

Talkin’ Trash in April 2008

A Community Newsletter from the Waste Disposal Commission

Welcome to our Spring issue of 'Talkin' Trash'. What a crazy winter it has been. I just can't imagine what we will find once the snow is all melted. Well, the numbers are in and they are GREAT! **As a community we have every reason to be very proud of ourselves.** We have tracked the tonnage of materials brought to the Transfer Station over 2007. These numbers show a couple of things. A main factor is the amount of recyclable materials not placed in a landfill or incinerator. Material placed back into mainstream for use in one form or another. The State of NH's goal is to recycle 40% of all waste. In October of 2007 I attended a NHDES Conference and the state was only at 18% then. For the year 2007 Frankestown was at 23.6%. This is a far cry from the 40% state mandate but better than the overall state percentage. The other main factor is we are placing less into the landfill. We are succeeding in doing our part with room for improvement. The following numbers are reflective of Frankestown's recycling efforts in 2007. All numbers are in tons. We did not receive weight slips, from the hauler, in 2007 for the glass. Therefore, we are unsure of the amount we recycled. Our new hauler, Shaw, Inc. does provide these valuable slips. We will be providing glass figures going forward. It is important to report this tonnage in an effort to demonstrate what a difference our small town can make on our tax dollars and our environment.

(Municipal Solid Waste-514.82) (Construction/Demolition-99.53) (Paper-107.5) (Plastic-31.6) (Steel-41.65) (E-Waste-2.82) (Aluminum Cans-2.36 (est.)) (Textiles-4.5 (est.)) This works out to be a total of 804.78 tons of "trash" that came thru the station. Of that, 190.43 tons were recycled out to be used again. The cost to haul our compactor is \$140 per haul and \$90 per ton of each haul. By recycling out almost 200 tons of "trash" we saved \$17,139 in tonnage charges alone!

We have been requested to report revenues and we want to. Unfortunately, we cannot comment on 2007. As a commission we didn't start tracking the Transfer Station revenues until the year was almost over. We are now tracking these numbers routinely and will be able to report them to the residents, accurately, going forward. One of our main goals is to provide ACCURATE information. I will start putting quarterly revenues up on the white board. Please take a few minutes and check it out.

See you at the "Station" ☺



WE HAVE A PLAN.....From the re-inception of the Waste Disposal Commission last April one of the Commissions goals was to come up with a 1 and 3 year plan. The following is what the commission has adopted as what we feel are our guidelines to success. These plans will be reviewed yearly in an effort to address Transfer Station issues on a real time basis.

Frankestown Transfer Station 1 Year Plan

(1) Budget - Review the TS line items and track expenditures and revenue monthly. Outcome should be a more accurate TS budget for 2008.

The expenses and revenues are now being tracked monthly. The 2008 proposed budget is based on real numbers. In addition, fees were reviewed and adjusted to reflect the actual cost of disposal or recycling to the town.

(2) MSW - look for ways to decrease MSW and lower expenses. Outcome should be decreased tonnage and decreased costs.

Educational efforts have been aimed at increasing recycling and removing more waste from the compactor. In addition, the employees at the TS have been retrained and supported in efforts to assure that bulky furniture, mattresses, and recyclable items are not placed in the compactor. MSW tonnage has been reduced.

(3) Recycling - Our goal is to increase the amount of material recycled by the residents and to improve the process of recycling. The outcome should be increased tonnage in paper, plastic, glass and aluminum.

Continuing educational efforts have paid off. Plastic and paper tonnage is trending up. We are only recently able to obtain tonnage on glass so we have no comparison data for 2006. We are also unable to compile accurate data for aluminum in 2006. These items will be tracked going forward for trends. We are also educating residents on cleaning and rinsing containers and removing caps to improve the process. A system for recycling e-waste has also been added.

(4) Education - Develop methods to re-educate residents on what materials we recycle and how it benefits both Frankestown and the environment. The outcome should be an increase in the recycling program and a better understanding of the fees charged for certain items.

A quarterly newsletter has been initiated and monthly articles have been placed in both the Frankestown News and the Monadnock Transcript Ledger. An Educational Open House is being developed. A whiteboard has been purchased and will be used to post MSW and recycling tonnage. Recycling numbers are being tracked and are trending higher than in 2006.

(5) Review of Physical Layout - Determine if physical changes to the layout would improve the flow and processing of MSW and recycling. Outcome would be an improved traffic flow and cleaner looking operation.

Two presentations were made on possible changes to the physical layout of the TS. Items under review include additional roll-offs, a possible additional compactor for paper, adding a road access to the back of the property and changing the location of some areas including C&D and composting.

