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August 2019

Waste & Recycling



INSIDE:



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Pages 18, 20 shutterstock.com, pages 28, 32 photos provided

ON THE COVER

Dedicated to building affordable, reliable and innovative sweepers, Global Environment Products has created innovative equipment that not only clean streets, but aids the environment, too. Recently it achieved its goal of zero emissions with the unveiling of the world’s first electric street sweeper. Learn more on page 10.



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Meet The Feature Writer



Catey Traylor is a proud Michigan native with a real soft spot for South Bend, Ind. A 2014 Central Michigan University—Fire Up Chips!—graduate, she moved to Indiana for work and has remained ever since. Traylor received a degree from Ball State University in July. When she's not working at her full-time job at Ronald McDonald House of Michiana, you can find her freelancing, exercising, rooting on the Detroit Tigers or hosting cookouts

complete with an adult-sized slip n' slide in her backyard.

CORRECTION

In the April 2019 article, "Municipal fleets show variety," the Dover Mounted Police was stated as residing in Dover, Del.; it should have been Dover, N.H. The Municipal regrets this error and any confusion it may have caused.



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Rethinking solid waste and recycling programs



Sarah Wright | Editor

SINCE THE ENACTMENT OF CHINA'S tougher solid waste imports policy, there has been a lot of soul-searching in regards to how the U.S. manages its solid waste. It is a common theme seen in this issue of *The Municipal*, and I will admit while reading through the articles, I reexamined my own handling of the trash and recyclables in my own house. My methods are definitely wanting—largely out of laziness in some cases—but it is a struggle I share with most of my fellow Americans.

I've tossed items into the trash that could be recycled or reused, or conversely I have tried to recycle items that should have never been added to my curbside recycling bin: namely, those greasy pizza boxes. I know better now, but in the past, I have been a part of the contamination problem occurring in the recycling industry.

Many states and localities are working toward reducing contamination while also

increasing recycling percentages through education. In June 2019, Michigan launched a \$2 million educational campaign dedicated to increasing its low recycling rate and reducing the amount of materials improperly left in curbside bins.

According to an Associated Press article by David Eggert, "Just 15% of solid waste is recycled in the state, which is the lowest in the Great Lakes Region despite Michigan's 10-cent bottle-return law. Officials said a contributing factor is people mistakenly trying to recycle plastic bags and not rinsing their plastics, glass and metal—leading to contamination that makes materials unrecyclable and increase costs for local governments."

A part of this campaign, "Know It Before You Throw," will be TV ads, billboards and a website, all aimed at increasing the recycling rate to 30% by 2025.

On the other hand—and tied into China's import ban—some municipalities are opting to shelve their recycling programs... at least for now. Writer Nicholette Carlson shares the experiences of a variety of municipalities in her article this month—those taking such an approach and others that are adapting their recycling programs to remove the acceptance of certain items.

Many jurisdictions are likely to be doing the same careful pondering with their own recycling programs. As a June 2019 post from the Sierra Club's blog, "Stop Obsessing About Recycling," quotes David Allaway, a senior policy analyst for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, saying: "We are spending a lot of time and energy on maximizing recycling when in reality we need to be optimizing recycling." With the article's author, Edward Humes, writing, "To put it another way, we should stop asking whether we can recycle something in favor of whether we should."

Recycling is one component of this issue of *The Municipal*. We will also be covering different funding options for solid waste management; near-capacity landfills and the need to reduce the amount of waste produced; the enlistment of volunteers and community members to bust litter in public spaces; and an innovative project out of El Paso, Texas, that will turn wastewater into potable drinking water.

Until next time, stay cool during these dog days of summer!



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Solutions to bolster emission goals

By SARAH WRIGHT | The Municipal

ACROSS THE U.S., CITIES ARE pledging to reduce their carbon footprints and are embracing alternative fuels to meet extensive emission goals. Global Environmental Products, one of the world's leading manufacturers of specialized street cleaning equipment, is bolstering these efforts by bringing innovation to the industry with its line of street sweepers, which were designed to protect air quality and the environment. The ultimate goal? Reaching zero emissions through technological advances, foresight and extensive research and development.

"In 2011, we started the hybrid project and completed it in 2014. Since its inception, we delivered 27 hybrid sweepers to New York City," Global CEO/owner Walter Pusic said. "Those sweepers cut fuel consumption by 51%. Greenhouse emissions were cut by 60%."

The first hybrid sweepers featured an electric drive motor, batteries, a generator and a diesel engine that operated at lower engine speeds, charging batteries via the generator — thus the electric drive system propelled the sweeper. The company didn't stop there.

"In 2018," Pusic said, "we delivered a fuel cell sweeper to the California Department of

ABOVE: With the goal of achieving zero emissions, Global Environmental Products has developed the world's first Class 7 electric sweeper. (Photo provided)

Transportation — the first of its kind in North America."

The hydrogen fuel cell sweeper replaces the diesel engine with a fuel cell and hydrogen tank. In an area often faced with droughts, this sweeper has reaped impressive water savings as its byproduct is electrical energy and water. The water produced through the chemical reaction is diverted to the sweeper's water tank system providing an additional 43



LEFT: With its electric drive, the Global M4 SUPERCHARGED Class 7 street sweeper requires no preventive maintenance with regard to the diesel engine and the particulate systems, meaning no oil changes, no more filters to change and no diesel exhaust fluids. (Photo provided)



ABOVE: At the end of their shift, operators only need to plug in the sweeper before starting fresh the next morning. (Photo provided)

gallons of water per shift, which is then used for dust suppression.

“Global had a vision in 2011: to develop an affordable, reliable and innovative sweeper,” Pusic said. “Innovation is zero emissions. It was our vision since starting the company.”

Global Environmental Products has achieved this goal with its delivery of the Global M4 SUPERCHARGED Class 7 street sweeper, the first and only 100% electric drive rechargeable sweeper, which was built for the New York City Department of Sanitation. With a travel speed of 45-65 mph and a battery operation range of up to nine hours, towns, villages and large cities will be able to clean the streets with ease while protecting

the environment and building a cleaner future with zero emissions.

In addition to the environmental benefits, Sebastian Mentelski, co-owner of Global, noted, “There is no more preventive maintenance with regard to the diesel engine and the particulate (DPF) systems — no oil changes, no more filters to change and no DEF”

It was important to Global to pursue electric sweepers and to really push innovation, something often lacking in the industry. Thankfully, technology rose to meet the company’s goals.

“Battery technology has improved dramatically. That’s going to give us the edge,”

Mentelski said, adding that batteries ranges have greatly improved as have their life expectancies. “Just like batteries on cellphones, no maintenance is required.”

Reaching this level was not without its challenges, with him explaining, “The way a sweeper is operated varies greatly depending on the operator and the environment in which it sweeps. One city might drive 10 to 20 miles, another city doesn’t drive far from the yard but is constantly picking up very heavy debris.” Additionally, there are gentle drivers and those who are harder on the sweeper. With so many variables, he said, “It’s very hard to build the software and hardware, test it and implement it. It was a very long design process.”

However, with its team of engineers and plenty of testing, including “real-world” environments, these hurdles were surmounted, leading to the development of a product ready to hit the streets.

As an added benefit to the all-electric sweeper, Pusic noted, “At the same time, cities and municipalities that do nighttime sweeping eliminate the noise level.”

Mentelski added, “You just hear the tires and brushes spinning.”

For operators, there is also an incredible ease of use, with Mentelski explaining, “Operators are required to get in, sweep and, at the end of the day, wash the sweeper, finally, plug it in to recharge.”

There are two charging options available: J1772 Level II 240 volt, which charges sweeper in 7 to 8 hours, and the 120 volt — standard outlet — is available as well, but the charging time will double. Municipalities can select the option that best suits their needs.

“It’s all driven by zero emission,” Pusic said, adding of Global’s sweepers, “They are not something we’ve just come up with today. They have been tested since 2012 and are in full production.” **M**

For information, visit Global Environmental Products online, globalsweeper.com.

Mystic Seaport Museum

Mystic, Conn.



By RAY BALOGH | The Municipal

Some municipalities pride themselves in looking far into the future. Mystic, Conn., etched its place on the map by ushering visitors way into the past.

The town of 4,205 residents is ideally situated to have served as a thriving seaport in the mid-1800s, and now boasts the world's largest maritime museum, established in 1929. The Mystic Seaport Museum campus encompasses 37 acres of indoor and outdoor exhibits composed of more than a million artifacts highlighting the area's shipbuilding and seafaring heritage. The complex contains more than 50 historic buildings.

The centerpiece of the museum's inventory of 500-plus ocean vessels is the Charles W. Morgan, the world's only remaining seaworthy whaling ship, which was built and launched in 1841.

The Morgan was hauled to Mystic for restoration in November 2008. After a feasibility study was completed, the museum's board of trustees voted to relaunch the vessel, one of the most documented ships in U.S. history, on its so-called 38th voyage.

The Morgan was launched July 21, 2013, on the 172nd anniversary of her first voyage. During the eight-week odyssey, the ship docked at various New England ports as 65,000 people toured the ship and its accompanying 22,000-square-foot dockside exhibition. A crew of 15

ABOVE: *The Charles W. Morgan, an 1841 whaling ship, is the only remaining seaworthy vessel of its kind. It was relaunched in 2013 and now enjoys its permanent home at the Mystic Seaport Museum. (Shutterstock.com)*



A member of the Mystic Seaport Museum staff interprets the work of a cooper, typically a regular crew member on a whaleship. His job was to construct and maintain watertight barrels for the transport of dry and liquid goods. (Shutterstock.com)

professional mariners sailed the ship, which was escorted by tugboats and other vessels.

Onshore reenactors present demonstrations of the crafts and skills of the 19th century seaside village, including blacksmithing, cooperage, woodcarving, nautical instrument making, typesetting, open-hearth cooking, quilting, weaving and gardening.

Several original homes have been moved to the campus and are restored to replicate a modest seaport community of more than a century and a half ago.

"It's like jumping into the past," wrote one visitor on www.tripadvisor.com. Approximately 91% of the more than 3,000 reviews on the website rated the experience excellent or very good.

Other reviewers divulged their delights in the multitude of educational nuances available at the museum complex.

"Stand on the deck of the Morgan under the small whale boats and look up," advised one visitor. "That's where the harpoons are stored."

Another suggested visiting the town chemist and "tell them you have a cough, cold, nearsightedness, aches or whatever you can think of. See what old-fashioned and potentially hazardous remedy they recommended in the olden days."

The planetarium provides an educational look at how mariners of the past navigated by the stars, and two theaters offer 3D glimpses into the lives of captains, crews and wildlife in and on the open seas.

The Mystic Aquarium houses thousands of animals, including beluga whales, sharks, stingrays, crabs, penguins, frogs and a multitude of fish. Daily live presentations occur during animal training and feeding sessions.

Many of the exhibits throughout the museum are hands-on and interactive.

For the past two years in June, the campus has been transformed into a celebration of Viking culture, complete with Scandinavian cuisine, encampments, craft demonstrations, live musical and stage performances, hands-on traditional Viking games, informative lectures and nautical activities.

Other annual June activities include the four-day Sea Music Festival and a three-day wooden boat show.

According to www.mysticseaport.org, the museum's signal shore-side attractions include:

- Greenmanville Church, built in 1851, which served as the worship center and community gathering place for the town's sizable Seventh Day Baptist contingent.
- Cooperage, or barrel making shop, which provided watertight casks for spirits, molasses, whale oil, foodstuffs and crockery. The largest casks, called tuns, held about 252 gallons and weighed approximately 2,000 pounds when full.
- Buckingham-Hall House, a representative coastal farmhouse rescued from the wrecking ball in 1951.
- A spacious sail loft, where sails were cut and sewn from patterns drawn on the floor. To maximize uninterrupted work space, even the stove was suspended from the ceiling.
- Ship carver shop, which produced nameboards, figureheads, shop signs, tobacconist figures and home decorations.
- American Seamen's Friend Society reading room, established in the 1820s. The society operated reputable sailors' boardinghouses; provided access to religious services, lectures and reading rooms;



The blacksmith shop at Mystic Seaport is the only surviving ship-smith shop from the 19th century. (Shutterstock.com)



Many of the houses in Mystic Seaport were transported by barge from across the Mystic River. They were reassembled in a representative depiction of a 19th-century seaside village. (Shutterstock.com)

and sent out more than 13,000 40-book seagoing libraries on ships mooring at the seaport.

