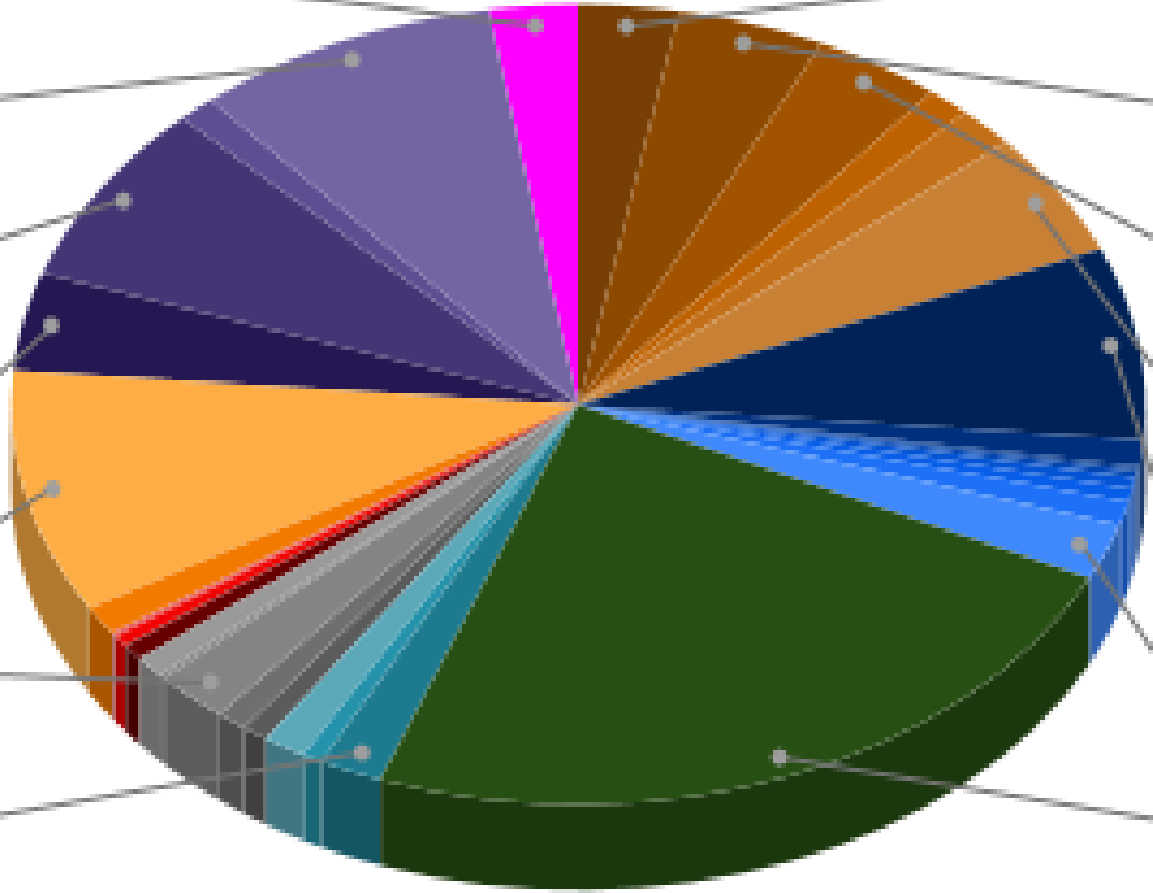
7.8%

Other Plastics

2.3%

Food Waste

23.5%



Residuals, Generally	2.5%	Non- Corrugated	2.9%
C&D	8.7%	Corrugated Cardboard	4.2%
Textiles	7.4%	Mixed Paper Waste	3.6%
Carpet	4.0%	Compostable Paper	5.1%
Non compostable Wood	9.8%	Bags and Film	7.8%
Ferrous Metals	2.1%	Other Plastics	2.3%
Clear Bottles	1.8%	Food Waste	23.5%

