

ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY

RESOLUTION NO. 2445

RE: Authorizing and Approving the Agency to Discontinue servicing Single Stream Recyclables

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (the “Agency”) is engaged in Solid Waste Management and Recycling in Ulster County, and

WHEREAS, China has instituted the National Sword Program reducing the contaminant levels on recyclables which has drastically limited exports of recyclables from the United States, making it difficult and expensive to have single stream recyclables removed, and

WHEREAS, the Agency’s Materials Recovery Facility can only process dual stream recyclables, and

WHEREAS, the Agency has no contract with any private haulers or municipalities to accept single stream recyclables, and

WHEREAS, Agency policy and sound governance require the Agency to avoid losing substantial amounts of money on services and programs, and to carefully manage its risks and avoid them where consistent with its mission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that in light of its attached findings the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency shall no longer accept single stream recyclables at any of its facilities, effective at the close of business on December 31, 2018, and be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Agency staff is directed to remove any revenues and expenses resulting from its handling of single stream recycling from its drafting of the 2019 budget for consideration by the County, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect as of July 1, 2018.

Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____

Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Absent _____

Date: June 27, 2018

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY
FINDINGS REGARDING SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING
June 27, 2018**

1. The Chinese National Sword Program has mandated a maximum contaminant level of 0.5% on recyclables, above which Chinese facilities will not accept the recyclables.
2. The implementation of this and other policies has drastically reduced exports of recyclables from the United States and other nations to China.
3. Single stream recycling has been especially subject to the type of contamination that the National Sword Program has sought to reduce.
4. The reduced opportunity for export to China has made it difficult and expensive for the Agency and numerous other parties to have single stream recyclables removed by recyclers who ultimately sell to the Chinese.
5. The Chinese constitute a substantial proportion of the ultimate market for American recyclables.
6. The result of the implementation of National Sword this has been substantially increased costs to have single stream recyclables removed.
7. National Sword has also substantially increased the incidents of certain agencies being unable to have single stream recyclables removed, causing unwanted accumulation of single stream recyclables in numerous locations in the developed world.
8. Most of the Agency's local outlets for removal of its single stream recyclables have ended their acceptance of such materials from the Agency. Only one of the Agency's prior outlets for single stream recyclables still accepts such materials from the Agency.
9. The Agency's cost to have single stream recyclables removed has substantially increased throughout 2018, resulting in losses during which continue to increase on a monthly basis. Such cost includes out of pocket Agency expenditures of \$29,864 in April, 2018 and \$41,419.26 in May, 2018 for total year to date out of pocket expenditure as of May 31, 2018 of \$124,480.
10. The Agency's sole remaining outlet for single stream recyclables has restricted the Agency's opportunity to have such materials removed.
11. There is no evidence that the above conditions will abate in the foreseeable future.
12. The above conditions portend a substantial risk that the Agency will lose the ability have single stream recyclables removed, in whole or in part.
13. Such loss of ability to have single stream recyclable removed would result in numerous serious problems for the Agency including, among others, the risk of substantially increased costs; the risk of unwanted accumulation of such materials in the Agency's facilities; and

associated environmental risks including the resulting risk of violation of the Agency's environmental permits.

14. The Agency has no ability to process single stream recyclables because the Agency's Materials Recovery Facility is a dual stream facility with no capacity for sorting paper/cardboard from mixed metal/glass plastic. Instead the Agency acts merely as a temporary transfer facility for such materials when they are brought to the Agency.
15. Unlike municipal solid waste, there is no law or regulation requiring the county's single stream recyclables or any other recyclables to be brought to the Agency's facilities for processing or transfer.
16. As a result, each private hauler or municipality that brings single stream recyclables to the Agency has a similar capacity as the Agency to find suitable market outlets for such material.
17. The storage of single stream recyclables in the Agency's facilities, whether resulting from operations where such materials are successfully removed on a daily basis, or whether they begin to accumulate due to difficulty in having them removed, inhibits the Agency's regular operations by occupying space useful for other purposes, and diverting the time and effort of staff from other responsibilities. Such infringement on the Agency's operations carries no corresponding benefit from the handling of single stream recycling, but instead carries increased expenses and risk of loss due to the above factors.
18. All of the foregoing factors hinder the Agency's ability to execute its responsibility to efficiently and economically process the county's solid waste.