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10/25/17

Board of Selectmen
Town of Lebanon, Maine
15 Upper Guinea Road
Lebanon, ME 04027

Dear Board of Selectmen,

We wanted to reach out to you concerning some recent developments in the recycling industry specifically related to material quality. China, which is the largest consumer of recovered material, particularly for our region, has decided to prohibit the import of several streams of recyclable materials and mandate a higher quality standard on others. Specifically, China has banned the import of mixed plastics and is decreasing the threshold of prohibitive material allowed to 0.3% on other grades; namely residential paper and cardboard, a level that has never been seen before in our industry. Their Port Customs Agents are conducting inspections in order to strictly enforce the standards for all grades of paper and plastic materials that enter the country.

As such, our industry's processing facilities that sell product into the export market will be under a much greater scrutiny to produce recovered material that strictly meets the standards set by the government of China. It is also possible that commodity values will be negatively impacted which may have an effect on our customers.

We bring this to your attention because our success at continuing to meet the product specifications of our mill customers largely depends on the quality of the inbound material we receive at the Materials Recovery Facilities. We are asking for your help in making every effort to communicate with your residents about materials that should not be placed in the recycling containers - items such as plastic bags, garden hoses, yard debris, food waste and food contaminated materials, and medical waste to name a few. These items contaminate the recyclable materials we are seeking to recover, and pose a hazard to our equipment and our people who work to sort recyclables.

We will be increasing our efforts to identify contaminants that are delivered to the MRF by making visual load inspections on all our customers and auditing more inbound loads to determine the sources of non-conforming materials. We will make you aware of any loads that do not appear to meet our inbound specifications and will work with you to identify trucks or

routes that have excessive contamination. We have a long track record of sending material to market without issue, but the rules have changed and we cannot adjust without your help.

Many of our contracts allow for the rejection of loads or cost recovery of inbound contamination, but those mechanisms are short term fixes. Our interest lies in the long-term viability of recycling and that requires a partnership between the generator and the processor to ensure that only conforming materials are delivered to the MRF.

We have attached a copy of our updated Acceptable Materials List. Simply stated, our MRFs accept Plastic Bottles and Containers, Tin and Aluminum Cans, Beverage Cartons, Paper, Cardboard, and Glass Bottles. Nothing else should go in the recycling bin, especially plastic bags. We encourage you to visit RORR.com to see the wealth of recycling educational materials we make available for you to use with your residents.

Please know that we appreciate your business, and understand that we are seeking to improve our recycling efforts by eliminating the contamination before it gets to the MRF. Thank you in advance for your assistance with improving the inbound quality of the material you collect, and we receive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Lachapelle", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Lachapelle
Public Sector Representative
Waste Management

**SINGLE STREAM
SPECIFICATIONS**

RECYCLABLES must be dry, loose (not bagged) and include **ONLY** the following:

Aluminum cans - empty	Newspaper
PET bottles with the symbol #1 – with screw tops only - empty	Mail
HDPE plastic bottles with the symbol #2 (milk, water bottles detergent, and shampoo bottles, etc.) – empty	Magazines, glossy inserts and pamphlets
Plastic containers with symbols #3-#7 – empty (no expanded polystyrene)	Uncoated paperboard (ex. cereal boxes; food and snack boxes)
Steel and tin cans – empty	Uncoated printing, writing and office paper
Glass food and beverage containers – brown, clear, or green - empty	Old corrugated containers/cardboard (uncoated)
	Phone books

NON-RECYCLABLES include, but are not limited to the following:

Plastic bags and bagged materials (even if containing Recyclables)	Microwavable trays
Mirrors	Window or auto glass
Light bulbs	Coated cardboard
Porcelain and ceramics	Plastics unnumbered
Expanded polystyrene	Coat hangers
Glass and metal cookware/bakeware	Household appliances and electronics,
Hoses, cords, wires	Yard waste, construction debris, and wood
Flexible plastic or film packaging and multi-laminated materials	Needles, syringes, IV bags or other medical supplies
Food waste and liquids, containers containing such items	Textiles, cloth, or any fabric (bedding, pillows, sheets, etc.)
Excluded Materials or containers which contained Excluded Materials	Napkins, paper towels, tissue, paper plates, paper cups, and plastic utensils
Any Recyclable materials or pieces of Recyclables less than 4" in size in any dimension	Propane tanks, batteries

DELIVERY SPECIFICATIONS:

Material delivered by or on behalf of Customer may not contain more than 5% Non-Recyclables and may contain no Excluded Materials. In the event a load does not meet Specifications, the load may be rejected and/or Customer may be charged additional processing, return or disposal costs.

“Excluded Materials” means radioactive, volatile, corrosive, flammable, explosive, biomedical, infectious, bio-hazardous or toxic substance or material, or regulated medical or hazardous waste as defined by, characterized or listed under applicable federal, state, or local laws or regulations, materials containing information (in hard copy or electronic format, or otherwise) which information is protected or regulated under any local, state or federal privacy or data security laws, including, but not limited to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, as amended, or other regulations or ordinances.

Company reserves the right upon notice to discontinue acceptance of any category of materials set forth above as a result of market conditions related to such materials and makes no representations as to the recyclability of the materials.