



The Legacy of Recycling

Global changes affecting our community

Providing a legacy, or a gift to our community, is an ideal we strongly value at Gallegos Sanitation. We want to uphold our legacy of sustainability by keeping our customers informed on current waste and recycling policies and changes. The current status of the global recycling market has lowered the value of some materials such as paper and plastics, deeming them as low grade with little value. So, as our companion recyclers, we want to update our customers how this impacts them.

Why is this happening? Much of the U.S. recycling materials (called “scrap” by other countries) are exported to recycling facilities throughout the world. At the beginning of the 2018 year, China imposed a series of restrictions on waste and recycling imports. Since then, other countries have also followed suit. As a result, low-grade materials are no longer being processed by some countries, leaving the U.S. looking for new end markets. This has had a national effect with the implementation of new contamination fees when haulers bring recycling to these transfer centers or processors, plus it has raised processing costs of recyclable materials.

What can I do to help? It is more important than ever that our customers choose to RECYCLE RIGHT by preparing and recycling the materials that are good for end markets - such as plastic bottles, jugs, and tubs with lids (commonly known as plastics #1, 2, 4, and 5). These plastic materials include; liquid bottles (water, soda, condiment, and shampoo), milk and laundry jugs, and butter and yogurt containers with lids. These makeup over **90%** of the types of plastic we collect for single-stream. Also, please continue to recycle aluminum and steel cans, glass bottles, and clean cardboard (no food or liquid on/in these)!

How can I help even more? Please remind your friends, co-workers, and family that **PLASTIC BAGS of any kind are bad for recycling**. This includes the use of any plastic/garbage bag holding your recycling materials and being placed in the recycle cart. **DON'T DO IT!** Recycle materials should be **CLEAN** and **DRY** with no food, grease, or liquids. *If you can't clean them out, then please throw them in the trash container.*

For more information and updates on waste and recycling, visit GSIwaste.com. View our [Waste Wizard](#) application located in the right column of the main page to find the answers to recycle related questions.

Rising Costs of Living In NoCo

Northern Colorado is known to be one of the *premier places to live* in the entire country because we enjoy fresh air, clean communities, and all of that rocky mountain sunshine! Hence, Gallegos Sanitation strives to find the most effective ways to provide our customers with the best practices in Safety, Service, and Sustainability.

The U.S. waste and recycling industry is experiencing record high recycle tipping fees (May 2018 being the highest to date for us in Larimer County). In addition, fuel rates are on the increase and these vexing fees have greatly impacted our operational costs. Therefore, **beginning July 1, 2018**, two supplemental fees (a material recovery fee and an environmental fee) will be reflected on your statement.

Please note that we ALWAYS endeavor to do what is best to “Care for the Earth” and for our customers - while offering transparency. We appreciate your loyalty and want to thank you for your understanding on this challenging matter. For more information about the recycling changes, visit our website at GSIwaste.com.



The Future of Hauling

Northern Colorado braces for BIG changes, but do we need to?

These are unsure times in the waste and recycling business – both globally and locally. The world is faced with the challenge of finding better ways to haul, sort/manage, process, and manufacture recyclable materials. Northern Colorado has to cope with these challenges too.

Larimer County officials, (along with those from the cities of Ft. Collins, Estes Park, and Loveland) are leading a “Waste Shed Project” to decide the future of the Larimer County Landfill (LCL). The landfill is expected to be full and sited to close within a decade. Choices on who, why, where, and how our waste and recycling is to be handled are being discussed.

The good news is that another landfill exists close by and a good portion of waste generated in Larimer County is actually taken to the Ault Landfill (Ault, Colorado). Area residents can rest assure that there is still a place for Northern Colorado’s trash to go to even when the LCL closes.

If Larimer County decides to open a new landfill, which is the promoted choice right now, it will be a costly project. The plan would include developing a new transfer station, created as a recycle park to accept yardwaste, food waste, and construction & demolition (C&D) materials, at the current LCL location on South Taft Hill Road in Ft. Collins. One way to fund this costly project is through legislation. This plan suggests that Larimer County create a new law that directs all waste generated in Larimer County to their sites. This is called “flow control” and is happening in several places around the country. It recently happened in Laramie, Wyoming, where landfill tipping rates increased over 30%. The Laramie landfill rates today are 200% more than the area tip fees we pay. Flow control removes access to other waste centers that offer competitive tipping fees to haulers like GSI. Landfill fees are a significant part of our operating costs and the result of higher tip fees would be a substantial increase in trash rates to customers by ALL area haulers.

One more option officials could consider, would be to not open a new landfill but create a contract with Waste Management (owners of the Ault Landfill) that would still require all Larimer County waste and recycling to go to that facility (flow control). The county could raise money by controlling the tipping fees, pushing these higher rates onto the haulers, which would then result in rate increases to customers through the use of flow control. Both suggested options, Larimer County opening its own landfill or contracting with Waste Management, would result in monopolizing trash in Northern Colorado - which takes away the local haulers ability to thrive.

We encourage you to learn more, ask questions, or voice your opinion about this issue. Visit nfrwasteshedpublicmeeting.com for more information.

Holiday Alert

Due to area landfill closures every year, GSI does not operate residential pick-up services on the following holidays: New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

For 2018, if your pick-up day falls on or after a holiday during the REGULAR WORK WEEK, then your normal pick-up will be DELAYED BY ONE DAY on these dates: **Independence Day** (Wednesday, July 4), **Labor Day** (Monday, September 3), **Thanksgiving Day** (Thursday, November 22), **Christmas Day** (Tuesday, December 25).