

Talkin' Trash in the Winter of 2009

A Community Newsletter from The Waste Disposal Commission

Happy New Year to the residents of Francestown from the Waste Disposal Commission. We are expecting the Francestown Transfer Station to have an even more exciting and successful year over last.

On December 9, 2008 the WDC held a public hearing concerning proposed physical changes to the transfer station. These changes are prompted by the necessity to be compliant with NHDES. It is the last issue to take care of in order to be 100% compliant. This issue is the fence that goes along the front of the transfer station. The following is the NHDES requirement for fences:

Env-Sw 1103.03 Access Control.

(a) The perimeter of a facility site shall be fenced in a manner as to restrict unauthorized access to the facility, except no fence shall be required if natural site features restrict access to the site, or all waste handling, storage and disposal areas at the facility are wholly contained within locked structures or devices when the facility operator is not present.

Whereas 3 sides of the transfer station abuts the wetlands and woods, where access is not possible, our only concern is with the front of the transfer station.

The plan presented to the public was the one the WDC agreed upon due to overall cost and disruption to the transfer station. It satisfies the requirements set forth by the state, is estimated to cost under \$10,000 and will have minimal disruption to the normal activities of the transfer station. Look for our proposal at Town Meeting as we will have a footprint on exhibit. Feel free to contact a WDC member and ask questions.

At the Public Hearing residents had several questions: 1) The number one question was why do we need to make any changes? We need to be NHDES compliant. 2) Will the traffic pattern change? NO 3) Are we recycling everything we can? YES, please keep reading and see exactly how well we performed in 2008. 4) What kind of batteries do we recycle? We recycle all re-chargeable batteries, cell phone batteries, button batteries, car batteries, cordless tool batteries and the like. All Alkaline batteries can be discarded in the normal trash. 5) How successful was our last Hazardous Waste Day? Very. We came in slightly under budget and no one was turned away.

The overall consensus at the Public Hearing was it is a good plan and to proceed to the next step. Of course, there are many things that need to be in place prior to going to the Board of Selectmen for final approval. Our course of action will be to keep the Selectmen informed of every step as we proceed. This will avoid any sudden concerns or disapprovals. Any concerns will be ironed out in the foundation of the plan so when we go to the BOS for approval, it will be a formality.

During the 2009 budgeting process the BOS, the Budget Advisory Committee and the WDC agreed to put \$1000 in the WDC'S budget, which in turn, allows us to move forward. As the first step we have contracted Chris Danforth, a Francestown resident and Environmental Consultant, to draw up the plans and coordinate the NHDES permitting process. He already has a jump on things as he has the transfer stations footprint already in his map database. The WDC estimates this to be an 18-month process to completion. We are estimating the actual construction will take place in one week and at a maximum we will close one Wednesday to complete the project and achieve minimal disruption. We will keep you informed as we progress.

Teamwork Gets the Job Done!!!

2008 was a very successful year at the Francestown Transfer Station. Our goal in the 3-year plan was to achieve a 40% recycling rate. Well the numbers are in and we did better than that in 2 years! We are at a 43.6% recycling rate. The following numbers tell the story of a town coming together for the common cause of good recycling practices.

<u>Recyclable Material</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>
Paper.....	120.51
CD.....	72.11
Glass.....	69.75
Co-Mingles.....	40.50
Metal.....	16.56
Salvation Army.....	6.52
E-Waste.....	4.83
UBC's	3.35
<u>Total Recycled Materials</u>	<u>334.13</u>

<u>Unrecyclable Materials</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>
MSW (Compactor)	431.84
<u>Total Tonnage Transferred</u>	<u>765.97</u>
<u>Percentage of Recycled Materials is 43.6%</u>	
<u>Percentage of Unrecycled Materials is 56.4%</u>	

~Keep up the GREAT WORK Francestown~

With continued recycling efforts we can surpass the 43.6% we accomplished in 2008.