- Nautical instruments shop, including antique navigational tools such as quadrants, sextants and chronometers.
- Shipsmith shop, built in 1885, the only manufactory of ironwork for the whaling industry surviving from the 19th century.

According to its latest annual report, the museum drew 259,647 visitors in 2018, including 32,000 students and adults served by its education department. Six new exhibits were opened that year.

The museum employed 347 paid staff and 625 volunteers who contributed more than 54,000 volunteer hours last year.

The museum subsists on government and foundation grants, gate admissions and program fees, membership dues, sales of concessions and merchandise, individual and corporate donations and trustee contributions. **M**

For more information, visit www.mysticseaport.org or call (860) 572-0711.

Temple, Texas



Sometimes, simple is the best.

The city seal of Temple, Texas, is one of the most straightforward in the nation.

The simple design features a red "lone star" with a blue capital "T" embedded as part of the image. Below that stands the bold blue text, "City of Temple."

The simplistic seal represents the 76,600 no-nonsense, hardworking and life-loving souls who currently comprise the city.

Temple began as a railroad town. In 1880 a local landowner sold 187 acres of his property to the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway for use as a construction camp. The railroad named the site Temple Junction after Bernard Moore Temple, the railroad's chief engineer.

The establishment of a post office in January 1881 officially dubbed the settlement's name as Temple, which was incorporated the following year.

The population grew steadily from the nucleus of railroad workers, and many shops and other businesses sprang up in town. Temple is fortuitously located between Austin and Waco and is situated centrally among larger metropolitan areas in the state, including Dallas-Fort Worth, San Antonio and Houston.

Industry grew more diverse. Manufacturers included, at one time or another, furniture, cottonseed products, clothing and shoes, insulation, electronic products, plastics, optical supplies, woodwork and livestock and poultry feed. Temple businesses also provide goods distribution, customer relations and call center services.

Temple maintained a substation of the state's agricultural experiment station system and houses the state offices of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

The most prominent industry has been in the medical field. Temple saw the establishment of hospitals in 1891, 1897 and 1904. The Veterans Administration opened a new hospital in 1942. The city is a hub for retired military personnel.

Baylor Scott and White Medical Center is the city's largest employer, maintaining a workforce of about 12,000. Owing to the extensive medical facilities, Temple boasts the highest number of physicians per capita in the nation.

Other businesses include multinational companies Wilsonart International and McLane Company; Temple Bottling Company, which produces Dr Pepper with cane sugar; and Nextel Communications Inc.

Famous persons from Temple include footballers Sammy Baugh, "Mean" Joe Greene and others; astronaut Bernard A. Harris Jr.; Major League pitcher Craig McMurtry; actor Rip Torn; and actress Noel Francis, a Ziegfeld girl who also starred on the big screen with James Cagney, Jimmy Durante and Paul Muni.

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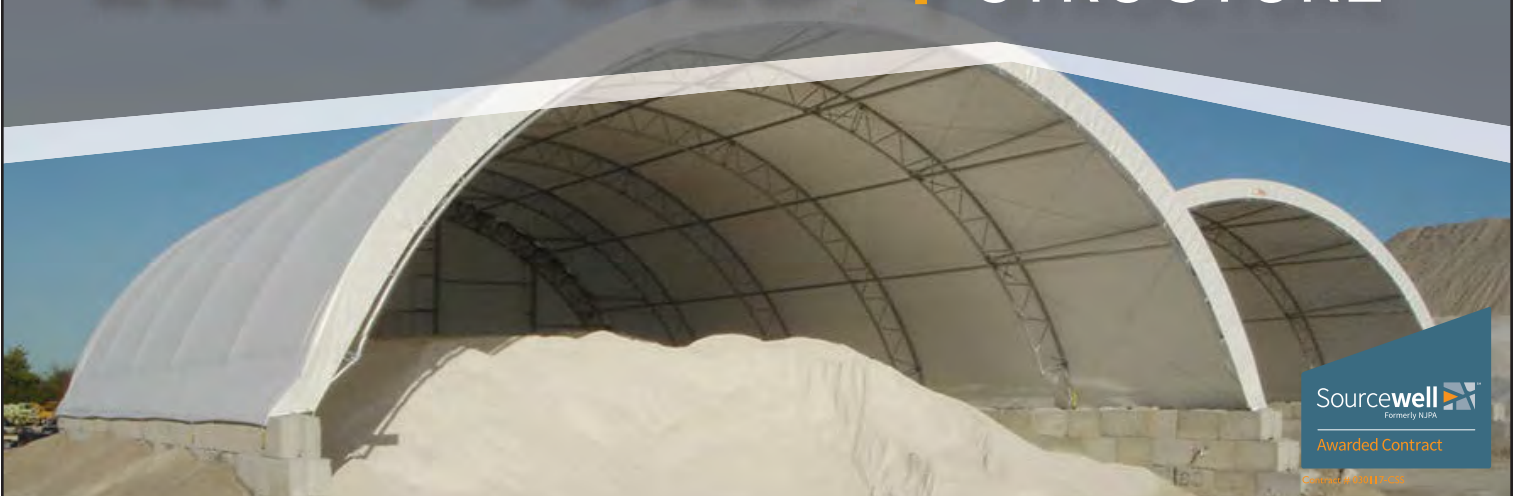


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80%



Of the recyclables that Minneapolis sends to processors, this percentage stays in Minnesota.

Read more on page 18.

72



The number of trash incinerators still operating in the U.S. today. Most of them — 58% or 80% — are sited in environmental justice communities.

Source: www.pbs.org/newshour/science/is-burning-trash-a-good-way-to-dispose-of-it-waste-incineration-in-charts


260 million tons



The amount of municipal solid waste generated by Americans each year.

To learn more about reexamination of solid waste go to 22.


30%



About this percentage of construction is completed on El Paso, Texas', innovative advanced water purification facility, which will use a direct-to-distribution approach, with the purified water flowing directly into the drinking water distribution system.

For more about this project visit page 28.

10% or 15%



The decrease in trash flow during the Great Recession in Catawba County, N.C. Fortunately the county had a fund balance built up, but it had to extend the life of its heavy equipment rather than replace them.

Read more about funding solid waste on page 20.

75%

Florida legislature set a statewide goal to recycle 75% of its municipal waste by 2020.

Source: www.wastedive.com/news/florida-broward-county-waste-management-recycling/557302/

\$74 billion



According to Waste Business Journal, U.S. waste and recycling was a \$74 billion industry in 2018.

Source: kjzz.org/content/1017251/us-recycling-begins-infrastructure-development-solve-china-crisis



International restrictions force changes to local recycling programs

As one of the world's largest processors of recyclables, China placing new restrictions on what recyclables it will allow to be imported has forced cities throughout the U.S. to make changes to their recycling programs.



By **NICHOLETTE CARLSON** | The Municipal

Deltona, Fla.

The city of Deltona had to create a whole new set of rules for recycling due to China's import changes. Effective Feb. 1, the city has suspended all weekly residential recycling pickup temporarily. Due to recyclable-processing countries like China no longer purchasing raw recyclable materials, the market demand for items such as plastics, glass and paper has subsequently decreased.

As a result of the decreased market demand, any materials that residents put out at the curb for recycling are sent to the county landfill. While residential recycling bins are owned by Waste Pro and are no longer being utilized, the city has requested that residents hold on to these bins. Deltona hopes to revive its recycling program in the future as the city watches the market demands.

Philadelphia, Penn.

In Philadelphia, the recycling program known as Philacycle—offered in cooperation with the city's street department and Recyclebank—was just recently discontinued June 30. Following the aforementioned changes in the global recycling market, the city was also forced to make significant changes to its recycling program. Increased recycling costs drove the city to end the recycling reward program available to residents.

ABOVE LEFT: Many U.S. cities are doing what they can to keep some level of recycling options available for their residents. Due to the overwhelming supply and low demand of recyclables following China's restriction on imports, many municipalities are experiencing some form of backlash with the city's recycling programs. (Shutterstock.com)

LEFT: One of the greatest ways residents can assist in their city's recycling programs is by ensuring that recyclables are clean, dry and not contaminated with other nonrecyclables. Contamination typically leads to recyclables being sent to a landfill as opposed to a recycling processing plant. (Shutterstock.com)



LEFT: Due to the financial cost of recycling, some municipalities are having to send recyclables to the landfill alongside the rest of the waste; however, cities that have been forced to do so are also encouraging residents to continue recycling practices because there are hopes of soon reinstating recycling practices. (Shutterstock.com)

Following the discontinuation of the Philadelphia program, residents no longer accrued points for recycling nor were they able to use any accrued points.

When the rewards program first launched, the city of Philadelphia was paid to process recyclable materials. The revenue generated from this allowed the city to offer the reward program, which allowed residents to earn discounts at local businesses. With recycling costs now nearing \$10 million a year, the rewards program is unable to be continued. The drastic changes in the recyclable materials market in recent years have pushed cities to implement new regulatory standards.

The city of Philadelphia has applied new standards regarding contaminated materials in recyclables while encouraging residents to continue to recycle. In order to reduce recycling contamination, proper recycling is a necessity. Contamination occurs most frequently when nonrecyclable materials are placed alongside recyclable materials in the recycling bin or when recyclable materials are not clean and dry when they are set out.

In order to help educate its residents on proper recycling procedure, Philadelphia has also started a new campaign titled, "Take a Minute Before You Bin It and When in Doubt, Throw It Out."

Minneapolis, Minn.

The recycling coordinator in Minneapolis, Kellie Kish, recently addressed a resident's

concerns with the changes in the city's recycling program. Minneapolis' program has seen the greatest impact financially following the international recycling changes.

"The high cost of transportation has almost always resulted in recyclables from the Midwest staying in the Midwest," Kish explained. "Trucking or putting recycling on rail cars to get them to a coastal city and onto a ship overseas has simply been too costly. Some cities closer to coasts that had previously sent their recyclables overseas are now faced with the task of having to face simply disposing of recyclables."

Recyclables in Minneapolis that are sent to processors stay in the area. In fact, Kish described how 100% of these recyclables remain in North America, 90% stay in the Midwest and 80% stay in Minnesota. With the goal of reducing the potential environmental impact of transporting recyclables, increasing local jobs and adding to the local economy, the recycling processor used by Minneapolis — Eureka Recycling — strives to keep the materials as local as possible.

However, supply and demand is making an impact on the city's recycling. Kish described this to residents as, "The impact we are seeing is that of simple supply and demand. Local supply is now very high due to restrictions of overseas countries, so the demand local is low, meaning we're receiving less revenue for recycling collected and processed and, in some cases, we're paying

for materials to be recycled." She assured residents that items placed into recycling bins are, in fact, being recycled into new products.

City residents have also seen a change in a few of the items that are accepted into the recycling bin. Due to the international changes and supply and demand, the city no longer accepts black plastics or No. 6 plastics, rigid or foam.

Despite these changes, Kish insisted that it is still better for the city financially to pay for items to be recycled as opposed to paying to dispose of garbage at the Minneapolis waste-to-energy facility downtown.

Williamson County, Tenn.

Nancy Zion, Williamson County solid waste director, stated that the county's recyclables are taken to local and regional markets. "With China placing new restrictions on what it accepted, the markets in the U.S. are saturated, driving the price down," she explained. "Our revenue is approximately one-third of what it was two years ago."

With financial constraints being the primary reason, many cities are struggling to maintain their recycling programs, but they are not giving up on reestablishing these programs at a later date. "We are still committed to recycling," Zion affirmed. "The only change we are making is with our plastic. We currently accept No. 1 through No. 7, no foam. Beginning Jan. 1, we will go to accepting No. 1 and No. 2 only. This will allow us to utilize reliable markets, cut down on contamination and increase revenue."

