

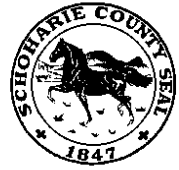


Schoharie County Board Of Supervisors

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Earl VanWormer, III
Chairman

Anthony VanGlad
Vice Chairman

July 20, 2018

NYS DEC
Bureau of Waste, Reduction & Recycling
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7253
Attn: Commissioner Basil Seggos

Dear Commissioner Seggos,

Over the past few months, there have been discussions at the Schoharie County Board of Supervisors about the ever-increasing cost of disposing of recyclables. The cost has currently escalated to \$120 per ton for disposal, which is more than double the cost of three months ago, and is much greater than the cost of trash disposal, which is currently \$73.50 per ton. The cost of recycling disposal is unsustainable at this rate.

There are several reasons for this sky rocketing cost. There are limited markets for recyclables. The Chinese market, the largest market for recyclables in the world, has put a 3-month moratorium on acceptance of recyclables from the United States because USA recycling is too dirty. Contamination restrictions for the Chinese market have been reduced to 0.03% to 0.05% for them to accept USA recyclables. Contaminated recyclables also slow down the process of recycling separation, which increases costs. This has caused single stream recyclers to continue stock piling recyclables while this situation goes on, also increasing the cost of disposal.

In an effort to improve the quality of recyclables in our County, I have asked Town officials to remind their recycling attendants to pay more strict attention to the cleanliness of recyclables. Residents will also be reminded that recyclables need to be completely washed out to remove all food residue to eliminate this problem. Cleaner recyclables are more desirable to recyclers, which will hopefully make them easier to dispose of at a more reasonable cost.

Stringent State recycling regulations restrict options for disposing of recyclable materials. In the attached resolution, we are asking the State to take action to relieve recycling mandates in this time of crisis and to consider our request for reimbursement of recycling costs for municipalities dealing with this issue.

Thank you in advance for considering our requests. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Earl VanWormer, III Chairman
Schoharie County Board of Supervisors

Enclosure

cc: Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senator James Seward, Senator Charles Schumer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Congressman John Faso, Assemblyman Christopher Tague, Schoharie County Board of Supervisors and all New York State Counties