

Dear Valued Customer,

As many of you are aware, there has been a significant development for single-stream recycling in St. Charles and surrounding counties. Resource Management, the only local facility that accepts and processes single-stream, will be closing October 31, 2018. Costs to dispose of single-stream at this facility continued to rise over the last two years due to deteriorating market conditions. As of today, disposal costs have increased 4,000%. These rising costs are now exacerbated by the closing of this facility.

Although single-stream recycling increased recycling participation, it also created issues with contamination, leading to greater processing costs and less material set at the curb being recycled. For example, glass, plastic shopping bags, food contaminated items and unrinsed containers have had a detrimental effect on processing materials and their marketability. Overseas buyers have placed greater restrictions on materials purchased, eliminating a large part of the purchasing market. Current domestic markets cannot absorb this loss in demand.

Every hauler and municipality in the area is faced with this dilemma. Each hauler and municipality are taking different steps to mitigate the costs and disposal issue. The City of Kirkwood, for example, ended their single-stream recycling program. There is speculation that the City of Lake Saint Louis, City of Wentzville and several local haulers may also end their single-stream programs. Other haulers will pick up single-stream every other week and/or increase rates for recycling.

Despite these challenges, Grace Hauling will continue to collect single-stream every week. We are implementing a few changes to help alleviate the contamination issues noted above and balance the costs. First, the rate for recycling will not increase for contracted municipalities. Residents with contracted rates that include trash and recycle who decide to discontinue recycling, may use their recycle cart for trash and place it out on trash days for collection.

Second, we are implementing a new collection method that will alternate what types of material are collected each week. The attached letter provides guidelines for recycling and a calendar for reference on what is being collected each week. Paper materials will be collected one week and plastics and metal will be collected the following week. Collection will continue on this cycle throughout the year. The reason for this approach is to reduce contamination, e.g., paper trapped in crushed cans, and reduce the costs of processing at our small facility.

Please be mindful of what is placed in the recycle cart. A single cart of contaminate will require the entire load to be taken to the landfill. For example, if the driver hears glass shattering when a cart is emptied, that load is now contaminated. We must all work together to ensure that the single-stream items collected are the appropriate materials and clean. This will help keep rates as low as possible and allow the recycling program to continue.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call and speak with us. Most importantly, do not deviate from the provided guidelines. If there is any doubt about a material or that material has not been rinsed and not free of contamination, throw it in the trash. Thank you for your understanding and doing your part to make the recycling program succeed.

Sincerely,

Grace Hauling