She added, "The approach we are taking with the public is to get back to basics: Reduce. Reuse. Recycle." **M**



Funding solid waste services

By **ANDREW MENTOCK** | The Municipal

When it comes to funding municipal solid waste services, two types of accounts appear to be the most common throughout most of the United States: an enterprise fund account or general fund account.

Whichever account a city or county uses likely depends on how its solid waste services receive funding and how much the municipality operates itself.

“Our solid waste operations are operated as an enterprise fund,” said Jack Chandler, the interim director of utilities and engineering in Catawba County, N.C. “Based on my experience, and I don’t know how this would relate to what’s required or allowed in other states, but in North Carolina, our general statutes give us guidelines under which cities and counties operate. So in North Carolina,

an enterprise fund is a fund that is supposed to operate solely on its user fees.”

He said their fund does not receive any funding from general ad valorem tax revenue. Instead, the county puts aside revenue for a rainy day and only asks its residents to pay for the services they are actually using. According to Chandler, the solid waste services does operate within a general fund.

The main issue with this type of fund is that it can limit a solid waste services budget. A general fund, on the other hand, has access to much larger streams of revenue.

“The general fund is primarily funded from ad valorem tax revenue, sales tax revenue and other revenue streams,” Chandler said.

Municipalities can switch to one type of account or the other depending on their needs. For instance, prior to 1992, Catawba County Solid Waste Services operated as a general fund before switching over to an enterprise fund.

One thing Chandler advised against doing was using an enterprise fund to add revenue to a general fund.

“I have heard of some jurisdictions whose enterprise funds do very well, and sometimes they will transfer money out of the enterprise fund into the general fund to help bolster that fund and maybe help keep the ad valorem tax rate low,” he said. “Generally that’s not

LEFT: Enterprise fund accounts or general fund accounts are the two most common avenues for funding municipal solid waste services, though regulations governing these funds may vary from state to state. (Shutterstock.com)

RIGHT: Catawba County, N.C., switched to an enterprise fund for its solid waste services; however, prior to 1992, it operated as a general fund. (Milesbeforelslsleep/Shutterstock.com)

something that's looked at as being a good thing to do, particularly if you're operating a landfill."

Today, the user fees that go into that enterprise fund support both operational and capital expenses. But while Catawba County made the switch, other nearby North Carolina communities did not.

"There are some places that have continued to operate their solid waste operations as part of the general fund," Chandler said. "And so you get a commingling of funds that are coming from users and funds that are possibly coming from tax revenue. But, for us, we're always trying to let our clientele and our citizens know that we are operating strictly from user fees and so no tax dollars are being used to operate the landfill."

The majority of the fees that go into Catawba County Solid Waste enterprise fund come from tipping fees. These are the fees being charged to trucks that come into landfill to dump. Each truck is weighed on its way into the landfill — when it is still full of garbage — and then weighed on its way out — after it's disposed of the garbage.

"There are some jurisdictions that in addition to their landfill tipping fees, they also have an annual availability fee," Chandler said. "Some of our neighboring counties do that. Catawba County does not. In my experience, I happen to live in a county that does charge an annual availability fee. So that fee is assessed along with your tax bill every year. They charge that to all the residential properties within the county."

The annual availability fees allows residential members of the jurisdiction to drop off their waste at their convenience without any additional cost to them.



Both enterprise fund accounts or general fund accounts have their pros and cons that should be considered before committing. A garbage truck, pictured, collects municipal solid waste in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (Yaroslav Sabitov/Shutterstock.com)

Instead of an availability fee, Catawba County has a "pay-as-you-throw" program, which it implemented in 1988. This was done to incentivize recycling and reduce the amount of waste being sent to the landfill.

While this does have a positive impact on the environment and prevents the landfill from filling up too quickly, Chandler said

it can hurt the county's overall revenue stream, which it felt when the recession hit just over 10 years ago.

"Waste flows dropped 10% or 15% and so did our revenue," he said. "We had some lean years. Fortunately we had a little bit of fund balance built up, and we were forced to extend the life of some of our heavy equipment before we replaced it." **M**

Reexamining solid waste

Equipment controls landfill waste in Arizona. In some parts of the U.S., leaders — particularly on the East Coast — are facing near-capacity landfills, which is sparking conversations on how to best manage solid waste. (Mark Skalny/Shutterstock.com)



By **LAUREN CAGGIANO** | The Municipal

As some municipalities face near-capacity landfills, leaders must find new and innovative ways to curb solid waste or find new sites for disposal.



*David Biderman,
SWANA CEO and
executive director*

David Biderman, SWANA's CEO and executive director, said the East Coast is, in particular, grappling with such an issue. In the Boston area, for example, decision makers have significant concerns about whether there is sufficient landfill capacity going forward and what to do in the event of a closure.

"People there tend to be very progressive and they want to build more landfills," he said. "But some (stakeholders) view landfills as being a negative thing. But then, on the other hand, what do you do with material that you're generating in a part of the country that's fast-growing?"

Some believe the answer is closing and finding an alternative location to dump solid waste.

"Material from Massachusetts will be forced to be shipped westward to New York or Pennsylvania," he said. "Similarly, years ago,

New York City — the biggest city in the United States — closed its last remaining landfill on Staten Island. It was then New York City began to shift its waste by rail and by truck to a variety of disposal facilities in a couple of states, like New Jersey, Pennsylvania and upstate New York."

Biderman said the issue is not unique to New England, but "very much based on local geography." Most local governments in the United States are not struggling to find a place to dispose of the waste that they generate. That's because most municipalities don't own and operate landfills. Instead, they contract with the private sector to purchase disposable capacity, he said.

That said, the issue is still on government leaders' collective radars — and some are having to make tough choices to start a new landfill elsewhere. In this case, Biderman offers some words of caution: "If a city or county is used to having X location and they open up to Y, it's important to make sure that adjacent landowners are aware of the new land use. They must also make sure that the new landfill operates in compliance with applicable state laws but also consider the nuisance (factor), whether it's odor or noise."



After closing its last remaining landfill on Staten Island, New York City has shipped its solid waste to other states and upstate New York. Pictured are two New York City Department of Sanitation workers collecting trash along their route. (BrandonKleinVideo/Shutterstock.com)



Students in Duluth, Minn., take a tour of a solid waste treatment plant. China's stricter guidelines of what recyclables it will accept has sparked wider interest and discussion on the U.S.'s waste management. (Jacob Boomsma/Shutterstock.com)

Biderman also challenges leaders to think globally. In March 2018, China began enforcing stricter limits on how much contamination can be present in recyclable materials. To that end, the ban specifically targets mixed paper and mixed plastics, which happens to be the two most common types of materials processed by municipal recycling systems.

According to Biderman, this move prompted action domestically on the part of citizens and municipal leaders alike.

“What I think is happening is that there’s a renewed interest in waste and recycling because of China stopping its acceptance of a large amount of recycling that used to go from the United States to China,” he said. “And that has put more focus on our solid waste system here in the United States. And so, people are thinking more about how to manage the growing amounts of waste that we generate.”

The sheer amount of waste produced in the United States is staggering. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s

most recent data, Americans generate about 260 million tons of municipal solid waste each year.

“And of that 260 million tons, about 55% goes to landfill, 12% goes to waste-to-energy and the remaining 33% goes to either recycling or compost,” he said.

In his opinion, this underlines the need for “sufficient disposal capacity” — a distinction that matters.

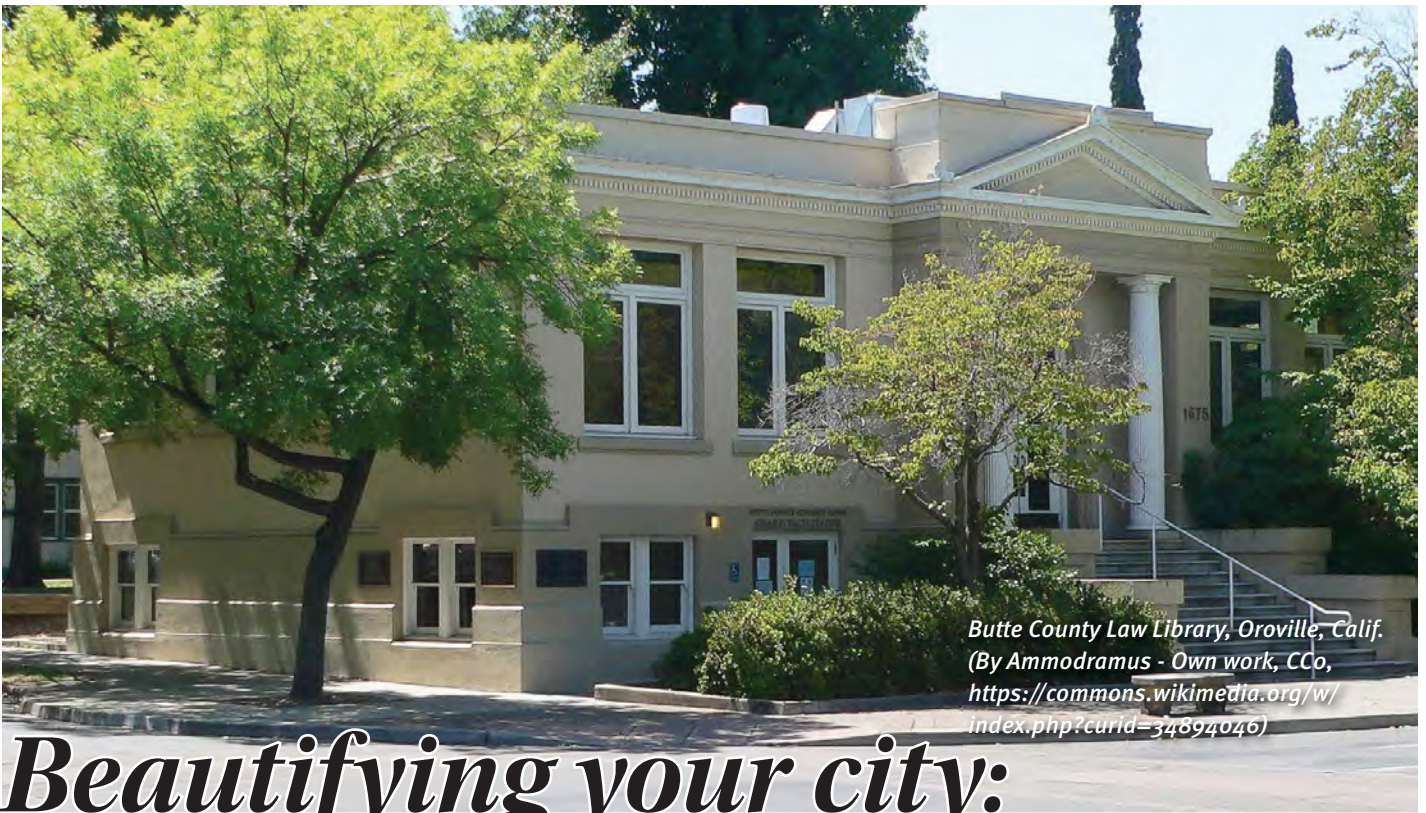
“I use the word disposal capacity on purpose, because that covers landfills and waste-to-energy facilities,” he said.

Capacity is one issue, but public education is another. He said communities need to reduce the amount of waste that they generate and recycle how and when they can. This presents opportunity, because the status quo needs to be challenged, in his opinion.

“We’re not seeing a meaningful reduction in waste generation, and we’re not seeing better recycling,” he said. So, what we need to do is communicate more clearly to citizens and to businesses about the economic and environmental benefits of recycling. And those communications need to be a little clearer, in multiple languages... and using more pictures and (fewer) words.”

For example, the numbering system for recyclables is flawed. Most Americans don’t know what the numbers mean and they’re not necessarily going to spend the time to figure out whether their plastic bag is recyclable at the curb versus recyclable by bringing it back to a supermarket.

