

Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District Executive Committee Report – 2015

The NEKWMD finished 2015 with 44 of 49 towns reporting increased recycling volumes. Recycling markets were steady to declining through the end of the year. Unfortunately, the steep drop in global oil prices drove the cost of many commodities, including recyclables, down in 2015. In spite of the poor recycling markets the District ended 2015 with a surplus of \$2,386. While we exceeded budgeted expenses by 2.87% (\$21,340.92) revenues were 3.19% (\$23727.27) above 2015 projections.

There were no additions or subtractions to the District in 2015. 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.

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources approved our new Solid Waste Implementation Plan in November of 2015. This plan along with Vermont's Universal Recycling Law (Act 148) will guide our efforts over the course of the next several years. The NEKWMD assisted 14 towns in implementing unit-based pricing, held hauler meetings, and served on a state-wide committee relating to the Universal Recycling Law in 2015. 2016 will see more of the same in helping our member communities comply with Vermont's Universal Recycling Law.

The NEKWMD is entering 2016 with a proposed budget of \$716,673 – a decrease of 3.6%. The surcharge rate of \$23.25 will remain unchanged for 2016. Our surcharge on trash remains just below the State average of \$24.04.

The NEKWMD was staffed by ten full-time and three part-time employees in 2015. 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 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