



## City of Ketchum

February 16, 2021

Mayor Bradshaw and City Councilors  
City of Ketchum  
Ketchum, Idaho

Mayor Bradshaw and City Councilors:

### **Discussion and Policy Direction to City Staff on Franchise Agreement with Clear Creek Disposal**

#### Recommendation and Summary

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.

On February 4, a joint meeting between Blaine County Commissioners, the cities of Bellevue, Hailey and Ketchum occurred. During the meeting, the County expressed concerns with transitioning to a comingled recycling program. On February 8, the Hailey City Council directed city staff to not pursue comingled recycling due to similar concerns expressed by the County. Based on these recent events, city staff is recommending the following **revised** course of action:

- Receive policy direction from the City Council as to whether they would like to pursue the recycling of organic materials through a new composting program.
- Transition current cardboard drop off location from numerous open dumpsters to one compacter system.
- Offer the ability for customers to purchase wildlife proof containers but do not mandate.
- Conduct community outreach to gain feedback on (1) potential composting program and (2) to gauge any modest improvements (e.g. education, etc.) to recycling program from both current recycling and non-recycling households.
- Return to the Council with findings from community input.
- Return to the Council with an updated 10-year franchise agreement that calls for an annual evaluation/implementation to any future recycling service changes and associated customer charges.

#### 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 euthanizing those animals.

The group evaluated multiple service scenarios and **initially** recommended 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 a 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.

Implementation of the proposed service enhancements could have been implemented through two approaches:

- **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.

These recommendations carry logistical/role changes between Blaine County and the Southern Idaho Waste District at the Ohio Gulch Facility. The details were discussed at the recent 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.

#### Analysis/Next Steps

Should the Council support the revised recommendations bulleted in the introduction section, staff would proceed with a robust community outreach effort 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 the Council with the findings from the public input to determine if the Council is still supportive of the proposed service changes.

#### 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 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%



