

## **Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District Executive Committee Report - 2018**

The NEKWMD finished 2018 by processing slightly less recycling compared to 2017 - approximately 2750 tons in 2018 compared to approximately 2975 tons 2017. Significant drops in organics and cardboard were responsible for most of the decline. A few items, including mixed paper, batteries, and tires saw increases in tonnages, while most other items saw challenges that were flat or lower than last year. Recycling markets remained steady throughout most of 2018 and were generally average or slightly lower than average.

The district ended 2018 with a deficit of \$41,069.02. The district ended 2017 with a surplus of \$55,755.82. Revenues in 2018 were 11% above projections. While budgeted expenses were 16.3% above projections. The catastrophic failure of our baler on September 24, 2018 was the largest reason for the deficit. Not only did we have to pay to ship materials off-site, we lost revenue from the sale of those materials. We anticipate having a new baler by the end of February, 2019.

There were no additions or subtractions to the District membership in 2018. 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 NEKWMD is entering 2019 with a proposed budget of \$825,073 - an increase of 8.5% compared to 2018. The vast majority of the increase is due to the addition of a \$41,000 baler payment over the next five years. The surcharge rate of \$24.25 will increase by \$.50 for 2019. Our surcharge on trash remains below the State average of \$26.59.

The NEKWMD was staffed by nine full-time and for part-time employees in 2018. 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 contrast 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 MEKWMD will continue to address their waste management concerns in a timely and environmentally sound fashion.

***NEKWMD Executive Committee***