

China's Blue Sky 2018 Import Policies - What Does it Mean for MN Counties?

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Counties' Unique Role

- Recycling statutes, Metro Policy Plan make counties responsible for achieving certain recycling goals set by the state.
- Counties must assure services are available to all residents.
- Counties' master plans set out specific goals and requirements.

China's Impact on Counties

- Impacts will vary from county to county based on how county is positioned in the recycling world.
- Market disruptions may make it harder to achieve recycling goals in the near term—too early to tell.
- Counties with collection, processing and/or marketing operations likely see financial hits, marketing disruptions.
- Counties may need to increase engagement to continue recycling success.
- Counties need to provide assistance and support to cities that provide services.

Panic? No.

- Markets have always had major downturns and recoveries.
- China's actions seriously disrupt "business as usual," but market challenges are solvable.
- Recycling has always been evolving.

What is Ramsey County Seeing?

- Regional/national pricing fluctuations hit home.
- Revenue share payments sharply down, some negative.
- Shifts in end markets.
- No official requests to dispose of materials.
- Collectors meeting with several cities.
 - Some requesting pricing changes.
 - Seeking help with resident education.
 - No serious requests to drop materials, glass shaky.
- Customers seeing contamination fees, processing fees, reshaped messages from collectors.

How is Ramsey County Responding?

- Monitoring commodity market conditions on a regular basis.
- Convening city recycling coordinators, frequent communication.
- Providing contract assistance to cities.
- 16 of 17 cities have organized recycling contracts for at least single-family housing, some multi-unit.
- Encouraging contract terms that protect cities.
- Encouraging cities to hold collectors to contract terms, enforce ordinances.

How is Ramsey County Responding?

- Message to residents and businesses is “quality.”
- Meeting with collectors/processors.
- Tracking MPCA responses.
- In partnership with Hennepin and Washington Counties, encouraging a more comprehensive, forward looking approach to markets.
- Planning for long-term transitions for sustainable and growing recycling efforts.





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you to enhance our quality of life.*

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