

## **Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District Executive Committee Report - 2017**

The NEKWMD finished 2017 by processing slightly more recycling compared to 2016 – 2981 tons in 2017 compared to 2962 tons in 2016. While tonnage for paper and cardboard were down, almost every other category saw increases compared to 2016. Tonnages for scrap metal, e-waste, and glass were all up significantly compared to 2016. Recycling markets remained steady throughout most of 2017 and were generally on the high side. Some policy changes in China sent ripples throughout some markets, but so far we have been isolated from those actions. The District ended 2017 with a surplus of \$ 55,755.82. This is good news consider 2016 ended with a deficit of \$ 53,459. Revenues in 2017 were 12 % above projections. While budgeted expenses were 4.7 % above projections. Sale of recyclables, including scrap metal, was responsible for most of the increase in revenues.

There were no additions or subtractions to the District membership in 2017. We continue to serve the largest geographical area and largest number of towns (49) in the State. Our population served is third in the state behind only Chittenden Solid Waste and District and the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District.

Vermont's Universal Recycling Law (Act 148) guided most of our activities in 2017 and will continue to do so for the next several years. 2018 will see more of the same in helping our member communities comply with Act 148. The NEKWMD assisted ten towns with establishing food scrap collection at their transfer stations by the July 1, 2017 deadline.

The NEKWMD is entering 2018 with a proposed budget of \$ 760,519 – an increase of less than 1 % compared to 2017. The surcharge rate of \$ 24.25 will remain the same for 2018. Our surcharge on trash remains below the State average of \$ 26.19.

The NEKWMD was staffed by nine full-time and four part-time employees in 2017. 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***