

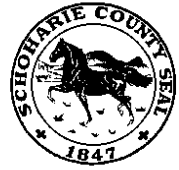


## Schoharie County Board Of Supervisors

P.O. Box 429, County Office Building

Schoharie, NY 12157

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**Earl VanWormer, III**  
Chairman

**Anthony VanGlad**  
Vice Chairman

To: Town Supervisors and Residents  
From: Earl VanWormer, III Chairman Schoharie County Board of Supervisors  
Date: July 20, 2018  
Re: Cleaner Recyclables

Over the past few months, there have been discussions at the 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. The cost of disposal is unsustainable at this rate.

There are several reasons for this sky rocketing cost. 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.

I am asking Town officials to remind their recycling attendants to pay more strict attention to the cleanliness of recyclables. Residents should 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 make them easier to dispose of at a more reasonable cost.

Please make copies of this letter to be handed out to residents to make them aware of this situation and ask for their help in eliminating this problem.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the Board of Supervisors office at 518-295-8347.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.