

Dear Citizens:

Tuesday's Corsicana Daily Sun reported a request from the City Council for citizens to provide input regarding garbage collection and the recycling program. I am sending you this email to underscore our efforts to receive information from citizens on this subject.

I think all of us take for granted the service of garbage collection and in recent years, recycling. But this service comes at a cost, and we should engage in the discussion to make sure we understand the considerations to help the City Council make a decision on what services to provide in the future.

Please go to www.corsicanadailysun.com and see the Garbage Collection and Recycling Survey on the home page. When you scroll over the headline, the survey becomes live. If you prefer, you can go directly to the survey tool here using the entire address:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PPGMCZR>

There are two key issues the Council is reviewing: 1) What impact larger garbage trucks have on roads using the automatic side loader arm which requires the trucks to move closer to the curb, and 2) what the recycling program should be going forward. Both of these issues and the potential costs are being reviewed now to award a contract this September.

There is a cost associated with using smaller garbage trucks and because of that, garbage collection rates could increase. There is a menu of items that make up the cost of garbage collection. The Council is interested in what is most important to the citizens. The goal is to provide the most cost-effective options with the greatest demand. One of the menu items is recycling.

Currently, 14% of local citizens participate in the recycling program. The current provider, Republic Waste, reports that of the 26 cities served from this location, only three have continued to provide recycling – Corsicana, Gun Barrel City, and Tool. Wortham has moved to a drop off location.

This is not just a city, county or state issue. The nation has fewer options for recycling today. What was a profit center from which waste companies would receive an income from delivering recycled goods, is now a cost. Local waste companies pay \$90 a ton to dispose of recycled goods in this area. The main reason stems from China, which, for decades was the largest importer of the world's recycled commodity. In 2017, the country announced that it would no longer accept material that was greater than 5% contaminated. This level of contamination is very difficult to achieve and left many tons of material rejected for recycle.

To learn more about the concerns on recycling, please review the media report links below, and [take the survey this week](#). [The survey will be tabulated on Monday, May 13 and presented to the Council](#). For your voice to count, please complete the survey.

Dallas, Texas May 2, 2019: <https://www.keranews.org/post/recycling-programs-are-struggling-these-days-there-could-be-solution>

Bryan, Texas May 1, 2019: <https://www.kbtx.com/content/news/Bryan-city-council-to-get-update-on-future-recycling-options-this-month-509332581.html>

Sherman, Texas April 27, 2019:

<https://www.heralddemocrat.com/news/20190427/sherman-receives-update-on-solid-waste-recycling>

Tucson, Arizona April 25, 2019: https://tucson.com/news/local/city-of-tucson-to-cut-back-on-recycling-pickup-in/article_fba31985-a6ee-5f5b-b570-0a96c6614d9d.html

Midland, Texas April 24, 2019: <https://www.mrt.com/news/local/article/City-Problems-exist-with-current-recycling-13789923.php>

State, May 29, 2018: <https://www.kut.org/post/collapsing-market-china-means-texans-may-have-pay-recycle>

Sincerely,

Don Denbow, Mayor