



MONTGOMERY COUNTY MUD No. 112 RESIDENTS – RECYCLING ALERT

This is to make you aware of what is currently happening in the world of recycling. The United States recycling industry has long relied on export markets, such as China, to purchase our commodities from processing facilities. The United States previously made up about 40% of the recycling imports going into China.

Recently China has changed its rules on what it will purchase. Effective 1/1/18 China banned all mixed paper. Mixed paper markets dropped from \$100/ton a year ago to currently less than \$5/ton. Effective 3/1/18 China changed its acceptable contamination levels from 3% to .05%. This change drastically reduced what the United States recycling companies can send to China. Recycling processors are looking for other markets to send recyclables such as India, Vietnam, and Malaysia. Even if these countries agree to import our recyclables, these markets are more costly than programs before.

What does this mean for U.S. recycling programs? Processing costs are increasing. Commodities are stacking up in warehouses. While we hope markets will stabilize in the next year, it is currently unknown where the U.S. recycling industry is headed. From August 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019 your monthly recycling bill will increase by 53 cents to cover increased costs associated with recycling processing. In January your MUD Board and Republic Services will assess your current recycling program and the status of the recycling industry to decide what changes, if any, are to be made moving forward.

Public Education – What to Recycle

- Paper and cardboard – newspaper, office paper, cardboard broken down
- Paper Containers – pasta boxes, cereal boxes
- Plastic – milk jugs, water bottles, detergent containers (#1,#2,#3,#4,#5,#7)
- Metal – aluminum cans, food cans or tins
- Glass - bottles

Public Education – How to Recycle

- EMPTY. Remove any food or liquid contents from the recyclable item.
- CLEAN. Rinse the recyclable item to remove any residue.
- DRY. Shake off excess water before placing the item into your recycling container.