This reality calls for urgent action. “We continue to dispose of the majority of our municipal solid waste in landfills, but we don’t have infinite landfill capacity in the United States,” said Biderman. “(That’s why) Americans need to do a better job of reducing the amount of waste they generate and recycling more of it properly to ensure a robust waste recycling system for generations to come.” ^M



*Butte County Law Library, Oroville, Calif.
(By Amodramus - Own work, CCo,
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Beautifying your city: **Trading trash for pride**

By **BARB SIEMINSKI** | The Municipal

Though the time for “spring” cleaning is long past, there are still debris-littered hedgerows and various items of refuse and trash in municipalities that periodically will need to be cleaned up. Two cities featured here have taken the lead and passed the baton to their volunteers who keep their communities sparkling clean.

Give a shout-out to Krysi Riggs, longtime executive director of the Axiom, a popular youth center in historic Oroville, Calif.; a member of the Oroville Parks Commission; an enthusiastic cleanup volunteer; and the founder of Service Saturdays.

“I have found that our city parks and trees and public works departments are severely understaffed, and though I can’t fix a pothole or a street sign, I knew a good team of volunteers and I could make a big impact by taking on some of the lower-skill tasks, freeing up city staff to focus on the other more major items,” Riggs said.

Interested residents, including local business owners, all with a huge amount of civic pride, came together last April to meet on this year’s first Service Saturday where they experienced camaraderie as a gung-ho, can-do group.

They were asked to bring work gloves and yard items such as rakes, brooms, hedge trimmers, leaf blowers and plastic yard bags, said Riggs, adding the Service Saturdays began about two years ago with one Saturday a month from April to October being designated as a Service Saturday from 8-11 a.m., weather permitting.

“Teens from Axiom are often there to help,” said Riggs. “Our students also regularly walk

through downtown and do trash pickup (for a small bribe like a bag of chips or soda). Additionally, the YMCA kids and their families have been heavily involved in the Service Saturday activities—their whole karate class comes and does the cleanup before class.”

The group likes to accomplish its work before businesses open so the rest of the day off is free. People congregate in groups such as customers from participating businesses, high school students, families and Oroville Garden Club members who help with the city’s planters.

Some of the Service Saturday activities include raking out the debris from under hedges; weeding; filling the garbage and yard bags with trash; pulling old bulletins, notices and posters down; and more.

Even though the initial spring cleaning is over, Riggs said the town will continue to do these events monthly, weather permitting.

Wade Atteberry, public works manager of Oroville, had nothing but praise for Riggs and the monthly community cleanups.

“The Service Saturday group is a tremendous help to the city of Oroville,” Atteberry said. “Krysi has done a wonderful thing for the community. Like most cities, the city of Oroville ran into hard times when the redevelopment funding went away. We have seen major cutbacks and layoffs throughout the city. The parks and trees staff is responsible for keeping the downtown planters pruned and clear of trash. They are also responsible for the general cleaning of the parking lots and other responsibilities throughout the downtown area. With cutbacks the department was and is struggling to get to things in a timely manner.

“Krysi and her group, Service Saturday, stepped up in a big way and brought the downtown community together. They do a fantastic job cleaning and sprucing up the downtown. We have had other volunteer groups work in other areas. All the help is appreciated but most groups fizzle out after one or two cleanups. The Service Saturday group stands out because of its longevity and commitment to making the downtown a pleasant place to visit.”

Although Atteberry does not participate in the actual cleanup day, Riggs said, “Wade serves as our city partner and is an amazing example of how the city can effectively partner with service groups to accomplish goals.”

Meanwhile in Maryville, Tenn., Jane Groff, community relations manager, said her city has accomplished a similar goal with #TrashtagMaryville.

What was the catalyst for starting the whole cleanup?

“In February, our area was hit with heavy rains and flooding for an extended period of time,” said Groff. “Once the waters receded, there was a lot of litter and debris left behind. Add that to an accumulation of ‘intentional’ litter, and the result was a lot of trash in our beautiful community. City council knew this wouldn’t be solved by city employees alone — and they also knew our community would step up and help.”

According to Mayor Tom Taylor, “Sometimes you don’t see the problem until it is pointed out. Then, you see it everywhere. We wanted to bring awareness to the issue and create an avenue for citizens to help.”

In order to create interest and ownership in the effort, the council issued challenges to the business community as well as to individuals. The success of the event proved to be



Axiom kids and volunteers in Oroville, Calif., clean up leaves and touch up hedges. (Photo provided by Krysi Riggs)



Andy Smith vacuums the sidewalk after raking on a Service Saturday in Oroville, Calif. (Photo provided by Krysi Riggs)

a direct correlation to the coordination efforts between the council and its community, Groff pointed out.

“It wasn’t always a tag in a post that was successful, but often was the follow-up with a personal call. This can be time-consuming, but rewarding since it provided an opportunity to connect with community members in a different way.

“Posting and tagging comes easily for some but not everyone. Some caught on quickly and posted right away but others struggled with the social media aspect of the challenge. Time was a big issue, too. April is a busy month for our community and finding a time to gather and clean up proved a challenge for several of our organizations. Having the event for the entire month of April helped, and many of the challenge posts came in after April. Another challenge that turned into opportunity was some citizens called in or posted areas that needed to be cleaned. While we originally thought those citizens would clean the areas they pointed out, it turned out to be a great way to give participants ideas of places to clean up.”

The concept was an easy one: take a photo of the debris before and again after cleanup and then post the photo on social media using the hashtag #TrashtagMaryville.

“This is how we would track participants, repost and keep the challenge going,” said Groff. “Many of our employees and citizens do not use social media, so this aspect of the effort



Members of the Garden Club of Oroville, Calif., clean out the sidewalk planters and add new flowering plants. (Photo provided by Krysi Riggs)

either had to be done on their behalf or it wasn’t shared and maybe we missed some.”

What was the cost to the city for supplies, PR and other efforts?

“We worked with our local beautification organization, ‘Keep Blount Beautiful,’ to make supplies available to those who needed them. Since KBB has supplies on hand as part of their mission, this took the burden off the city. The city did not purchase any additional supplies but used items on hand to assist some of the participants. ▶



Maryville, Tenn.'s, #TrashtagMaryville saw community members rally together to take out the trash, keeping its public spaces relatively free of litter. Pictured is Maryville's Greenbelt Park and Pistol Creek. (Brian Stansberry via English Wikimedia Commons <https://bit.ly/1kvyKWi>)

"We relied on social media — and organic shares to promote the event. We did not purchase any ads. Our local daily newspaper also helped promote the event with a couple of feature stories. Other than salaried staff time, no additional expense to the city was incurred. Bags of trash that were

sent to the landfill would have an associated charge — but this is part of the city's normal budget. Some organizations gathered truckloads of trash and absorbed the cost of disposal."

Once the event ended, the staff posted some thank-you notes with the tagline, "Let's keep it going." Some posts were seen after April and the staff's intention is to do it again next year with more emphasis on the "Keep it going" aspect.

No prizes were given, just bragging rights, Groff said. Participants were recognized by the use of social media and by the city council at its monthly meeting.

Part of what made the event so much fun, according to Taylor, was that large numbers of community members participated.

"In fact, the public areas of the city were soon picked up so well that when I was doing a photo shoot for one of the Knoxville TV stations, I actually had to go to the site and 'plant' trash so I would have something to pick up while the cameras were rolling!

"Another fun event was when Jane asked (actually forced) all the city council to go out and do a roadside pickup as a group. She outfitted us with safety goggles, rubber gloves and pickup tools and sent us out to one of the most heavily traveled streets in town. Every car that went by recognized us and honked or yelled encouragement — I assume it was encouragement — out the window to us. A few even parked on side streets and came back to walk along with us and chat. Nobody helped pick up trash, but they did stop and visit."

Since this was modeled after the ice bucket challenge, everyone understood the concept, so via the challenges, the project spread across the city very quickly.

"I think that it enjoyed heavy participation because it was centered around an intensive effort with a specific time window and had an entertaining, well-developed strategy," said Taylor, adding this was probably a program that could easily be adapted to fit almost any community. **M**

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El Paso works to construct innovative facility to conserve water



By CATEY TRAYLOR | The Municipal

The city of El Paso, Texas, will soon be repurposing treated wastewater to usable drinking water through a process called advanced purification. The project is designed in an effort to conserve precious water resources in the desert environment, as well as to diversify the water supply in innovative ways.

Purified water is high-quality drinking water that is produced using the most advanced treatment processes available. While typically used for irrigation and industrial purposes, today's technology allows the city to take one step further in supplementing the local water supply.

Unlike other potable reuse facilities in the United States, which return drinking water to a treatment plant or blend with other raw water sources, the advanced water purification facility will use a direct-to-distribution

approach, with the purified water flowing directly into the drinking water distribution system. The facility is estimated to produce up to 10 million gallons of drinkable water per day.

While some might shy away when hearing "wastewater" in the same sentence as "drinking water," El Paso Water Utilities Communications and Marketing Manager Christins Montoya said that's not the case with this project.

"We didn't shy away from the awkward conversations," she said. "We want people to talk about it and use it as an educational opportunity to share what we're really doing. We're not taking toilet water and putting it in the tap. We're taking water that's suitable for irrigation and to go back into the Rio Grande and taking that water and treating it again to get this purified drinking water."

Before starting the project, a survey was sent out to residents to gauge public perception of the system and better inform materials moving forward.

"At first, it was about 84 percent that were in favor, but once we explained the technology and how it worked, the number rose to above 90 percent," Montoya said. "We used that knowledge and research to include the

LEFT: El Paso, Texas, has engaged its community in the development of its advanced water purification facility, surveying them and ensuring residents have access to educational materials explaining the process of advanced purification. (Shutterstock.com)

RIGHT: Work is still being completed on the advanced water purification facility, with construction not expected to conclude until 2023. Pictured is a rendering of the facility's exterior. (Photo provided)



explanation of processes in all of our outreach materials.”

Currently, about 30 percent of the facility is constructed, and while the final product is still as far away as 2023, the need for public transparency and education starts now.

“We’ve built up a lot of trust with our customers and our residents are ready to receive this type of facility,” Montoya said. “Yeah, if you looked at 10 years ago, implementing a direct reuse facility like this, things would have been different. Now, people across the U.S. are more accepting of this due to things like climate change. They know we need to diversify. They know the technology is there.”

The advanced water purification facility will employ a four-step process to ensure water is drinkable for residents: membrane technology, reverse osmosis, ultraviolet disinfection with advanced oxidation and granular activated carbon filtration.

While those terms sound really technical, Montoya hopes through a facility designed with public interaction in mind, the process will become humanized and commonplace for El Paso residents.

“We offer tours of our facilities and encourage transparent conversations. We’re actually designing the facility with the mindset of giving tours — a viewing area so people can understand the technology and be really informed about the process,” she said. “Once people understand, they feel better. We want to make the technology available for people to see and understand.”

While a major benefit of the facility is, of course, the peace of mind that comes with a diversified water supply, another perk is the uptick in job-force placements the city expects to experience.



El Paso’s advanced water purification facility will use membrane technology, reverse osmosis, ultraviolet disinfection with advanced oxidation and granular activated carbon filtration to turn treated wastewater into safe, usable drinking water. Pictured is a rendering of the facility’s interior. (Photo provided)

“Anytime you build a new facility it brings jobs to the community,” Montoya said. “This definitely will bring jobs to the area. Especially in this type of facility, where it’s unique when you look at other water treatment plants. Our operators will have to have certifications and require skilled training.”

While the need for a facility of this nature is great, the next hurdle faced by developers is one of economics.

“We’re trying to find the most cost-effective way to pay for this,” Montoya said. “We’re applying for a lot of state and federal funding to eliminate the burden on our ratepayers.

We’re trying to get ahold of as much funding as we can to minimize the impact on our customers and make this transition smooth.”

With a number of moving parts and customer satisfaction at the helm, Montoya is optimistic for the future — not only of the facility but of the reputation of El Paso in the industry.

“The global exposure of our innovative technology here in the desert allows us to be a role model for other communities,” Montoya said. “This facility would be the same. We would be a game changer in the industry.” **M**

Ely dedicated to getting job done at wastewater treatment plant

By KATHLEEN MORAN | The Municipal

Sometimes we get where we are going in unexpected ways. Back in her undergraduate days, if someone had told Paula Ely that she would one day work as an operator at a wastewater treatment plant, she wouldn't have believed it. Although currently working as an assistant operator and lab technician at Great Barrington Wastewater Treatment Plant in Great Barrington, Mass., Ely originally earned a degree in psychology in 1989. Her intention was to become a therapist. This was the case until she learned that a master's degree — hence more schooling — was needed for this role.

