

### **Why is recycling cost more?**

In 2017, China enacted “National Sword 2017” which has disrupted the recycling industry. The National Sword policy makes China’s rules on recycled imports stricter, which includes cleaner bales of paper and plastic. Under the new standard, China will only accept recycled materials if they are less than 1% contaminated with garbage (this eliminates any wet paper or cardboard, plastic bag pieces, etc). The new standard is more stringent than what has been the industry standard of 5% for years. In addition, China will not renew many licenses for Chinese recyclers, which has significantly decreased demand for imported recycled materials. With fewer buyers, there is a surplus of materials in the market and a significantly lower price for recovered materials.

These new standards have required the processing center, that accepts recycling materials from our community, to slow down the speed in which the material is processed along with adding additional people to physically sort the inbound materials to keep “garbage” and other unacceptable recycling for making it into the finished bale of recycling headed for the mills.

This trifecta – Low commodities pricing because of low demand, increase labor, and increase operations costs have led to our community processing facility needing to increase the cost per ton to process the recycling you place at the curb.

The current solid waste program is unable to internalize these costs and have resulted in your costs for refuse & recycling collection fluctuating slightly each month.

How can you help? Please read and follow the published recycling guide found on our community website and only recycle the allowed materials. There is on average 12% of contaminated items placed in every ton of recycling resulting in 240 lbs. of garbage per 1-ton of recycling processed.

### **When in doubt throw it out....**