



Monday, October 23rd, 2017

City of Spring Valley Village
C/o Julie Robinson, ICMA-CM, City Administrator
1025 Campbell Road – City Hall Complex
Houston, Texas 77055

Dear Julie,

During our recent meeting we discussed the need for residents to remove glass bottles & jars from the recycle stream and place them in the MSW stream for future hauling and disposal.

Pursuant to the City's Solid Waste Contract with WCA in Section 7.2.1 it states, related to recycle material;

"In the event that such markets or locations change or close, or other economic conditions render the hauling of recyclable material uneconomical, WCA shall notify the City in writing of the specific facts so the City can determine an appropriate course of action, including notifying citizens. Further, WCA agrees to provide such information as the City shall reasonably request concerning disposition of recyclable materials. Taking into account the effort of the citizens who have segregated recyclable material in this cause, and the benefit of the citizens who have segregated recyclable materials, and the benefit of the environment, it is not the intention of the parties that recyclable materials collected in the City be disposed of in a landfill"

Removing glass (bottles and jars) from the recycle stream is necessary due to the economic and production impact on the other material in the recycle stream, the recycle center production process and the contract hauler. The reason glass is no longer a welcome material in a single stream recycle program is based on a number of factors:

- 1) The impact on the Material Recovery Facilities (MRF's) aka, Recycle Centers, from the collection at the curb to the sorting process, glass is crushed and shards (tiny broken, sharp fragments of glass) are created which strike and embed themselves, resulting in the contamination of the other commodities in the single stream, such as paper, cardboard and plastic containers, etc. This process erodes those products value as a commodity in today's market. The value of glass recycling has eroded at a dramatic rate over the past 3 years.
- 2) The cost to the haulers like WCA has gone through the roof over the past 3 years. Whereas, WCA in the past was able to secure some revenue via rebates for glass, now cost as much as \$32.00 per ton just to collect and deliver the recycle material; including glass products to the MRF (Recycler).
- 3) This not only affects companies like WCA but, giants like Waste Management are also negatively impacted by the glass material collected during the recycle collection service with residents within the City of Houston. The impact was so bad that Waste Management threatened to discontinue the recycle service in Houston altogether due to the fact they were losing millions of dollars annually on the recycle program. A renegotiated contract rate for recycle helped but, the removal of was glass is a key change that helped reduce the negative impact of recycling in the City. That responsibility then fell on another company (SMI) Strategic Materials, Inc.

We respectfully request that residents be notified by the City that after **Friday 3rd, 2017**, glass products ***should not*** be placed in their recycle containers but placed in the MSW (Trash Containers). Unfortunately, this is a necessary measure in order for WCA to preserve the recycle program as a whole for the Spring Valley Village Community.

Below is just one of many YouTube videos addressing the glass recycling issue in the fourth largest City in the US, City of Houston. It represents an example of how the City of Houston Solid Waste Department & SMI (Strategic Materials Incorporated) was able to offer residents another solution for glass recycling.

YouTube video: <https://www..youtubecom/watch?v=-tJLWCDqFYs>

The City of Houston last year turned glass recycling collection operations over to SMI (in a Pilot Program for Houston residents to drop off their glass at SMI recycle collection stations placed throughout the city:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fiShcEwXtyc>

As you can glean from the videos / stories like this, glass is a huge challenge for municipalities / companies that offer and process single stream recycling services.

I trust that this information will help the residents of the district understand why removing glass from the current residential recycle stream is important at this time.

I have also included the revised recycle flyer of acceptable and unacceptable material for the City of Spring Valley Village for posting the city's website.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Melvin Moore

Municipal Account Executive | WCA

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City of Spring Valley Village
Accepted Recyclable Material



Newspaper



Magazines



Junk Mail



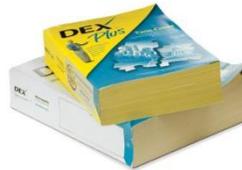
Colored Paper



Paper Bags



File Folders



Phone Books



Greeting Cards



Cardboard



Paperboard



Plastics #1-#5 & #7



Metal Pots and Pans



Aluminum Cans/Foil



Steel/Tin Cans



Gutters, Copper, and Scrap

Unacceptable Items

Glass Bottles & Jars, Plastic Bags, Styrofoam, Soiled Pizza Boxes, Coat Hangers, Paint & Solvent Containers, Light Bulbs, Mirrors, Windows, Dishes & Cups, Paper Towels, Napkins, Facial & Toilet Tissue