Fast forward to a few years post-graduation, Ely was working as a certified nursing assistant in a nursing home. The son of one of her patient's came to the facility on a daily basis to visit his father. It was this gentleman who actually encouraged Ely to apply to the local wastewater treatment plant, where he was himself working. Thus, in 1993, she found herself on a new career path and the rest is history.

Admittedly, she had no previous background in wastewater management. A mentor at the first plant she ever worked at took her under his wing and taught her everything from the ground up. It was his guidance that enabled her to become very confident in a laboratory setting.

A few years later, the superintendent at the time encouraged Ely to become an operator. Heeding his advice, she enrolled in classes to help prepare her for the required licensing exams. By 1998, Ely had passed the grade IV and V exams and was officially recognized as an operator.

Having only ever worked at two different wastewater treatment plants, Ely joined the team at the Great Barrington Wastewater Treatment Plant in 2004. One of her responsibilities is to take inventory and monitor the level of microscopic organisms in the



Paula Ely poses with her Treatment Plant Operator of the Year for Region One award from by the Environmental Protection Agency. (Photo provided)

water. Too little or too many organisms can have consequences. Finding the perfect balance in number of these organisms is key because they function to remove the biochemical oxygen out of the water, which ensures fish can breathe adequately. She considers it very rewarding that the results of her tests can have such an impact in that they determine any adjustments needed to the water treatments to ensure efficiency and environmental safety — for humans and wildlife alike.

Ely possesses various skills that make her successful at her job, including a keen eye in detecting issues and attention to detail. Specifically, her strong observational skills allow her to identify any issues before they develop into bigger problems. “Pumps sound a certain way,” she explained. When an abnormal sound is heard, this functions as a signal that a pump is potentially malfunctioning. It is also crucial to recognize unusual smells and potential leaks. These very skills make her ready to respond in the event of an emergency, which should be kept to a minimum when a plant runs as it is intended.

Moreover, Ely enjoys the validation that comes from her laboratory testing. Some of her favorite things to do during the work day



One of Ely's responsibilities at the Great Barrington Wastewater Treatment Plant is taking inventory and monitoring the level of microscopic organisms in the water — ensuring they are perfectly balanced. (Photo provided)

are number crunching, analyzing trends and importing data into graphs and Excel spreadsheets.

One fact Ely would like individuals to know is that “flushable” wipes are a source of frustration. While they theoretically can be flushed, they are not degradable. They actually clump and can ruin the pumps. Removal of the wipes from the pumps is labor-intensive and the pumps have to be shut down. This can result in increased sewer rates, so opt to dispose of them in the garbage as opposed to flushing the wipes down a toilet. Equally relevant, do not pour grease down drains either.

The public is encouraged to take an informative tour of their local plant to learn more about the operations that take place there on a day-to-day basis. “Contrary to popular belief, many visitors will be surprised by how clean plants really are,” Ely highlighted.

Furthermore, this would especially be a great experience for environmental students interested in exploring their career options. There is job security in this field because there will always be a need to manage and treat wastewater. More importantly, it is a merit-based field where one can work his or her way from the bottom to the top.

In January, Ely was honored with an award, Treatment Plant Operator of the Year for Region One, by the Environmental Protection Agency. She was very shocked and is not even sure who nominated her for it. This award serves as a testament to



As an operator, Paula Ely is attuned to the Great Barrington Wastewater Treatment Plant's inner workings. Ely has been a team member of the Massachusetts wastewater treatment plant since 2004. (Photo provided)



Community members are welcome to tour the Great Barrington Wastewater Treatment Plant, with Ely noting it'd be a great idea for environmental students who just might find an unexpected career path. (Photo provided)

her perseverance in the field. “I enjoy my job, take pride in it and do everything I can to make sure the plant runs as smoothly as possible,” stated Ely. True to her humble nature, she added, “There are many deserving individuals; unfortunately, many go unappreciated.”

When describing herself, Ely said she is a family-oriented person who enjoys reading. She is also fortunate to work with team members who are likewise dedicated to “doing whatever it takes to get the job done.” Her hope is to become a superintendent one day. **M**

'COOKING WITH FIRE'

spotlights good food, life as firefighter



Jason Patton, left, and Mark Myers Jr. taste the latter's red beans and rice. (Pictured below)

By **BARB SIEMINSKI** | The Municipal

The thoughtful firefighters in the Shreveport, La., firehouses are putting their delicious talents to work for an appreciative, ever-widening audience.

"My wife, Jeanie, and I love travel cooking shows," said Captain Allen Dantes, a 31-year firefighter at Central Fire Station No. 1 in Shreveport.

"I thought why not have a travel cooking show that goes to different firehouses all over, to feature unique dishes or recipes cooked in the firehouse, some of which have been passed down from generations of firefighters while also giving people a glimpse into the world of a firefighter. Sometimes dishes are influenced by the culture of the place we are at. We not only want to bring the viewers into the kitchen to see how to prepare what is cooked at the firehouse but also to let them see what goes on behind the scenes in a 24-hour shift. From station life to the camaraderie firefighters have (and) the emergency scenes, we want to show the viewers the unique profession of being a firefighter. The show can best be described this way.

"Cooking with Fire,' launched in 2018, is a show that features distinctive firehouse dishes while highlighting the fire departments and the cities they serve."

Dantes actually thought of the idea in September 2017 and began to assemble a team of fellow firefighters, all of whom had significant talents that would help make this project become a reality. The first show was filmed in late December 2017 and early January 2018 in Natchitoches, La., with the Natchitoches Fire Department at its Central Station.

The traveling crew consists of Dantes, a firefighter/creator; Mark Myers Jr., a firefighter/host/chef who owns ReMARKable Food and has appeared on "Master Chef" and "Guy's Grocery Games"; TraJuan White, a firefighter/photographer/videographer/editor who owns White Prophecy photography and videography; John Phelan, a former firefighter/



(Photos provided by TraJuan White and John Phelan)

photographer/videographer who owns Black Helmet Films; and Jason Patton, who has recently been added as co-host, firefighter/host and creator of Fire Department Chronicles.

"We also have our executive producer Stephanie Lydecker with KT Studios and our co-executive producer Laurie D. Muslow with It's All Good Entertainment," said Dantes, adding that his wife has been a big supporter of the project since day one.

"Jeanie has helped me with ideas and encouragement and has been there when we filmed a couple of the episodes in town but doesn't cook or get involved. She stays pretty much behind the scenes and just watches and enjoys the meal with us," said Dantes, who is also the

father and grandfather of three grown children and three grandchildren.

"We're a little spread out—I'm at Station No. 1; Mark Myers Jr. is at Station No. 10; TraJuan White is at Station No. 13; and all of us are in Shreveport. John Phelan used to work at Central Fire Station No. 1 as well but now works for the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office; and Jason Patton is a Palm Springs, Fla., firefighter," said Dantes.

"My idea was to go to fire stations all over; however, we did film a couple of the episodes at Central Fire Station. We have 22 fire stations in Shreveport, and besides the two episodes filmed at Central Fire Station, we also filmed an episode at Shreveport's Station No. 20. Shreveport's episodes that were filmed at Central Fire Station centered on the history of the city. Putting a spotlight on such things as the early days of the Louisiana Hayride, etc. and the downtown nightlife. The episode that was filmed at Station No. 20 focused on the 'sportsman's paradise' that our area has to offer in the way of hunting and fishing."

The public's reaction to the show has been fantastic.

"Everyone whom we've talked to has been overwhelmingly receptive to the show and very supportive," said Dantes. "Our following is growing daily and everyone seems to really be interested. We are excited about the possible opportunity to bring this project to viewers by way of a network show or digital media series.

"After reaching a deal with Laurie Muslow, getting an entertainment attorney and having the project registered with the Screen Writers Guild of America (West), we then signed a contract with Stephanie Lydecker and KT Studios out of Los Angeles, Calif. Her production company is in talks with networks and digital media sites about our project."

When does Dantes expect a definite answer regarding these networks and digital media sites about his project?

"That's a good question. I wish I could answer that, but I can't. We have been getting updates from Stephanie Lydecker of KT Studios, which is the production company we signed with; however, we have not been given a timeline on when to expect an answer from anyone that she is in talks with. We are still open to exploring other avenues if the opportunity presents itself."

The most interesting fire station Dantes has visited would be the Natchitoches Fire Department's Central Station.

"I can't speak for the rest of the crew but would have to say the Natchitoches Fire Department's



Mark Myers Jr., left, and Captain Jeff Dixon talk about ingredients for a zucchini squash casserole



Chief John Wynn of Natchitoches Fire Department, left, and Mark Myers Jr. have fun in the kitchen.



Battalion Chief Chad Connella takes his turn on camera. "Cooking with Fire" is often light-hearted, showing not only delicious foods but also life at the firehouse.

Central fire station," said Dantes. "Not because I considered it unusual, but rather because of the history of this small college town, which boasts Northwestern State University. It is the oldest city in Louisiana and is filled with charm and character, not to mention some amazing food."

Several of the firefighters have their own favorite recipe and Dantes admits he has a few of his own.

"Without trying to hurt the feelings of our host Mark Myers, who cooked red beans and rice with co-host Jason Patton on our last ▶

episode, I would have to say my favorite was the crawfish meat pies covered with crawfish etouffee, cooked by Chief John Wynn in Natchitoches, La.

“However, the award for the most unusual dish goes to Captain Jeff Dixon of the Shreveport Fire Department Station No. 20 for his fried hog nuggets. Some dishes are a twist on a common recipe and some are unusual.”

Dantes and his wife love to travel, he explained, and when he retires in 3 1/2 years, he and Jeanie plan to travel and “live a nomadic lifestyle for awhile.”

When filming the documentary/reality show, according to Dantes, the crew not only tries to get to know the crew at the station, but “we also trade stories, laugh and joke and cut up with them while cooking.

“However, during one episode, while filming, a run came in for a person unconscious and not breathing. Unfortunately, that person did not make it. After that, we then had to come back to the station and finish filming the episode. Of course, we did not want to show anything from that scene or discuss it on camera when we got back, but it still reminded us how firefighters have to do this on a daily basis. You go from laughing, joking and cutting up around the firehouse to dealing with life and death situations in the blink of an eye. Then you come back to the station and have to try to pick up where you left off after some pretty traumatic incidents, sometimes. I just thought that was ironic, having to come back and try to pick up filming again after something so horrible and stressful, pretty much sums up the life of a firefighter.” **M**



Louisiana hot sauce and Tony Chachere's Creole seasoning are key ingredients to many recipes down South. This episode featured fried chicken (pictured below) as the main course.



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Parks that have gone tobacco free have found fewer cigarette butts to clean up. After its policy went into place in Pembroke, N.H., a normally four-hour task was reduced to just picking up four cigarette butts. Pictured is Memorial Field in Pembroke. (Photo provided)

Keeping parks cleaner and healthier with no-tobacco policies

By DENISE FEDOROW | The Municipal

There was a time when smoking was promoted as being glamorous and “everybody” did it — before we realized the health consequences for smokers and those in their proximity.

It's the dangers of secondhand smoke as well as the litter left behind by smokers that has caused many park departments and city administrators to enact tobacco-free policies and ordinances for their parks.

Justin Hurdle's October 2016 article in the National Recreation and Park Association's Parks & Recreation magazine, “Smoke-Free Parks: Why Parks and Recreation Departments Should Lead the Effort,” states in the summer of 2011, “The NRPA Board of Directors adopted a statement encouraging the establishment and maintenance of tobacco-free facilities.”

The article said that decision was based on the belief that it would protect the health of workforce, visitors and environment. It also stated there are many reasons for instituting such policies and one reason is the damaging effects of secondhand smoke.

“There are also environmental and cost-saving benefits associated with tobacco bans. Cigarette butts are not biodegradable so they remain visible until physically removed,” according to the article.

In fact, a study published in Tobacco Control in 2011 estimated that tobacco litter comprised up to 36% of all visible litter with an estimated cost of removal varying from \$3 million to \$16 million.

