

Welcome to Northeast Resource Recovery Association's

Summer Webinar Series Prequel

Best Practices for Negotiating Municipal Contracts for Waste, Recycling & Composting Part 1

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#### GoToWebinar Setting the Table

- You will not be able to be heard by the presenters or other participants on GTW.
- If you cannot hear the presenters, click on audio and computer audio. If that does not work, try clicking on phone call.

• We hope you ask questions and the presenters will answer them if time allows. Click on Questions and keep it short!





#### Best Practices for Negotiating Municipal Contracts for Waste, Recycling & Composting

#### **Part 1 June 17, 2020 - 9 to 10:15 am** Part 2 June 19, 2020 – 12 to 1:15 pm

**Reagan Bissonnette**, Executive Director, NRRA



Northeast Resource Recovery Association Bonnie Bethune, Member Services Manager, NRRA





### About NRRA

- Recycling nonprofit
- 400+ members, primarily municipalities
- Founded nearly 40 years ago





#### **Cooperative Marketing & Purchasing**



- Enable communities to manage their own recycling programs
- 40 programs, including single stream and municipal solid waste
- Connect sellers of recyclables to purchasers



## **Education & Technical Assistance**

- Workshops
- Facility tours
- Annual conference
- Technical assistance
- School Club programs





# Agenda

- Part 1 (Today)
  - General Contracting Principals
  - Municipal Solid Waste
  - Source Separated Recycling
- Part 2 (Friday)
  - Single and Dual Stream Recycling
  - Composting



## Why Have a Contract?

- Helpful for planning your budget
- Could just use spot market, but less favorable pricing
- Clarify responsibilities of each party
- Understand cost
  avoidance





## What is Cost Avoidance?

- Recycling and composting can help avoid the higher cost of municipal solid waste disposal
  - Though not always true with single and dual stream recycling these days when market down
- Costs of landfilling and incineration will continue to rise
- Be able to compare "apples to apples" by use of full cost accounting



### Know Your Market

- Recommendation: Conduct market research
- Why? Need to know if you're being offered fair pricing to effectively negotiate
- **Example**: NRRA helped regional district in NH negotiate trash contract and save thousands because knew current market pricing



# Pricing & Indexes

- Recommendation: Know current market pricing and trends; tie recycling contract pricing to indexes
- Why? Pricing will always fluctuate
- Examples:
  - www.recyclingmarkets.net
  - Pulp & Paper Index (PPI)
  - American Metals Market (AMM)
  - US Dept of Energy national average price of diesel fuel



#### NRRA Monthly Pricing Guide (Excerpt)

Sample Market Pricing for June 2020			
		Revenue / (Cost) Per Ton	
		Low	High
Plastic	#2 HDPE Natural (ex. Milk jugs)	\$540	\$740
Metal	Aluminum Cans	\$400	\$500
Fiber	Sorted Office Paper	\$123	\$150
Fiber	OCC(Cardboard)	\$60	\$100
Fiber	#8 Newsprint	\$3	\$55
	#2 HDPE Colored (ex. Detergent		
Plastic	bottles)	(\$80)	\$40
Plastic	#1 - #7 Mix	\$30	\$40
Metal	Steel Cans	\$22	\$28
Fibers	Mixed Paper	(\$3)	\$15
Glass	Into Aggregate or Fiberglass	(\$75)	(\$40)
TRASH	MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE	(\$120)	(\$70)



(assumes material baled and shipped in full loads)

## **Request for Proposals**

- When do you have to use an RFP?
  - Communities set a monetary amount on when to put out an RFP
  - For example, anything over \$10,000
- Not all RFPs are created equal

- See Handouts: simple versus detailed RFPs



## How Compare RFP Responses?

- Recommendation: Drill down to cost or revenue per ton
- Why? Need to compare "apples to apples"
- **Example**: one NH municipality received very different proposals that were hard to compare without considerable data crunching



#### Additional RFP Resource

"Contracting 101", NH Municipal Association Town & City Magazine article <u>https://www.nhmunicipal.org/town-city-</u> <u>article/contracting-101</u>

