

City of Reidsville Press Release – Release Date August 15, 2019



Foothill to provide curbside recycling to Reidsville residents

At least 400 City residents must subscribe for service to take effect

Foothill Waste Solutions has agreed to offer Reidsville City residents and businesses curbside recycling if at least 400 citizens sign up by Tuesday, September 10, 2019.

The Reidsville City Council approved the contract with Foothill Tuesday night contingent on the 400-subscriber mark being reached.

Reidsville Public Works Director Chuck Smith explained that City officials negotiated with Foothill after Waste Management notified them that the company would no longer provide voluntary curbside recycling inside the Reidsville City limits. Local residents and businesses had contracted directly with Waste Management for the service, as did the City of Reidsville for its facilities. Waste Management still provides the service to residents in the County.

City staff had looked into various options, speaking with several companies about providing curbside recycling as well as looking into drop-off sites.

Back in 2015 Reidsville and Eden benefitted from Rockingham County's four-year franchise agreement with Waste Management, which picks up both the County's trash and recycling. In October of 2016, the recycling program began with municipal residents paying \$3.85 per month for the every-other-week service. A \$2.50 charge was added if a customer wanted a second cart.

When the County and Waste Management took steps to renew their franchise agreement in March of this year, City officials learned the company was only willing to offer the continued service in Reidsville if at least 525 of the current 618 homes subscribed for the service remained on board at a new cost of \$11.05 per month. However, the City was notified in May that Waste Management had retracted their offer and would no longer be offering curbside recycling in Reidsville at any cost.

After speaking with several companies, Smith said Foothill Waste Solutions will offer the service at a cost of \$9.50 per month with Foothill billing customers quarterly. Glass will not be collected. To subscribe to the curbside recycling service, residents must call Foothill Waste Solutions directly at 336-871-4055.

Smith noted that initially potential subscribers should call Foothill and leave their name, address and phone number to express their interest in subscribing to the Reidsville curbside recycling program. Once the 400-subscriber mark is reached, Foothill will contact customers to subscribe them to the service.

City officials had been told that much of the problem with the recyclables market stems from China's decision to start stopping all shipments of recyclables from the United States. The country discontinued much of the recycling stream about two years ago when stringent

regulations were put into place for contaminated materials. Also, companies that handle recycling products are limiting the type of recyclable materials they will accept, such as glass and plastic. Even if the City established drop-off centers, Smith had previously informed Council that the issue is finding a facility to accept the recyclable material once collected. Only a handful of such facilities exist, including the one belonging to Waste Management.

###