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Commercial Customers
January 22, 2019

Dear Valued Customer,

You may be aware of the current widespread challenges facing the recycling industry. This crisis is sweeping the U.S. and frustratingly, it's impacting the greater St. Louis marketplace. World market conditions and current contamination levels have forced many processors into an unsustainable model to continue operating as before.

For decades, China has been the single largest consumer of recyclable materials generated in the U.S. Over the past several years, China has taken a number of steps resulting in adverse effects on the global recycling industry. About five years ago, China enacted its "Green Fence," which set initial standards for lower contamination levels for recycling. Then in January 2018, China came down with its new "National Sword" policy, which bans 24 types of solid waste, including various plastics and unsorted mixed papers, and sets an even tougher standard for contamination levels.

Resource Management's Earth City Materials Recovery Facility notified Meridian Waste that as of November 1, they will no longer accept single stream recyclables. Recycling is a true cycle and requires viable buyers of non-contaminated processed materials to be a truly sustainable system. We are hopeful that the market will correct itself over time, however, in the meantime we must make significant changes to the way that we recycle.

Meridian Waste proposes the following change to the current single stream recycling program for your business and will be effective March 1, 2019.

Our current single stream recycling program will be switched to cardboard/paper mixed container only. This will allow Meridian to continue offering recycle programs to our commercial customers. For customers that utilize Plastics #1-7 and or glass recycling, please contact Meridian for a personalized solution for these materials.

In order to effectively educate your employees of these changes, Meridian Waste will supply education materials making this transition as simple and easy as possible.

Meridian Waste is proud to service your business, and we look forward to continuing to find ways to improve our services for you while being mindful of the changing landscape that we must face together.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or concerns. You may contact myself or Derrick Standley at (314) 420-3058.

For more information on the recycling industry crisis, we encourage you to read this white paper: "[An Unsustainable Path: Restructuring the Recycling Industry](#)," which can be found on the Meridian Waste website. This paper was compiled from more than two dozen articles and industry research. You'll find many links to these articles as well on the same web page.

Thank you,

Aaron Coffin
District Sales Manager
Meridian Waste

