

Executive Committee Report

The NEKWMD finished 2006 in strong financial condition. Recycling markets and the addition of four towns helped push revenues 11% above projections. The sale of recyclables yielded \$118,000 or 21% of total revenues. The NEKWMD ended 2006 with a surplus of over \$43,000. Continuous budget surpluses since 1998 have allowed the NEKWMD to remain debt-free in 2006 and replace virtually all of our aging equipment.

The NEKWMD is entering 2007 with a budget of \$559,845 – an increase of \$54,000 (10.7%). The population served by the District increased by 13%. Although the budget is increasing in 2007, the surcharge on non-recycled waste is dropping for the 7th year in a row. The surcharge for 2007 will be \$19.25/ton compared to \$19.50/ton in 2006.

Significant events in 2006 included:

- The addition of four new towns – Jay, Newport Center, Troy, and Westfield;
- The expansion of acceptable plastics for recycling from #1-2 to #1-7;
- Reduction in hauling charges for member towns from \$20/hr to \$15/hr;
- Receipt of a grant (\$6,740) from the VT Agency of Natural Resources for Prevention of Illegal Burning of Solid Waste;
- Diversion of over 12 tons of food waste through composting in Lyndonville.

The 35,000 residents of 41 Towns throughout the Northeast Kingdom can be assured their waste management concerns are properly addressed in a timely and environmentally sound fashion. The NEKWMD is currently staffed by 7 full-time and 2 part-time employees. Each of the member Towns is entitled to representation by at least one Supervisor. The Board of Supervisors is the principle authority over the NEKWMD and the primary means of contact with the member towns. The Board of Supervisors meets monthly and sets the direction of NEKWMD policy. The member Towns are also represented through their ability to vote on the NEKWMD budget.

The NEKWMD will continue to promote unit-based pricing for non-recyclable wastes. Since fees for NEKWMD membership are based primarily on the amount of waste produced, members have a clear opportunity to control their waste management costs. Costs can decrease as waste generation rates decrease and recycling rates increase.

In 2007, the NEKWMD will be looking to add composting opportunities throughout the District, strengthen outreach to schools, and promote greater participation in recycling programs throughout the Northeast Kingdom.

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