Discusses public bidding process in NH



#### Questions?





## **Define Subject Materials**

- **Recommendation**: clearly define what materials are subject to the contract
- Why? What may seem obvious to the municipality is not always obvious to the vendor
- Example:
  - Municipal Solid Waste
  - Construction and Demolition Debris
  - Recyclables



# Length of Contract - Trash

- Recommendation: Longer term contracts for municipal solid waste
- Why? Ensure stability as prices continue to rise
- Example: One southwest NH community's tipping fee increased from \$67.50 to \$80/ton in contract up September 2020



# Length of Contract - Recycling

- **Recommendation**: Shorter term recycling contract at this time
- Why?
  - Market down and changing rapidly
  - Tie pricing to index or cost/revenue sharing calculation if opt for longer contract
- **Example:** one single stream community's 3 year contract cost per ton recently from \$57.50 to \$145



## **Renewal of Contract**

- Recommendation: Having contracts renew automatically for additional terms unless one party opts out
- Why?
  - Enables parties to continue contract without additional effort if satisfied with terms
  - Time intensive to negotiation new contracts frequently



### Termination

- **Recommendation**: Make sure you have a way to get out, especially if the other party does
- Why? Expect that one party or the other might have a change of heart
- **Example**: Recent MA single and dual stream contract has clear right of termination for the materials recovery facility if minimum tonnage not met, but no out for municipalities



## Sample Mutual Termination Clause

"Either party may, with or without cause upon ninety (90) days written notice, elect to terminate this Agreement without further liability hereunder, provided however that such terminating party shall continue to pay all fees and fulfill all of its obligations hereunder through the effective date of such termination."



# What if Things Go Wrong?

- Recommendation: Carefully review force majeure provision
- Why? Expect something to go wrong
- **Example**: Does the following cover a pandemic?
  - "No damages shall be due for a failure of performance due to Acts of God, war, government regulation, disaster, strikes, any one of which may make performance impossible."



## **Special Considerations**

- Recommendation: Consider if municipality has any special circumstances warranting unique provisions
- Why? It can't hurt to ask
- **Example**: busy seasonal community requires pickup within three hours of calling or haul fee is waived



#### Example: Busy Seasonal Community

"CONTRACTOR must remove material from site within three (3) hours of notification during normal business hours, Monday through Saturday. If notified after 1:00pm, material will be removed before opening of next business day (7:30 am). If CONTRACTOR fails to comply with the three (3) hour removal time three (3) times in a quarter, then any hauls over the three (3) hour limit will be at no charge. Such failure to comply shall constitute breach of contract and may result in termination of the contract, at the OWNER'S option."

"There will be no fuel, environmental or any other charges beyond the haul fee in attachment A."



## **Understand End Markets**

- Recommendation: Know where your material is going and what happens to it there
- Why?
  - Ensure being environmentally responsible
  - Instills confidence and ownership in residents when staff can communicate this accurately
- Example: NRRA plastics vendor



## Legal Review



- Recommendation: Ensure your attorney has experience reviewing solid waste contracts
- Why? Contracts for waste, recycling, and composting are unique and unlike other contracts



# Inform Elected Officials

• **Recommendation**: Present status of programs to elected officials or municipal manager one to two times a year

- Include detail, invite public, make available in writing

- Why? Important for decisionmakers to be informed how programs work and any expected or unexpected changes
- **Example**: NRRA invited to present for 15 minutes at council meeting; ended up answering questions for 1 hour



#### Questions?





### Join us Friday

Best Practices for Negotiating Municipal Contracts for Waste, Recycling & Composting - Part 2 Single and Dual Stream Recycling Composting

#### June 19, 2020 – 12 to 1:15 pm Register Here: <u>https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/78578944508696</u> <u>44303?source=NRRA+Webpage</u>



### Thank You!

#### This webinar was sponsored by NHDES.



Please take the survey following the webinar.

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#### Summer Webinar Series – Next Week

#### **Recycling Markets Update**



Chaz Miller, Chairman Montgomery County, MD Aiming for Zero Waste Task Force Wednesday, June 24 9:00 to 10:00 am

#### Optimizing Our Recycling Education and Outreach Efforts



Erin Victor, MA Dept of Environmental Protection Friday, June 26 12:00 to 1:00 pm

