

Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District Executive Committee Report - 2016

The NEKWMD finished 2016 with a 2% decrease in recyclables processed compared to 2015. However, ten towns and eight schools reported increases in recycling. Recycling markets began the year on the low side, but rebounded during late summer and into the fall. Although commodity prices rebounded toward the end of the year, it was not enough to overcome the expenses incurred for equipment repairs in 2016. The District ended 2016 with a deficit of \$53,459. Revenues in 2016 were 5% below projections, while budgeted expenses were 2.4% above projections.

There were no additions or subtractions to the District in 2016. We continue to serve the largest geographical area and largest number of towns (49) in the State. Our population served is 3rd in the state behind only Chittenden Solid Waste District and the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District.

Vermont's Universal Recycling Law (Act 148) guided most of our activities in 2016 and will continue to do so for the next several years. 2017 will see more of the same in helping our member communities comply with Act 148. The NEKWMD will assist 11 Towns with establishing food scrap collection at their transfer stations before July 1, 2017.

The NEKWMD is entering 2017 with a proposed budget of \$755,527 – an increase of 5.3% compared to 2016, but only a 1.6% increase compared to 2015. The surcharge rate of \$23.25 will increase by \$1.00 for 2017 to \$24.25. Our surcharge on trash remains below the State average of \$25.07.

The NEKWMD was staffed by ten full-time and four part-time employees in 2016. Each of the member Towns is entitled to representation by at least one Supervisor. The Board of Supervisors is the principal authority over the NEKWMD and the primary means of contact with the member towns. The Board of Supervisors meets monthly with the District's Executive Director to set the direction of NEKWMD policy. The member Towns are also represented through their ability to vote on the NEKWMD budget at their Town Meeting in March.

Since the surcharge on trash is based on the amount of waste produced, members have a clear opportunity to control their waste management costs. Costs can decrease as waste generation rates decrease and recycling rates increase.

We would like to express our appreciation to our able staff for their continuing commitment to our mission. The nearly 50,000 residents of 49 Towns throughout the Northeast Kingdom can be assured that the NEKWMD will continue to address their waste management concerns in a timely and environmentally sound fashion.

NEKWMD Executive Committee