



February 10, 2017

Dear Local Elected Officials and Community Members,

Last month, SWACO established a new tipping fee rate for the Franklin County Sanitary Landfill. The new rate will enable SWACO to continue fulfilling its mission of providing safe waste disposal and diversion while strengthening our fiscal outlook and returning resources to our communities. Beginning on April 1, 2017, the rate to dispose of all waste entering the landfill will be lowered by \$3 per ton – down from the current \$42.75 to \$39.75.

Under the current structure, \$7 of the tipping fee is mandated to pay down debt associated with the former Waste-to-Energy Facility, which operated from 1983 to 1994. With that debt to be retired at the end of March, the \$7 fee will be replaced with a smaller \$4 per ton fee. From that amount, \$3 per ton will be directed to general operations and capital expenses. SWACO will maintain an appropriate level of reserves to keep its AAA bond rating and to plan for unforeseen emergencies. The remaining \$1 will support the annual maintenance costs of the closed Model Landfill as well as provide expanded and new services to increase waste diversion.

During the past year, SWACO held public hearings and meetings with community officials to get input about the proposed rate change. As a result, the new tipping fee rate received support from the Solid Waste Rate Advisory Board, which includes appointed representatives from all 41 communities in the Solid Waste District. In October, SWACO advanced a proposal to all Franklin County communities to replace the \$7 fee for the Waste-to-Energy Facility debt with a smaller \$4 fee. During that process we engaged with many of you through meetings, phone calls and landfill tours. We benefited greatly from your input, your ideas and, ultimately, your support for this new rate.

The reduced rate provides stability for a longer period of time and positions SWACO to be able to provide residents and businesses within the district with more diversion services. It should also result in lower costs for your community to dispose of waste in the landfill.

In fact, if you are a member of SWACO's Community Consortium program, this reduction will translate to savings for your municipality, village, township or for your residents. Please refer to Section 6.6 Permissible Pass-Through Charges of your contract, which states that "Any and all governmental fee decreases shall be passed on by the Collection Contractor." Please contact your collection contractor to ensure the reduction is reflected in bills for service after April 1.



For communities not currently subscribed to the SWACO Community Consortium, we encourage you to contact your waste hauling service provider to ensure your community reaps any applicable savings.

If you'd like to learn more about joining SWACO's Community Consortium program, please contact us at 614-871-5100 or by e-mail at [consortium@swaco.org](mailto:consortium@swaco.org).

In the coming months, we will be reaching back out to consult you on our Solid Waste Management Plan Update and on an application for a new permit from the Ohio EPA that will keep the landfill within its current geographic boundaries for more than two decades.

We look forward to engaging you on these and other issues as we continue to do everything we can to make Franklin County a more successful and sustainable community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ty Marsh', is written over a horizontal line.

Ty Marsh  
Executive Director, SWACO