Too many butts

All those cigarette butts were the primary reason the village of Elk Rapids, Mich. — 15 miles north of Traverse City — recently enacted a tobacco-free ordinance.

Village Manager William “Bill” Cooper explained the village's tobacco-free ordinance came about at the request of volunteers who were tired of picking up cigarette butts. Cooper said the park and recreation commission has people going out to pick up trash.

“One of the biggest complaints was cigarette butts all over the place and they got tired of picking them up,” Cooper said.

The volunteers finally approached the council about no smoking in the parks. “It didn't take long for the council to think it was a good idea,” he said.

The ordinance was adopted in May of this year and includes beaches, parks, trails, public buildings and even two blocks downtown. Cooper said customers and workers downtown can smoke in back of the buildings but not out front.

Reportedly the village clerk investigated other community's tobacco-free ordinances and came up with a boilerplate that defined smoking as well as stating where the activity is prohibited. Elk Rapids' ordinance defines smoking of any tobacco products or other plants such as marijuana, shisha and hookah whether as cigarettes, cigars, pipes, bongs, vaporizers or electronic cigarettes.

Cooper said they posted a sign at the entrance coming into the park and stenciled on sidewalks. The village hasn't heard any complaints, and while it's a new ordinance, so far it has had only one incident where someone had to be asked not to smoke.

They plan on giving verbal reminders and warnings but Cooper said, “If the police are ever forced to write a ticket, there’s a potential fine of \$25.”

Pembroke, N.H.’s, policy also came about via a volunteer. Town Administrator David Jodoin said an Eagle Scout got in touch with seasonal recreation Director Rose Galligan about posting no smoking signs at Memorial Park.

Memorial Park is along the Merrimac River and has several baseball fields, playground, trails, soccer fields, places for barbecues and is host to a Fall Regatta rowing meet that draws 15,000-20,000 people to this town with a population of 7,000. He said the Scout had done other projects at the park in the past.

As part of the project, the Scout paid for the signs and installed them himself with the blessing of town administration about a year ago. Jodoin said the town doesn’t have “a true ordinance — there’s nothing on the books.”

Instead, the select board decided to allow the signs and have it be more on a “goodwill basis.”

“We didn’t want to tie up cops on cigarette patrol — if they get involved, it’ll be more of an interaction reminding people it’s a no-smoking area,” Jodoin said.

Jodoin spoke to Galligan about whether the policy has made a difference over the past year. “She told me she couldn’t believe how much cleaner the park is. She picked up four cigarette butts opposed to taking four hours to pick them up. It is always been something Rose wanted to do, but the selectman hesitated because of enforcement — but so far just with signs and word of mouth, it’s working.”

Minnesota organizations assist

The Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota and Tobacco-Free Youth Recreation joined together in 2016 to produce a policymakers guide for tobacco-free parks, and they encourage parks to come up with a policy and offer signs to help.

The guide lists several reasons for taking action, stating that the purpose of park areas is to promote community wellness, which the development of tobacco-free policies align with.

“Tobacco-free environments promote positive community role modeling and protect the health, safety and welfare of community members.”

These organizations claim that cigarette litter is not only visibly unappealing, it’s dangerous. “Discarded cigarettes pollute the land and water and may be ingested by toddlers, pets, birds and fish.”

Having tobacco-free policies sends a message that this is not acceptable behavior for young people or adults. Secondhand smoke has proven to be unsafe, even outdoors. According to a 2007 study in the Journal of Air & Water Management Association, secondhand smoke levels in outdoor public places can reach levels as high as those found in indoor facilities where smoking is permitted.

Another reason cited for having tobacco-free parks is that it brings consistency to sporting events, particularly school sporting events, some of which might be played in city parks.

According to a study conducted by the University of Minnesota in 2004, most Minnesotans supported tobacco-free parks and recreation areas — 76% of Minnesota residents, 66% of golfers and 73% of families with children support these policies. Seventy-nine percent of survey respondents supported policies prohibiting all forms of use, including



The Merrimac River runs alongside Memorial Field in Pembroke, N.H., and is home to a large regatta every fall. Due to the tobacco-free policy, the river is not littered with cigarette butts. (Photo provided)

“spit tobacco” and 53% supported prohibiting tobacco use in parks at all times while 79% felt policies should be enforced by asking to leave the facility and 64% felt violators should be fined.

Park directors also support these policies with 90% of park directors in cities with policies reporting that they would recommend tobacco-free parks to other communities. Out of 257 park directors 96% responded that they wanted to provide a positive role model to youth, 92% wanted to reduce youth’s opportunities to smoke, 92% wanted to avoid litter from cigarette butts and 89% wanted to promote community well-being. Having these policies reduced litter and maintenance costs by 58%. As far as compliance, this study reported that 74% reported having no problems with users violating the policy.

Although tobacco-free parks seem to be a growing trend, several municipalities in Minnesota have had such policies for over a decade.

Plymouth, Minn., adopted its policy in October 2003. Plymouth has 66 developed parks — totaling 1,700 acres — including three public beaches, seven special use facilities, nine playing fields and 58 city and school parks plus the city maintains 170.5 miles of state and regional trails that connects most neighborhoods to parks.

Park Director Diane Evans said Plymouth’s is just a policy not an ordinance, and she anticipates it’ll remain that way.

“It’d be difficult for police to issue tickets in the parks — they’d always be policing them,” she said. ▶

The only change the city has made over the years, according to Evans, is to include electronic cigarettes. The first few years the city handed out cards to people about the policy, and if they saw something, staff would remind people of the policy.

Enforcing the policy has been “like peer pressure — parents telling others, ‘please don’t use’” these products in the park Evans said.

Plymouth has had its policy in place so long it’s just accepted and there are no complaints.

“I wasn’t sure the council would support it at first, but they did pretty easily,” Evans said.

Plymouth isn’t enacting any fines, just a reminder that the parks are tobacco free and people have been compliant.

For those thinking of starting such a policy, her advice is to “make sure you give it a lot of PR in the community. Use your staff to help and advise the police department and employees about enforcement. Our park users help communicate it to other users.”

There are other cities and towns in Minnesota that do have penalties for violating the

ordinance. Chatfield passed its ordinance in 2010 and has a \$25 fine. Eden Prairie even prohibits tobacco use inside motor vehicles on park property, and violators have committed a petty misdemeanor with a \$100 fine. Orono is very similar to Eden Prairie’s also prohibiting use in motor vehicles on park property and a \$100 fine. Spring Park’s ordinance was passed in 2011 and doesn’t mention use in motor vehicles except for those that are city vehicles. Violators will be issued an administrative citation and would be fined an amount “determined by the city council from time to time.”

Most municipalities reported little to no complaints and much cleaner parks. That University of Minnesota study showed 81% of park directors reported no change in park usage, 71% less smoking and 58% cleaner parks.

Whether your city or town opts for a self-enforcing policy or a penalty-based ordinance, either route seems to have made a significant difference and healthier parks for all. **M**



This sign at Bass Lake Park in Plymouth, Minn., lists the park rules, including that no smoking is allowed in the park. Diane Evans, director of parks and recreation, said the city’s policy is enforced through “peer pressure” — users reminding violators that the area is tobacco free. (Photo provided)

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Mayor Frank C. Otis, left, talks with a young constituent during the 2017 Mayor's Kids' Day. Pembroke Pines, Fla., has held the event annually in June since 2010. (Photo provided)



During Kids' Day festivities, children get to enjoy free ice cream, bowling, tennis, swimming, admission to art galleries and raffle prizes. They also meet Mayor Frank C. Otis, right. It allows children see how important they are to their city. (Photo provided)

Kidding around: Pembroke Pines recognizes importance of its youngest citizens

By JULIE YOUNG | The Municipal

When it comes to showcasing and promoting the interests of its youngest citizens, the city of Pembroke Pines, Fla., doesn't "kid" around. Not only does the mayor's office host an annual all-day party to celebrate this special constituency, but the city has recently been given an award for an initiative that helps parents, guardians, advocates and educators raise those same children right.



Children played with robots during the 2018 Kids' Day. (Photo provided)



During “Lunch with the Mayor” in 2018, the children of Pembroke Pines were able to meet and pose for photos with the characters of “The Wizard of Oz.” (Photo provided)



Pictured is Charles F. Dodge City Center’s interior where “Lunch with the Mayor” is held, featuring food, costumed characters, dancing and more prizes. (Photo provided)

Kids’ Day

On June 21, Pembroke Pines held the 10th annual Mayor’s Kids’ Day, a summer kickoff event filled with fun and freebies. Modeled after a 2003 event held in Green Bay, Wis., it was an idea that was adopted by the United States Conference of Mayors in 2009 and implemented by Pembroke Pines Mayor Frank C. Otis a year later.

According to Brian Spector, Pembroke Pines media contact, Kids’ Day is designed to show children how important they are to their families, how city government connects to their lives and how important they are to the future of Pembroke Pines.

“We hold the event on a Friday in June as a way to celebrate our kids with games and giveaways,” he said. “The event is coordinated by the special events staff and includes free ice cream, bowling, tennis, swimming, admission to art galleries, raffle prizes and more.”

One of the highlights of the day is “Lunch with the Mayor,” a midday bash held at the Charles F. Dodge City Center that consists of food, costumed characters, dancing and more prizes. Not only is the event a favorite among the children, but it is also a favorite of the mayor.

“The youth in our city are very important. They are our future and this special day is a great way to show them how much we care as a city and as their community. We have such a great time and I especially love hosting the lunch and getting to meet them all,” Otis said.

Throughout the day, children are encouraged to visit and explore area businesses where they are given the VIP treatment in the

form of special gifts, tours and discounts. And while the focus is on fun rather than teaching children how their local government works, the event has grown so much over the past decade that there has been an increase in civic engagement.

“It’s great that our businesses take part in this special day — it’s a great way for them to engage, and it’s a great way for our children to become acquainted with all that the city has to offer. We care about our residents and our businesses and bringing them together for a special day just seems like the natural thing to do,” Otis said.

City Spirit

In addition to the decade of dedication to the Kids’ Day event, Pembroke Pines recently received a City Spirit Award from the Florida League of Cities in appreciation for its Raising Positive Children initiative.

Raising Positive Children is an ongoing series of talks for parents and guardians of school-aged children, educators and advocates that is designed to call attention to and find solutions for the many issues both parents and children face at home and at school. Hosted by the city, Pembroke Pines Commissioner Iris A. Siple, West Campus Charter School Principal Michael Castellano and the Education Round Table Forum, the discussions center on a number of important topics such as: coping with stressors in today’s challenging world; growing up in a digital age; cyberbullying; and suicide prevention.

“With each presentation, we’ve had parents thank us for sharing such important

information and addressing critical issues facing today’s parents and children,” Otis said. “We are grateful to Commissioner Siple, Principal Castellano and the Educational Round Table Forum for all of their hard work in creating this community engagement program and educational series.”

The City Spirit Award is one of three honors bestowed by the Florida League of Cities, and it recognizes a single, specific citywide effort to successfully address a local need. The community was given a trophy for the initiative and will be recognized at a commission meeting and at the League’s annual conference.

Otis said the recognition of Pembroke Pines’ efforts to showcase its children is one of which he is especially proud.

According to Otis, “We often think of Pembroke Pines as a large city with a small-town feel — children grow up, leave and come home to Pembroke Pines with great memories. Isn’t that the goal of any city?” **M**

About Pembroke Pines

Pembroke Pines is located in the southern part of Broward County and has an estimated population of 170,712 — as of 2017. It is the second largest city in the county after Fort Lauderdale and is the 11th most populous community in Florida.