Please Proceed with Caution

With the renewed attention to recycling and Board Member, Cathy Gombas heading up the recycling club at school we have a lot of residents, young and old, going to the transfer station. Residents cross from the swap room to recycling building, typically in front of the compactor. When entering the station the speed limit is 5 mph. Please abide by this limit for safety sake. It is also up to the residents to treat the crossing as a crosswalk and look both ways before crossing. We haven't had any accidents as of yet, but there have been a few close calls. Let's all work together to keep our record clean. Please Drive Carefully.

Green Recycle Bins on Sale for \$6.50

See an Attendant

Reduce Reuse Recycle Reduce Reuse Recycle Reduce Reuse Recycle Reduce Reuse Recycle Reduce Reuse Recycle

EDUCATION is KEY for a Successful Recycling Program

Reduce Reuse Recycle is one of the most important phrases you will always hear. It will never go out of style like the words groovy and right on! Recycling turns materials that would otherwise become waste into valuable resources. Collecting used bottles, cans, and newspapers and taking them to the transfer station is just the first in a series of steps that generates a host of financial, environmental, and social returns. Some of these benefits accrue locally as well as globally.

Between 1960 and 2007 the amount of waste each person creates has almost doubled from 2.7 to 4.6 pounds per day. The most effective way to stop this trend is by preventing waste in the first place.

Waste prevention, also know as "source reduction," is the practice of designing, manufacturing, purchasing, or using materials (such as products and packaging) in ways that reduce the amount or toxicity of trash created. Reusing items is another way to stop waste at the source because it delays or avoids that item's entry in the waste collection and disposal system.

Source reduction, including reuse, can help reduce waste disposal and handling costs, because it avoids the costs of recycling, municipal composting, landfilling, and combustion. Source reduction also conserves resources and reduces pollution, including greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

Some of the benefits of recycling are:

- Protects and expands U.S. manufacturing jobs and increases U.S. competitiveness.
- Reduces the need for landfilling and incineration.
- Prevents pollution caused by the manufacturing of products from virgin materials.
- Saves energy.
- Decreases emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change.
- Conserves natural resources such as timber, water, and minerals.
- Helps sustain the environment for future generations.

Some of the benefits of reducing and reusing are:

- **Saves natural resources.** Waste is not just created when consumers throw items away. Throughout the life cycle of a product from extraction of raw materials to transportation to processing and manufacturing facilities to manufacture and use waste is generated. Reusing items or making them with less material decreases waste dramatically. Ultimately, less materials will need to be recycled or sent to landfills or waste combustion facilities.
- **Reduces toxicity of waste.** Selecting nonhazardous or less hazardous items is another important component of source reduction. Using less hazardous alternatives for certain items (e.g., cleaning products and pesticides), sharing products that contain hazardous chemicals instead of throwing out leftovers, reading label directions carefully, and using the smallest amount necessary are ways to reduce waste toxicity.
- **Reduces costs.** The benefits of preventing waste go beyond reducing reliance on other forms of waste disposal. Preventing waste also can mean economic savings for communities, businesses, schools, and individual consumers.
- **Consumers** also can share in the economic benefits of source reduction. Buying products in bulk, with less packaging, or that are reusable (not single-use) frequently means a cost savings. What is good for the environment can be good for the pocketbook as well.
- **Communities.** More than 7,000 communities in the United States have instituted "pay-as-you-throw" programs where citizens pay for each can or bag of trash they set out for disposal rather than through the tax base or a flat fee. When these households reduce waste at the source, they dispose of less trash and pay lower trash bills. The same can be said for the tax base payment plan. If you have less, you pay less.
- **Businesses.** Industry also has an economic incentive to practice source reduction. When businesses manufacture their products with less packaging, they are buying less raw material. A decrease in manufacturing costs can mean a larger profit margin, with savings that can be passed on to the consumer.

Source: USEPA.com

It is a WIN WIN WIN situation when we actively practice REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE. We live in a small town and transferred 766 tons of materials in 2008. Let's make it our goal to not only recycle but to transfer less tonnage in the coming year.

Reduce Reuse Recycle Reduce Reuse Recycle Reduce Reuse Recycle Reduce Reuse Recycle Reduce Reuse Recycle

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