



Local Recycling Programs and Organics Management after 2018

The Municipal Review Committee (the MRC) continues to move forward with the development of a new processing facility for municipal solid waste (MSW) that is being developed with a private company, Fiberight, LLC (Fiberight), on a site to be owned by the MRC in Hampden. The new facility would accept and process MSW starting in 2018 after the current MSW disposal contracts with the PERC facility have expired.

The MRC understands that there has been some confusion regarding Town options for recycling programs as part of the new arrangements starting in 2018. This alert is intended to clarify issues related to Town use of the Fiberight facility and continuation of their recycling programs.

Towns can continue or expand their existing recycling programs.

The agreements that the MRC is negotiating with Fiberight specifically allow towns to continue or expand their existing recycling programs. The Fiberight facility is being designed with the understanding that many communities will choose this route. Towns that would like to continue or expand their existing recycling programs will be able to do so.

Towns can elect to send materials collected in single-sort programs to the Fiberight facility.

The Fiberight facility will be capable of processing materials collected in single-sort recycling programs into marketable materials. Fiberight will provide that single sort processing service on a cost-competitive basis well below the \$70 MSW tip fee to towns that wish to continue their single-sort recycling collection programs by directing collected materials to the facility in Hampden.

The Fiberight facility will enhance diversion of recyclables in our region.

The Fiberight facility will include a front end processing component that removes recyclables in the MSW that were missed at the local level. This includes hard recyclables like steel cans, other non-ferrous metals, and various grades of plastic and recoverable corrugated cardboard. These materials will be cleaned, baled and sold. The Fiberight facility will recover material from the waste stream that is not being recovered by even the most efficient local recycling programs and provide a level of recycling to communities that do not offer programs to their citizens.

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The Fiberight facility will capitalize on the organic content of MSW.

A key and exciting objective of the Fiberight facility is to process organic components of MSW, particularly food waste, into high-value energy products and, potentially, industrial energy and chemical products. Towns that have existing programs for composting of yard waste or for agricultural wastes (e.g., blueberry or seafood processing wastes) can continue to operate those programs. And, of course, any resident that would like to engage in back yard composting may continue to do so. However, Towns will be asked not to start new organics diversion programs that would compete with the Fiberight facility.

Towns can continue or add pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) programs.

The MRC agreements for the Fiberight facility will not impose requirements to deliver a Guaranteed Annual Tonnage (GAT) of MSW on individual towns, and towns will NOT be liable for penalties for failure to deliver any specific amount of MSW. Thus, towns can continue existing PAYT programs, or add new PAYT programs, without fear of being penalized for delivery shortfalls. The MRC agreements will require that all MSW collected through arrangements controlled by the towns be delivered to the Fiberight facility on an exclusive basis rather than be diverted to landfills or other disposal facilities.

Questions?

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