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Bismarck, N.D.
ndlc.org/223/Annual-Conference

Sept. 19-21 Illinois Municipal League Annual Conference

Hilton Chicago, Chicago, Ill.
iml.org/conference

Sept. 21-15 WEFTEC 2019

McCormick Place, Chicago, Ill.
weftec.org

Sept. 22-25 ARTBA 2019 National Convention

Hyatt Regency Savannah,
Savannah, Ga.
artbanationalconvention.org

Sept. 23-26 NCSFA 2019 State Fleet Managers Workshop

Austin, Texas
ncsfa.net

Sept. 23-25 2019 F.I.E.R.O. Fire Station Design Symposium

Raleigh, N.C.
fieroonline.org

Sept. 23-27 OAEVT's 27th Annual Emergency and Municipal Apparatus Maintenance Symposium

Ohio Fire Academy, 8895 E.
Main St., Reynoldsburg, Ohio
oaevt.org

Sept. 24-26 NRPA 2019 Annual Conference

Baltimore, Md.
nrpa.org/conference/

Sept. 25-27 Iowa League of Cities Annual Conference and Exhibit

Dubuque, Iowa
iowaleague.org

Sept. 25-27 Michigan Municipal League Convention

Detroit, Mich.
blogs.mml.org

Sept. 26-28 League of Oregon Cities 94th Annual Conference

Bend, Ore.
orcities.org

OCTOBER

Oct. 3 Southeastern Wisconsin Sixth Annual Outdoor Public Works/Parks/Building and Grounds 2019 Expo

Konkel Park, 5151 W. Layton
Ave., Greenfield, WI 53220
greenfieldwi.us

Oct. 3-6 Pennsylvania Municipal League 2019 Annual League Summit

Gettysburg Hotel and Majestic
Theater, Gettysburg, Pa.
pml.org

Oct. 6-8 Virginia Municipal League Annual Conference

Hotel Roanoke & Conference
Center, Roanoke, Va.
vml.org

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Choosing to run your MRF yourself

By PAT HUDSON | Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Leadpoint Business Services

Chaos. That's how you might describe your day as a solid waste manager or director. If you've hired a waste company to manage your materials recycling facility operations, great! Committing to that investment is usually a sound decision. But as a municipal entity, you still have ultimate responsibility for running a profitable operation; managing labor costs and productivity; and mitigating employment, safety and financial risk.

That's where the chaos can begin. But it's not where it ends.

Your community, customers and stakeholders create a different kind of chaos. They want the best curbside service at the lowest price, and they expect a wise use of their taxes and fees for the operation of your MRF.

And your employees want higher wages — in fact, your municipality may be mandating wage increases that squeeze your budget to the max. Turnover, absenteeism and low morale only exacerbate the problem.

Now, that's real chaos!

Profit and operating pressures: No end in sight

At Leadpoint, we're acutely aware of the profit and operating pressures government-owned MRFs are facing today. Municipalities across the country are dealing with changes in local recycling programs, tax and revenue pressures on their recycling services and ongoing efforts to educate consumers about recycling.

Does any of this sound familiar?

- The cost and complexity of running a municipal operation is changing.
- Processing restrictions are driving down the price you can get for your materials.
- Bale quality and contamination are constant issues.
- Inbound streams are becoming more complex.
- Investment in public education is sorely needed — maybe mandated — and expensive. And changing behavior can feel like juggling cotton balls in a hurricane.
- The idea of MRF automation is attractive but challenging — and may be too cost-prohibitive to implement.
- Finding and retaining the right employees feels impossible in today's competitive wage environment.

The list goes on... your challenges can be overwhelming. There's got to be a way out.

LEFT: Leadpoint can recruit, train and help select the right leaders, managers and staff members for municipalities' operations through its direct hire and training departments. (Photo provided)

RIGHT: With more municipalities taking over their materials recycling facility operations, they might wish to pursue a hybrid partnership. Leadpoint has worked with municipalities that run their MRF plant themselves while allowing the company to manage the system support functions. (Photo provided)



A 'run our own' groundswell

We understand. Leadpoint gets calls every week from municipalities that are considering running their MRFs themselves as a way to regain some control and cut costs.

With all the pressures on traditional operators, it can make sense for MRFs and municipalities of all sizes to explore the option of "running your own."

It's not easy. Leadpoint can help.

We know what it takes to run MRF operations, handle the people side of the business and put our experience in recycling to work for you and your operation.

Hybrid partnerships with a MRF expert

A solution that can make sense for some municipalities is to run their MRF plant themselves and let Leadpoint manage the system support functions. This hybrid partnership approach has several benefits.

- Operating knowledge: You know your business. We know your industry. Leadpoint has nearly 20 years of knowledge and expertise in running a wide variety of MRF plants. When you partner with us, we bring that experience into your operation every day, on every shift.

- High-performance standards: Leadpoint's high-performance work team approach

reduces turnover, training time, safety incidents and employee management issues for MRF operators. For each site, we recruit and hire a full-time crew of sorters, line leads and others, embed an experienced on-site manager, and handle the entire labor equation within the MRF.

- Planning, analysis and implementation: Some municipalities already have deep knowledge and HR expertise in-house; they're just not sure how to bring it all together to run their MRF efficiently and profitably. Leadpoint offers short- and mid-term consulting services, outsourced on a stand-alone basis or in conjunction with our high-performance work teams.

For example, our Workforce Optimization Team can work with your leadership team to build skills, confidence and processes, and then leave the day-to-day business with you.

Or, our safety team can create, audit and implement safety programs that suit your operation and goals.

And rather than leaving you with a plan, we can implement that plan for you, delivering an end-to-end solution that creates positive change.

- Direct hire and training: Perhaps you have the processes, structure and technology to operate your MRF independently but are missing a few key employees to lead the way. Leadpoint's industry knowledge and connections can help here, too. Our team can recruit, train and help you select the right leaders, managers and staff members for your operation through our direct hire and training departments.

Pulling it all together

When municipalities choose to run their MRF themselves, Leadpoint can join your team to run the operation, leverage our expertise and support your workforce. This approach can help you manage costs, maintain control of the big profit picture and improve productivity by having the right people, processes and performance measures in place to support your recycling goals and your community.

What's the opposite of chaos? Calm. 

Contact Leadpoint at (888) 205-1511 or sales@LeadpointUSA.com to take the chaos out of MRF operations and experience the calm that an experienced recycling partner can deliver.

About Leadpoint

Since 2000, Leadpoint has helped private, independent and municipal waste and recycling companies make better decisions about how to maximize their workforce and their operation to improve productivity, efficiency and profitability. Based in Phoenix, Ariz., the company provides its data-driven approach for optimizing performance to organizations nationwide.

Learn more at www.leadpointusa.com



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Procurement sits in driver seat for sustainability



Tammy Rimes, MPA | Guest columnist
*Former purchasing agent, keynote speaker
and procurement consultant*

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT OR “GREEN PURCHASING” IS an initiative that is often driven — and achieved — through municipal purchasing decisions. From buying products made of recycled materials or weighing the energy efficiency of an appliance, to contracting firms with socially ethical policies, procurement’s leadership is key to organizational success in achieving sustainability goals.

Darin Matthews, CPPO, CPSM, director of procurement and supply chain services for the University of California, Santa Cruz, is taking a lead in evaluating supplier performance in the area of sustainability. In 2018, UC adopted a policy to include sustainability as part of its request for proposals selection process. For solicitations over \$100,000, a minimum of 15% of the selection criteria is allotted to sustainability. Partnering with a third party to evaluate supplier performance, scorecards measure four categories: environment; labor and human rights; ethics; and sustainable procurement.

When initially rolled out, there was some resistance from customer departments; however, the supplier community seems to embrace the new initiative. According to Matthews, “The first RFP resulted in a winning proposal that offered more than UC could have imagined. The top supplier earned a good share of points with highlights that included support of green travel, energy reduction at their U.S. facilities and use of electronic documents to reduce paper usage.”

Going green — one small step at a time

Sacramento County, Calif.’s, contract and purchasing services division started its first step on its “Go Green” journey by discontinuing mailed solicitation packets to vendors. By posting bids online, printing and postage were reduced, as well as purchased paper and envelopes. Vendors experience better lead time on available bid opportunities, and county personnel time was reduced in preparing packages.

The county’s next big step was to move sourcing and bidding activities to an online system. Manually managed bidder lists were switched to an online vendor registration database where vendors manage their own data. The online process provides greater accessibility and transparency of public documents.

While the procurement process became digitized, hard copy contracts and purchase orders were still issued. Its enterprise resource

planning finance system — SAP — had the ability to create electronic documents; however, the system automatically printed hard copies. Many contracting managers aren’t aware of the option to change this default setting. Seeing an opportunity to “Go More Green,” Sacramento County changed the setting from “hard copy” to “digital” for all contracts and purchase orders. This small decision resulted in big savings.

One issue still remained: the ultimate contract required dual signatures — county and vendor. For the latest “Go ALL Green” step, the county implemented electronic/digital signatures. When sending documents electronically to the awarded vendor, once electronically signed, the contracting officer is notified for final signature. All parties receive a fully executed electronic contract or purchase order. For contracts involving more signatures, such as county counsel, the system provides instant updates, making it easy to determine the status of document during the signature routing process.

Craig Rader, CPPO, CPPB, purchasing agent for Sacramento County, stated, “Although it has been a somewhat slow and lengthy process to get us to where we are today, I believe our actions to implement in small incremental steps was key in ensuring a successful outcome.”

Environment-friendly purchase through cooperative contracting

When going green, sometimes the issue is related to nature itself. Covington County, Ala., is a small rural community located above the western panhandle of Florida. Known for its hot and humid weather, frequent rains create the perfect environment for invasive vegetation growth. Weeds, bushes and trees grow in the right-of-way, ditches, sidewalks and roadways, causing infrastructure decay and public safety issues.

A small county team was tasked to clean 1,290 miles of road — a daunting responsibility doubled with two-sided roadways to be cleared. The traditional manner of using tractors with side boom mowers to tackle the brush is a long, hot process, with frequent equipment breakdowns and costly repairs. The county engineer, Lynn Ralls, approached the task in a more strategic fashion by purchasing a larger piece of equipment with greater capabilities. Instead of a long RFP process, Ralls chose to purchase equipment from a cooperative contract solution. Searching for available equipment through an already solicited and awarded contract, and then visiting the local dealer to view the equipment up close, the purchase of the Volvo EW180 was made quickly.

Operating the excavator with a crew of two, the county saw immediate results. An area that typically takes four to five weeks to clear was accomplished in two days. The wheeled excavator rolls along the road, without encroaching on protected areas, reaching vegetation by utilizing the 32.8-foot reach of a Pro Mac cutter. Taking down everything from high grass to splicing whole trees, Covington’s operators utilize



Covington County, Ala., used cooperative contracting for an environment-friendly purchase — Volvo EW180 — which enables the fast clearing of rural roadsides. (Photo provided)

multiple cameras for safety measures during the clearing process. With the ease of driving a wheeled excavator to a site, it also reduces the need for trailers, unloading/loading time and minimizes damage to asphalt roads.

Kathy Tedone, government buying contract specialist with Volvo Construction Equipment, stated, “Cooperative purchasing, such as this Sourcewell contract, allow local dealerships to provide municipal customers with high-quality equipment and service in their own communities, tailored to an agency’s specific needs, at our most competitive pricing available. This is a win for all of us — the manufacturer, local dealer, government customer and, most importantly, the taxpayers.”


Automation is key to going green

Today, many agencies have a commitment to minimize their impact on the environment by using technology. Doreen Cherry, the former procurement manager for Indianapolis Airport Authority in Indiana prioritized improvements within the airport’s procurement processes to reduce its environmental impact. Cherry stated, “Those departments that generate the most paper in government are typically procurement and finance; however, while finance has automated, procurement has fallen behind in automation efforts.”

To start her own research, Cherry visited eProcurement providers at a national procurement conference while conversing with attendees on their own eProcurement experiences. After the solicitation process started, consensus across the organization was obtained by forming cross-functional teams who viewed the demos provided by the top three selected eProcurement systems. Choosing PlanetBids, based on

its ease of use, years of government experience and customer service, staff no longer had to manage announcements on the airport’s website. By using the online system with direct notifications, suppliers no longer had to spend time searching the website for opportunities or drive and deliver bid packages, adding another sustainability benefit.

Cherry explained, “When the first e-bid happened, Indianapolis Airport procurement said it changed their life! That might sound dramatic; however, less time is spent shuffling paper, and now staff has time to conduct research and become more strategic.”

