



TOWN OF WARRENTON

Public Works and Utilities Department

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Brandie Schaeffer, Town Manager
FROM: Frank Cassidy, Director, Public Works and Utilities
DATE December 14, 2021
SUBJECT: Solid Waste Program Update

This memo seeks to provide an update from the Town and County Liaison Committee meeting held on November 17, 2021, and to provide options for discussion moving forward with our recycling:

We continue to make changes to our program. Our primary objective continues to be a gradual, systematic change bringing our operations in line with the requirements established in the Town Code and the current operations of the County Landfill. We updated our progress and the text amendment request at the September 14, 2021, Town Council meeting.

Brief History

Town Council was provided an update on refuse and recycling at the council work session on September 14, 2021. Recycling became the focus of this discussion. As a result of this meeting, the Town scheduled a Town and County Liaison Committee work session.

The County representatives provided an overview of the challenges regarding recycling and how they affect operations at the landfill. In short, the delivery method for glass was contaminating other recycling and creating a safety hazard for their staff. Additionally, the costs for recycling have become counterproductive, especially when dealing with glass. The

County complimented our efforts and considered the changes as necessary moving forward. The County developed a creative alternative for their glass which involves crushing and repurposing glass as a mixture for gravel. To repurpose glass, we must separate it from other recycling materials, which requires our curbside service to separate the glass at pickup time. We currently do not have the systems or equipment to provide this service which is our justification for not picking up the glass. We continue to promote the landfill accepting glass and reminding our customers our services are related to a curbside program. Although we cannot pick up glass, the County can still receive it.

All parties are concerned that glass will become part of regular refuse and we will lose the opportunity to recycle It.

Recommendations

As a reminder of the process changes and direction from the Council, we have taken the following actions regarding recycling:

Recycling Services

- The distribution of *blue bags* ceased effective July 1, 2021.
- We have converted from *blue bags* to Town Provided recycling bins distributed to every residential property in the Town limits. Distribution began on July 8, 2021, and was completed in August 2021.
- We are changing our collection processes and exploring updated equipment to serve the community better and provide efficiency. This equipment includes a semi-automated system on the truck.
- We continue to work with County Recycling to refine our processes.
- Our original target to have the transition completed was October 31, 2021. We are now looking at a January 31, 2022, target date. At this point, we will be

introducing new equipment as we update our aging refuse and recycling equipment.

As a result of our Town and County Liaison Committee Meeting and our previous recommendations, we present the following:

1. Short-term- work with the County to provide satellite drop-off points for glass.
2. Long-term- move forward with the recommended equipment purchase for two new refuse trucks. These trucks will provide curbside separation and delivery of separated items. The trucks can also be used for other applications, such as separating horticultural materials and refuse on the same pickup. They also provide an automated system reducing touchpoints for staff and reducing required staff per truck, resulting in greater efficiency.
3. Long-term- with the transition to new equipment, provide additional bins or alternative containers for glass for curbside pickup. We will also explore the use of *brown bags* or recycling bags for horticultural pickup.

Conclusion

Overall, we are progressing toward bringing our program into compliance with our regulations while balancing our customers' expectations and service levels. We encourage and are available for face-to-face, HOA, neighborhood, and community meetings. These have been very successful, and we have been receiving very positive feedback. We continue to provide updates on Facebook and in the Town Crier. Our next benchmark for assessing the status of our changes and processes is January 31, 2022.