

RECYCLING AT CVSWMD DEPOTS

Depots Experience Serious Fiscal Challenges in FY 2009

The CVSWMD runs and/or underwrites nine recycling depots in District member communities. Materials accepted at the depots include: #1-#7 plastics (which include yogurt and cottage cheese containers); newspaper, junk mail, cardboard, glass, and aluminum cans; and all glue- or stable-bound publications, paperback books, phonebooks, etc. In addition, electronics (computers, TVs, stereos, printers, copiers, fax machines, cell phones, etc.) are accepted for recycling through an ongoing collection at the CVSWMD Barre Town Recycling Depot and at special collections held in Bradford, Tunbridge, and Hardwick.

Perhaps the biggest story of FY 2009 was the economic recession and how hard it hit recycling markets. This, in turn, caused a serious financial impact to depot operations in FY 2009 that continues today.

What Happened?

The global economic crisis has led to a reduced need for raw materials for manufacturing. Used paper, plastic, and metal are commodities that are sold on the market for prices that fluctuate due to demand. The economic slowdown has led to greatly reduced demand, which has led to reduced income from collecting these materials. Instead of making some money on these materials, the CVSWMD, like other municipalities across the country, must now pay to drop off recyclables at material recovery facilities where they are baled and then sold on the market.

In addition, when trash generation rates drop, the CVSWMD collects less revenue from the surcharge tax paid when trash is hauled to a landfill. This is a critical revenue source for the District and is used to fund programs and services, including the recycling depots. The combination of paying for recycling and a considerably lower trash revenue led to a \$159,292 loss for the District in FY 2009. Facing a similar situation in FY 2010, the CVSWMD had little choice but to raise the fees charged for trash collection and recyclables at its depots effective November 1, 2009.

Fee Increase Details

Effective November 1, bagged trash prices rose 50¢ per bag across the board: a 15 gal./12.5 lb. bag now costs \$3; a 30 gal./25 lb. bag costs \$4; and a bag more than 25 lbs. costs \$6. Household recyclables — mixed paper, aluminum, glass, plastic, etc. — now cost \$1.50 for a



A hill of paper at the Materials Recovery Facility in Chittenden County. All recyclables collected in the CVSWMD are sent to this facility for sorting and baling.

15 gal./12.5 lb. bag; \$2 for a 30 gal./25 lb. bag; and \$3 for a bag more than 25 lbs. This marks the first time the CVSWMD has ever had to charge for common household recyclables.

Fees for other materials collected at some depots, including scrap metal, tires, appliances, and couches, have also been increased. Used oil and antifreeze will continue to be collected free of charge at the depots that currently accept them.

See www.cvswmd.org/wp/cvswmd-recycling-depot-prices for the complete CVSWMD price list. Or see the new price signs at the depots.

Fiscal Year 2009 Facts & Figures

The following materials were collected at the **nine District run and/or underwritten Recycling Depots**:

- 1,199 tons of **mixed recycling** -- paper, glass, aluminum cans, plastics, etc. *(up from 1,179 tons in FY08)*
- 70 tons of **tires** *(down from 92 tons in FY08)*
 - 147 tons of **scrap metal** *(down from 176 tons in FY08)*
- 228 tons of **cardboard** *(down from 374 tons in FY08)*
 - 15 tons of **used oil** *(down from 18 tons in FY08)*
- 1.3 tons of **used antifreeze** *(same amount as FY08)*
- 1,427 tons of **trash** *(down from 1,556 tons in FY08)*
 - 54 tons of **electronics** *(up from 45 tons in FY08)*