

TO: Board of Commissioners

FROM: Public Works Subcommittee

DATE: December 4, 1989

SUBJECT: SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT - REDUCTION OF CARDBOARD ENTERING THE LANDFILL

PURPOSE:

To approve a fee incentive to industrial and commercial waste producers who would separate and recycle cardboard.

BACKGROUND:

- The County has a goal of reducing the solid waste buried in landfills by 25% through waste reduction and recycling programs.
- Efforts to date in separation of domestic glass, beverage cans, newsprint, and cardboard have resulted in less than one half of one percent reduction in the waste stream. Efforts to recycle newspaper are threatened by a failing market.
- The wood chipping operation, begun in May, 1989 addresses a much larger component of the waste stream. Waste wood removed from the waste stream has been as much as four per cent of the total waste.
- Cardboard is another very large component of the waste stream - as much as 8 to 10 per cent.
- Unlike newsprint, clean, used cardboard has enjoyed a very stable market value of \$30 to \$50 per ton. The Hickory paper dealer, Paper Stock Dealers, has recently installed a new bailer to increase their processing capability.
- Unlike wood waste, primarily from the furniture industry, cardboard is not normally separated at its source. It is mixed with other solid waste and can not be easily separated at the landfill. An incentive for separation at the source is needed.
- At least two other counties, Buncombe and Alamance, have restricted the receipt of cardboard at their landfills and charge fines or additional fees for those who mix cardboard in their solid waste.

ANALYSIS:

- If Catawba County is to achieve its goal of 25% reduction in the waste buried in landfills large and marketable constituents of the waste stream, like cardboard, are the best target for recycling.
- Producers of cardboard waste do have an option to mixing it with other solid waste. When separated it has value to off-set some of the cost on, with rising tipping fees, become profitable.
- The development of systems and procedures for separating and marketing cardboard will require some planning by producers and haulers.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Public Works Subcommittee recommends that the Board of Commissioners approve the following:

- Beginning February 1, 1990, all commercial and industrial waste generators are required to separate cardboard from their solid waste.
- Any load of commercial or industrial solid waste that arrives at the County's landfill with more than 15% cardboard content shall be assessed a tipping fee of twice the normal rate.
- If the market for cardboard should fail, separated cardboard which has been rejected for sale by Paper Stock Dealers, may be dumped at the landfill for the normal fee.
- The staff is to make all efforts to advise every cardboard producer in the County of this change prior to February 1, 1990 and to assist them in planning for cardboard disposal methods.

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