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September 25, 2017

Re: Official Notice of 2018 – 2019 Tipping Fees and Hauler Rebates

To: Solid Waste Haulers Licensed in Ramsey and/or Washington Counties

The Recycling & Energy Center (R&E Center) tipping fee for trash from Ramsey and Washington counties will be **\$77.00 per ton in 2018 and \$79.00 per ton in 2019**. The hauler rebate for trash from Ramsey and Washington counties taken to the R&E Center will be **\$12.00 per ton in 2018 and \$10.00 per ton in 2019**. Please visit www.morevaluelesstrash.com for the legal definitions and stipulations associated with tipping fees and hauler rebates.

Public entity waste from outside of Ramsey and Washington counties may be delivered to the R&E Center in 2018 at a tipping fee of \$94.00 per ton.

Background

Working together, Ramsey and Washington counties own and operate the R&E Center, which recovers resources from trash from the two counties, instead of putting it into landfills. By doing this, tens of thousands of tons of metal are recycled, and fuel is produced that is used by Xcel Energy to provide enough electricity to power over 20,000 homes.

With the purchase of the R&E Center, the plans are to include more recovery of recyclables and different forms of energy. Beginning in 2018, the counties will require that haulers deliver all trash from Ramsey and Washington counties to be processed, rather than be taken to a landfill.

Buying the R&E Center has allowed the counties to reduce costs – in 2015, under private ownership, the cost for a hauler to deliver one ton of trash was \$86.22. In 2016 and 2017, the counties charged \$70.00 per ton. In 2018, they will charge \$77.00 per ton. In addition, for a number of years the counties have provided a rebate to haulers as an incentive to deliver trash to the facility. That rebate will be at the same level in 2018, but is being reduced in 2019, and will eventually be eliminated. When that happens, the fee charged to haulers will be the full cost of handling the trash they collect from customers.

An average household produces about one ton of trash per year, so the cost increase by the counties should be about \$7.00 per year for each household. Not all households are alike, and not all haulers charge the same rates, so that may differ. In addition, disposal costs (tipping fees) typically account for only one third of a trash bill. The rest of the bill is related to the collection costs incurred by the hauler to operate their business. And, like any other business, haulers incur cost increases, as with insurance, labor, and so on, and they may pass on those other cost increases to customers as well.

Benefits

The decision by Ramsey and Washington counties to purchase the R&E Center and require that all trash from Ramsey and Washington counties be taken to the R&E Center to be processed was important because processing trash, rather than landfilling it, has many benefits, including:

- Economic Benefits
 - Creates jobs
 - Supports the local economy

- Environmental Benefits
 - Reduces landfilling
 - Increases recycling
 - Reduces greenhouse gas emissions
 - Enables trash to be used to create energy using existing and emerging technologies
- Statutory Benefits
 - Enables Ramsey and Washington counties to meet objectives set by the state to
 - Minimize landfilling
 - Maximize recycling

Ramsey and Washington counties appreciate the support of the trash industry in the transition to new ownership and operation of the R&E Center.

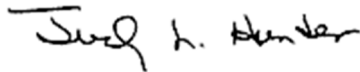
For more information, visit www.morevaluelesstrash.com. For questions, please contact Joe Wozniak at joe.wozniak@co.ramsey.mn.us or 651-266-1187.

Sincerely,

Recycling & Energy Board Joint Leadership Team



Zack Hansen



Judy Hunter



Sean Pfeiffer