

09/20/2018



September 24th, 2018

FIRELIGHT HOMEOWNER ASSOC
C/O HAMMERSMITH MANAGEMENT CO
23 INVERNESS WAY ESTE 200
ENGLEWOOD, CO 80112

Dear Community Manager,

Over the past few months, we have been sharing information with our customers about the changes in the global recycling industry. To summarize:

- The volume of trash mixed with recycling is at an all-time high and this is creating serious problems for the entire recycling industry.
- Previously the single-largest importer of recyclable materials worldwide, China has reduced its imports of recyclable materials and set strict contamination limits of less than 1%.
- The buyers of recycling materials at home and abroad are all demanding much higher levels of quality.
- Recyclable material commodity prices have declined and continue to fluctuate.

We are intensely focused on maintaining the long-term sustainability of our recycling programs. This includes reducing contamination at every point in the stream and ensuring we are recovering our costs to process and market materials.

Our goal is to be fully transparent with you about the costs to collect and process materials. Going forward, Effective January 1st, 2019, you will see a separate line-item on your invoice, which reflects the cost to process and market recyclables. The Recyclable Materials Offset (RMO) adjusts for fluctuations in the recyclable commodities market. When commodity prices are down, the cost to process your materials may exceed the value of those commodities. The RMO allows us to cover the cost to process materials in a safe and environmentally responsible manner. Depending on markets, the RMO may appear as a credit or a charge.

To provide some context, last month the RMO was \$1.23 per home, per month, in this area.

We are working hard to keep recycling sustainable and to keep costs down for our customers. We need your active, ongoing help. Please ensure your recycling stream is clean and free of contaminants. Also consider buying products made from recycled materials. This will help keep the market healthy.

Please remember these three easy rules:

		
Recycle clean bottles, cans, paper and cardboard.	Keep food and liquid out.	No plastic bags. Do not bag recyclables.

For additional recycling tools, visit www.RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com.

Thank you for recycling the right way. With everyone focused on the three simple rules, we can continue to send recyclable materials to their next best use and help preserve our natural resources.

Regards,

Mike Maher
HOA Territory Manager
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