Arpie Zavian, president of Planetbids, a certified woman-owned business, noted, “By moving government procurement processes onto our eProcurement system over the past two decades, we collectively have helped to save over 250,000 trees from being cut down. As a result, we share in the excitement of our end users in feeling good about making a difference to the environment through sustainable practices, while reducing risk and increasing efficiency.” 

Tammy Rimes, MPA, is a keynote speaker, procurement consultant and executive director of the National Cooperative Procurement Partners, or NCPP. She served as former purchasing agent for the city of San Diego and implemented its first environmentally preferred purchasing program. She served during one of Southern California’s largest emergencies — the 2007 Witch Creek Fires, which raged for 17 days and destroyed over 2,000 homes and structures. Free educational materials on emergency preparedness, cooperative contracts and a free webinar series are available at www.NCPPAssociation.org.

States with the longest life expectancies

24/7 Wall St. reviewed life expectancy at birth figures for 2010-2015, which were obtained from the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, to conclude the states with the longest life expectancies. According to the site, it found that “life expectancy in some states increased by just three years since 1980, and by as much as nine years in others.”

As for those with lower life expectancies, it states, “Exposure to air pollution, a general lack of access to health care, unhealthy behaviors, lack of access to healthy food and other health risk factors — which are all more common in poorer areas — also contribute to lower life expectancies in some parts of the country.” The unhealthy behaviors taken into account included smoking and physical inactivity.

Hawaii continues to be the state with the longest life expectancy year after year, 24/7 Wall St. notes. It clenches it by having the second lowest obesity rate in the country, the third lowest smoking rate and a good amount of primary care doctors and dentists per capita. It also has the second lowest share of residents with no health insurance.



State	Life expectancy at birth in 2015	Life expectancy at birth in 1980	Life expectancy change
1. Hawaii	81.3 years	76.8 years	4.5 years <i>(23rd smallest)</i>
2. California	80.9 years	74.3 years	6.6 years <i>(3rd largest)</i>
3. Minnesota	80.8 years	76.0 years	4.8 years <i>(24th largest)</i>
4. Connecticut	80.8 years	74.9 years	6.0 years <i>(6th largest)</i>
5. New York	80.5 years	73.2 years	7.3 years <i>(the largest)</i>
6. Massachusetts	80.4 years	74.7 years	5.7 years <i>(9th largest)</i>
7. New Jersey	80.2 years	73.5 years	6.7 years <i>(2nd largest)</i>
8. Colorado	80.2 years	75.2 years	5.0 years <i>(19th largest)</i>
9. Washington	80.2 years	75.1 years	5.1 years <i>(17th largest)</i>
10. New Hampshire	79.9 years	74.9 years	5.0 years <i>(21st largest)</i>

Source: <https://247wallst.com/special-report/2019/02/06/states-where-people-live-the-longest/>

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**If You Purchased Liquid Aluminum Sulfate In The United States
Directly From a Defendant From January 1, 1997 Through February 28, 2011,
You Could Be Affected By Proposed Class Action Settlements**

Please read this entire Notice carefully. These Settlements may affect your rights.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and an Order of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, that the class action lawsuit captioned *In Re: Liquid Aluminum Sulfate Antitrust Litigation*, Civil Action No. 16-md-2687 (JLL) (JAD) (“Action”) has been preliminarily certified as a class action for the purposes of settlement only and that proposed partial settlements of the Action (“Settlements”) have been reached.

The first Settlement is between Direct Purchaser Class Plaintiffs and settling defendant USALCO LLC (“USALCO”). USALCO has agreed to pay \$6.1 million in cash, payable in three installments over a period of two years. The second Settlement is between the Direct Purchaser Class Plaintiffs and Southern Ionics Incorporated (“SII”). SII has agreed to pay \$6.5 million in cash. The third settlement is between Direct Purchaser Class Plaintiffs and settling defendant American Securities LLC (“American Securities”). American Securities has agreed to pay \$13 million in cash. **The Settlements do not release any claims of Direct Purchaser Class Plaintiffs and the other members of the Direct Purchaser Settlement Class (as defined below) against any other Defendant named in the Action and litigation against those Defendants is ongoing.²**

WHAT IS THIS LAWSUIT ABOUT?

The lawsuit claims that USALCO, SII and American Securities participated in a conspiracy – with other Defendants in the Action and unnamed co-conspirators – to allocate territories and/or not to compete for each other’s historical business by rigging bids, allocating customers, and fixing, stabilizing, and maintaining the price of liquid aluminum sulfate (“Alum”) sold in the United States from January 1, 1997 to at least February 28, 2011 in violation of the federal antitrust laws. USALCO, SII and American Securities deny all of Direct Purchaser Class Plaintiffs’ claims, deny all wrongdoing and have asserted various defenses to the claims.

The Court has not made any decision on the merits of Direct Purchaser Class Plaintiffs’ claims against USALCO, SII or American Securities because the parties have agreed to settle the claims. On April 24, 2019, the Court granted preliminary approval of the USALCO and SII Settlements and the American Securities Settlement on May 13, 2019.

AM I A MEMBER OF THE DIRECT PURCHASER SETTLEMENT CLASS?

The Direct Purchaser Settlement Class consists of all persons or entities that purchased Alum in the United States directly from a Defendant from January 1, 1997 through February 28, 2011. Excluded from the Direct Purchaser Settlement Class are (1) Defendants and their respective parents, subsidiaries, and affiliates, and (2) any Direct Purchaser Settlement Class Members who timely and validly elect to be excluded from the Direct Purchaser Settlement Class.

WHAT DO THE SETTLEMENTS PROVIDE?

In accordance with the terms of the Settlements, USALCO has agreed to pay \$6.1 million in cash, payable in three installments over a period of two years. SII has agreed to pay \$6.5 million. American Securities has agreed to pay \$13 million in cash. The foregoing monetary amounts and any accrued interest are referred to herein as the “Settlement Funds.” If you are a Direct Purchaser Settlement Class Member and do not request exclusion from the Direct Purchaser Settlement Class, you may be eligible to receive a payment from the Settlement Funds.

Every Direct Purchaser Settlement Class Member who submits a valid claim will receive their *pro rata* share of the Settlement Funds based on: (1) the Direct Purchaser Settlement Class Member’s eligible purchases of Alum; (2) the total money available to pay claims; (3) the total dollar value of all valid claims submitted; and (4) the cost of settlement administration and notice and Court-awarded attorneys’ fees and expenses. Interim DPP Lead Counsel will seek an award of attorneys’ fees up to 33.3% of the total consideration made available to the Direct Purchaser Settlement Class to compensate all of the lawyers and their law firms that have worked on this Action since its inception. Interim DPP Lead Counsel will also seek reimbursement of the costs and expenses advanced on behalf of the Direct Purchaser Settlement Class, and up to \$20,000 for each of the Director Purchaser Class Plaintiffs. All Court-awarded attorneys’ fees, expenses and case contribution awards will be paid from the Settlement Funds. Interim DPP Lead Counsel’s application for attorneys’ fees, expenses and case contribution awards will be available for review on the Settlement website, www.liquidaluminumdirectsettlement.com, once it is filed with the Court on or before August 29, 2019.

HOW DO I RECEIVE A PAYMENT FROM THE SETTLEMENTS?

To qualify for a payment, you must complete and submit a valid Claim Form, available at www.liquidaluminumdirectsettlement.com. Be sure to provide all of the information the Claim Form requests, sign it, and mail it by first-class mail, or submit it online at www.liquidaluminumdirectsettlement.com, **postmarked or received no later than November 7, 2019**, to: *Liquid Aluminum Sulfate Antitrust Litigation – USALCO Direct Purchaser Settlements*, c/o Settlement Administrator, P.O. Box 30097, Philadelphia, PA 19103. If the Court approves the Settlements, payments from the Settlement Funds will be distributed, on a pro rata basis at a later date, to Direct Purchaser Settlement Class Members who submit valid and timely Claim Forms. If you have any questions regarding your eligibility to participate in the Settlements or need assistance completing your Claim Form, please contact the Court-appointed Settlement Administrator, at the above address or by calling 1-855-338-6128. **If you previously submitted a Claim Form in connection with the settlement with the GEO, Kemira, or Chemtrade Settling Parties, you need not submit another Claim Form for these Settlements.**

CAN I EXCLUDE MYSELF FROM THE DIRECT PURCHASER SETTLEMENT CLASS?

If you want to keep the right to sue or continue to sue USALCO, SII and/or American Securities about the legal issues in this case, then you must exclude yourself from the Direct Purchaser Settlement Class. **If you exclude yourself from the Direct Purchaser Settlement Class, you will not get any payment from the Settlements.** To exclude yourself, you must send a letter to the Settlement Administrator, **postmarked no later than July 26, 2019**, stating that you want to be excluded from the Direct Purchaser Settlement Class. The mailed notice and the Settlement website, www.liquidaluminumdirectsettlement.com, have instructions regarding how to request exclusion.

HOW DO I OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENTS?

You can object to either of the Settlements, plan of distribution, or the request for attorneys’ fees, expenses, and case contribution awards if you are a Direct Purchaser Settlement Class Member and have not requested exclusion. To object, you must file your written objection and any supporting materials with the Court and mail copies to counsel, **postmarked no later than September 12, 2019**. The mailed notice and the Settlement website, www.liquidaluminumdirectsettlement.com, have instructions regarding how to object.

WHAT IF I DO NOTHING?

If you do nothing, you will not receive a payment from the Settlement Funds, but you will remain in the Direct Purchaser Settlement Class, and you will be bound by the releases regarding the claims in this case as set forth in paragraphs 14 and 15 of the Settlement Agreements, available in their entirety on the Settlement website, www.liquidaluminumdirectsettlement.com. **The only way to qualify for a payment from the Settlements is to submit a Claim Form.**

WHO REPRESENTS ME?

The Court appointed James E. Cecchi, Esq. of Carell, Byrne, Cecchi, Olstein, Brody & Agnello, P.C. as Interim DPP Lead Counsel to represent the Direct Purchaser Settlement Class. If you want to be represented by your own lawyer, you may hire one at your own expense.

WHEN WILL THE JUDGE DECIDE WHETHER TO APPROVE THE SETTLEMENTS?

The Court will hold a final fairness hearing to decide whether to approve the terms of the Settlements at **2:00 p.m. on September 26, 2019** at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Building & U.S. Courthouse, 50 Walnut Street, Newark, New Jersey 07101. If there are objections, the Court will consider them but may still approve the Settlements. You may appear at the hearing, but you are not required to do so. The hearing may be rescheduled without notice to the Direct Purchaser Settlement Class, so if you plan to attend, please periodically check the Settlement website for any updates.

This notice is only a summary. For more information regarding this lawsuit and the Settlements, please visit the Settlement website, www.liquidaluminumdirectsettlement.com.

¹ Direct Purchaser Class Plaintiffs are Central Arkansas Water; City of Charlotte, North Carolina; City and County of Denver, Colorado, acting by and through its board of Water Commissioners; Flambeau River Papers, LLC; City of Greensboro, North Carolina; Mobile Area Water and Sewer System; City of Rochester, Minnesota; City of Sacramento, California; SUEZ Water Environmental Services Inc.; SUEZ Water New Jersey Inc.; SUEZ Water Princeton Meadows Inc.; SUEZ Water New York Inc.; SUEZ Water Pennsylvania Inc.; and City of Texarkana, Arkansas, City of Texarkana, Texas, d/b/a Texarkana Water Utilities and City of Shreveport, Louisiana.

² The named defendants are General Chemical Corporation, General Chemical Performance Products, LLC, General Chemical LLC, GenTek Inc., Chemtrade Logistics Income Fund, Chemtrade Logistics Inc., Chemtrade Chemicals Corporation, Chemtrade Chemicals US, LLC, Chemtrade Solutions, LLC, C&S Chemicals, Inc., GEO Specialty Chemicals, Inc., USALCO, LLC, Kemira Chemicals, Inc., Southern Ionics, Incorporated, American Securities, Inc., Frank A. Reichl, Brian C. Steppig, Vincent J. Opalewski, Alex Avraamides, Amita Gupta, and Kenneth A. Ghazey. (collectively, “Defendants”).

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