Frankestown Transfer Station 3 year Plan

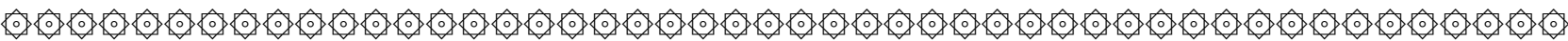
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| (1) Implementation of Physical changes to the Layout determined in the 1 year plan | (2) Meet recycling goals of 40%
Look for new avenues for recycling |
| (3) Develop plan for CIP
Replacement of compactor | (4) Annual review of changes to the physical layout such as:
Fire Pond
Water source for hosing surfaces around compactor
Water source to put out the burn pile before it cools |
| | (5) Annual Review of Fees |

Announcement

Saturday May 3rd, 12:30 pm, roadside cleanup event in celebration of Earth Day, co-sponsored by Frankestown Land Trust and the Frankestown Conservation Commission. Meet at the Town Hall horse sheds to pick up blue bags, a road section assignment, and grab a handful of homemade cookies (including Abigails chocolate chip). A contest for the funkiest find!

Waste Artists Speak Out on our Disposable Culture

March 7th thru April 26th the Sharon Arts Center, in Peterborough is hosting an exhibit on 7 different Artists view on waste. Photographers, a Sculprturist, a Fiber Artist and a Collagist. From the postcard we received it looks like a very worthwhile exhibit for all to view. Go to www.sharonarts.org for details.



EDUCATION is KEY for a Successful Recycling Program

I know we talked paper before but here are some startling statistics that we felt were important to share. It only reiterates the need for us to continue our quest to recycle all of the right types of paper all the time.

The Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRRA) recently recognized Francestown for being such a successful recycling community. NRRRA is the company with whom we contract to pick up the paper from the Transfer Station. Francestown recycled 108 tons of paper in 2007 which according to NRRRA's letter saved 1,828 trees. But wait until you hear the even better news! We netted over \$5000.00 that went into the General Fund and helps to reduce the tax rate.

On top of that, we're helping to reduce the national trade deficit with our paper recycling (ok, in a very small way, but it all adds up!). The paper we recycle is compressed and bound and then sold, sometimes domestically and frequently to China for recovery and recycling. China's roaring economy needs raw materials, but the country has relatively few trees. As a result, for products like paper, it must rely on imports. The upshot is that exports of American recovered paper to China and Hong Kong have grown tenfold to \$694 million in 2005 from \$66.9 million in 1998, according to figures provided by the American Forest & Paper Association (AFPA). Because of this foreign demand, we have seen our price of paper per ton double over the last year to \$80.00.

Folks often wonder about how the paper recycling process works. For those of us who work in office environments, copy and printer paper is often collected separately from newspaper and other paper items. This is because the price is higher for sorted office paper that can be recycled into more office paper. However, according to the government's Environmental Protection Agency website, paper recyclers are developing new technologies "designed to handle, identify, and separate paper grades for recycling. One enhancement technology allows segregation of paper fibers during the recycling process according to fiber length, coarseness, and stiffness through a centrifuging and screening process." This new technology, and in some cases, hand and mechanical sorting, allows Transfer Stations like ours to commingle all paper products. But even for this commingled paper there are guidelines. Items good to recycle are junk mail, newsprint, magazines, photocopies, computer printouts, cereal/shoe boxes, corrugated cardboard and phonebooks. Items to not put into the paper recycling are any soiled paper (with food or animal waste) waxed paper, milk cartons, laminated paper (like pet food bags, fast food wraps, drink boxes), foil paper, neon paper, or thermal fax paper.

The Department of Energy reports that more than 85 new paper mills with recycling capabilities have been built in the United Stated during the last few years. This is expected to help the AFPA meet their goal of a 55% recovery rate by 2012. We leave you with these statistics from the Carnegie Mellon Green Place Newsletter. Every ton of recycled paper results in the saving of one of these resources:

17 Trees 275 lbs of Sulfur 350 lbs of Limestone 9000 lbs of Steam 60,000 gallons of Water

225 Kilowatt Hours of Electricity 3.3 Cubic Yards of Land Fill Space

For the year 2007 the total revenue on paper was 7838.55. We had 25 pulls at \$105. The net revenue was 5213.55

We can be proud of the positive impact our efforts have had in our community and on the earth.



Spring Open House Saturday June 7th

10am - 4pm Rain or Shine

We are very excited to be having our first Open House at the Transfer Station. Our goal is to help residents understand better why we recycle and what happens to the various types of material we recycle. There will be displays showing start to finish recycled materials. A children's contest is being headed up by Cathy Gombas. There will be information and refreshments galore. Please make a point to stop by.



Please Welcome Cathy Gombas as the newest member of the Waste Disposal Commission



Talkin' Trash Aril '08
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