

**CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 98-013  
JANUARY 19, 1998 AGENDA**

**SUBJECT:**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE  
INCLUSION OF CURB IT! RECYCLING  
COSTS IN COUNTY TAXES**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

**MIKE MATTHES  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER**

**SYNOPSIS –**

This resolution requests Polk County to change the way residents currently pay for the state mandated recycling program.

**FISCAL IMPACT –**

Including the cost of the Curb It! recycling program in the Polk County Tax bill is the preferred way to fund this regional program. If this occurs, a reduction in garbage fees will occur, replaced by an increased tax revenue from the County to cover the cost of the program. An approximate estimation of the annual cost per household follows:

Taxable Property Value	Annual Cost
\$41,250	\$13.61
\$55,000	\$18.51
\$68,750	\$22.68
\$82,500	\$27.23
\$96,250	\$31.76

**RECOMMENDATION –**

**Approval of the Resolution.**

**BACKGROUND –**

In 1989, the Iowa State Legislature mandated that all communities must reduce the amount of

solid waste entering landfills by 25 percent in 1994 and 50 percent by the year 2000. The Metro Waste Authority (MWA) implemented the Curb It! recycling program in 1994 to assist its member communities in meeting the 50 percent goal. This way, one program served the entire regional area. In addition to other recycling programs, Curb It! has reduced the amount of solid waste entering the Metro Park East Sanitary Landfill (MPE) by 35 percent.

The MWA has paid for the program through its tipping fee at MPE; however, deregulation of the solid waste industry has created an immediate need to keep tipping fees as low as possible. In addition, a 1994 Supreme Court ruling deemed ordinance based flow control unconstitutional. Communities can no longer dictate where their solid waste goes.

The MWA Board has directed that unless alternative funding sources to tipping fees can be developed, the MWA will end the program. This would require the City of Des Moines, and all of the other communities in Polk County, to develop and implement their own programs to comply with the state mandate.

Clive, Urbandale, and West Des Moines have passed this resolution.

Attached is a question and answer fax from the MWA which answers common questions.

Attachment