



## Recycling Drop-off Center Closures

The decision to close the drop-off centers was a carefully considered one. As you may know, major shifts have occurred in the global recycling industry. While recycling still provides environmental benefits, several markets that at one time accepted material from the United States are no longer accepting it for a variety of reasons such as contamination. Some materials currently have such a low demand that the volatility of their market value is jeopardizing the financial stability of recycling programs across the country, including Mesa.

Due to the current volatile recycling market and changes to contracts, the City of Mesa's recycling program was no longer financially sound. Changes were required to minimize the negative financial impact to the program. In the past, the City of Mesa received a minimum base price plus a percentage of the market sale price for every ton of material that was sent to the Materials Recovery Facility for processing. However, under our current contracts, the base price has now been replaced with an upfront processing fee for all inbound tonnage. When combined with historically low market prices for recyclable material that cannot offset these processing fees, this created a negative financial impact.

Environmental Management & Sustainability staff developed several financial saving options and presented those options to our City Council. The goal was to minimize the impact to the City's solid waste customers and to create a sustainable recycling program to allow us to adapt to the new solid waste industry environment that we must operate within. Closing the recycling centers was just one of the options approved. Also approved was the rebranding of the City's curbside recycling program. The list of acceptable items will be limited in order to simplify the program in hopes of reducing contamination. Mesa will also be implementing stronger program contamination enforcement and will be optimizing our collection routes.

For those who do not have City of Mesa trash service, we highly encourage you to speak to your service provider for available options. If your current trash provider does not offer recycling services, you can inquire with other companies that may service your area about their offerings. We also suggest that you consider contacting your friends and family who have a recycle container to ask if you can deposit your items in their container. You can also do an online search to locate companies that may be willing to accept your recyclable material.

And as always, please remember that recycling should always be the last go to measure when it comes to proper waste management. We should always first reduce the amount of waste we generate. Second, we must reuse by reducing our consumption of single-use products and using reusable ones instead.

Thank you and we appreciate your understanding.