

HEBRON BRIDGEWATER REFUSE DISTRICT INFORMATION 2012

Solid waste is a continuing phenomenon. How we handle our waste has changed over the years and it is always a challenge. If you read the paper and listen to the news, there are many ways to dispose of trash. Our job is to do it efficiently, cost effectively and environmentally friendly.

Yes, for many years we buried our garbage and trash (as did other towns). Now we all know this is no longer acceptable or desirable. For several years, we have been educating ourselves and reviewing many different options; looking at ways to deal with the solid waste. We concluded and strongly believe a reasonable way to handle this is a combination of town services and outside services. This is responsible and prudent.

We have a strong commitment to recycling. It is “green” and cost efficient. We prepare collections in many different ways. We compact glass, cans, newspaper, plastic and paper to condense our products readying them for recycling. We market what is saleable, and burn the residual on site in our state-of-the-art incinerator, while we continue to protect our environment. We monitor the residue and this is tested by a certified laboratory in accord with the Department of Environmental Services requirements.

We receive income from the recyclables. Don't forget our pick 'n place area where residents can exchange items that are useful (one person's junk is another person's treasure!)

Costs that we now incur include some of the following:

- Testing and remediating old landfills – We need to monitor the area that was used in past years where the Construction and Demolition and ash was buried. (No, we don't do onsite landfill anymore!).
- Testing air and ash – We test emissions from our incinerator. We continue to update our software improving our burn efficiency and lower cost.
- Employee costs include payroll, taxes and associated expenses. We have vendor services and costs for supplies necessary to operate the facility.

A few question the need for the above. We have a large investment in our facility and have confidence in in what we are doing. Recycling is prudent (we get income and it reduces the volume) and burning what we can reduces the cost of hauling. 20 – 30 years ago there were over 200 landfills in NH. Currently there are only 3 remaining. What we do is referred to as **integrated solid waste management**. Source Reduction, Recycling, Reuse, Incineration and offsite landfilling.

We acknowledge the loss of our former partner and neighbor. The Town of Hebron made the decision to offer roadside trash pickup provided by an outside vendor. Residents must then transport other items to Bristol (this cost is absorbed by the Town of Hebron and residents also pay additional for certain items). Note: Hebron will continue to pay fifty percent of the current bond issue as outlined in our contract, as well as fifty percent of any liability costs associated with closing the old landfills. (which is still in process)

Our plans are to continue the current course – “we believe in what we are doing and like the results”. The current and long term goal is cost effective **integrated solid waste management** The facility is where you meet and talk to your neighbors. Remember to take your visiting friends to the “Dump”. Your grandchildren love to go for the ride too.