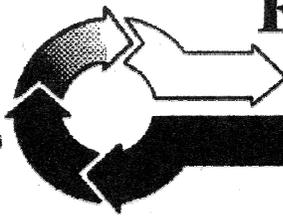


REDUCTION
RECYCLING
COMPOSTING
DISPOSAL



Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

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Background for MRF Contract Vote at Town Meeting

Each town has the option to vote to sign a 5-year contract extension for processing recyclable paper and containers at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF, pronounced “merf”) on Birnie Ave. in Springfield. The town is currently a party to a 10-year processing contract that expires on June 30, 2015. That contract allows for a 5-year extension to 2020, which is what the warrant article references.

Whether your town has curbside recycling or a transfer station, the mixed paper and mixed containers are transported to the Springfield MRF where they are sorted, baled (or crushed) and sold. This system would continue with the new 5-year extension. All towns are currently collecting materials separated in two streams (aka dual stream). This will continue under the new contract.

Because the term exceeds three years it is before town meeting voters. Once approved, the town will get a copy of the contract for signatures. The contract must be signed before June 30th.

Note:

The contract pricing for 2015-2020 is not ideal compared to the current pricing (which was set in 2004). Market prices are much lower than 2004 thus the proposed pricing is a base payment of \$10 per ton for every ton delivered plus a revenue share over \$67/ton. The current contract calls for a based payment of \$15.67 per ton and revenue share over \$40/ton. Franklin County legislators have recently asked DEP to review the pricing structure in the new contract and seek better terms from the MRF operator, Waste Management.

Regardless of whether the contract pricing changes, the town still needs to approve the new 5-year term. If it does not approve it and the contract is not signed before June 30th, the town will be **charged** a per ton fee to deliver recyclables to the Springfield MRF.

Questions/comments: Jan Ameen, Franklin County Solid Waste District, fcswmd@crocker.com, 413-772-2438