Trends in the Solid Waste Industry

Jesse L. Maxwell
Advocacy & eLearning Program Manager
Solid Waste Association of North America
April 11, 2018
China
What Happened?

February 2013
• *Operation Green Fence*

February 2017
• *National Sword*

April 2017
• *Expanded Prohibited Solid Waste*

May 2017
• *Import Licenses Suspended*
China

What Happened?

July 2017
• China Files Notification

August 2017
• Industry Submits Comments

November 2017
• China Files 2nd Notification

December 2017
• Industry Submits Additional Comments
China

What Happened?

January 2018
• Ban in Effect

March 2018
• New Contamination Standard in Effect
China

What’s Going on Now?
China
What’s Going on Now?

China No Longer Wants Your Trash. Here’s Why That’s Potentially Disastrous.

Huffington Post, 1/24/18

Recycling Chaos In U.S. As China Bans 'Foreign Waste'

- NPR Morning Edition, 12/9/17

Mountains of U.S. recycling pile up as China restricts imports

- USA Today, 1/2/18
China
What’s Going on Now?

Monthly U.S. Plastic Scrap Exports to Mainland China During 2017 (metric tons)
China
What’s Going on Now?

• Coastal States Heavily Affected
  • Oregon, Washington, Massachusetts, Maine

• Stockpiling
  • Allows time to make find new markets
  • Dependent on space & financial factors
  • Materials degrade when exposed outside

• New Markets
  • Domestic - particularly for fiber
  • International - southwest Asia

• Limited Landfilling of Recyclables
  • Some waivers issued by states
China

What’s Next?

• This is a U.S. issue now, not a China issue
• National & international bodies continue discussion with China
• Trade issues have become more complicated since beginning of 2018
• Situation appears to be the new normal
• We know how to fix this
China

*What’s Next?*

**SWANA**

- Recycling Task Force
- Industry Coalition
- National Advocacy
Tax Reform

Tax reform passed by Congress in December 2017

• Corporate tax rate has been cut
  • What will companies actually do with this money?

• More generous depreciation for purchasers of equipment
  • Creates a tailwind for industry CapEx spending
  • Encourages purchase of new equipment
  • Helpful for response to China restrictions
Why Safety Matters

Waste & recycling collection has the 5th highest fatality rate of any job in the U.S.
Safety Matters

• 1 U.S. waste worker died every 10 days last year
• Higher than police officers or firefighters
• Many worker fatalities occur at small employers in the private sector
  • Small and medium-sized haulers
2014 - 2016 National Data

- Collection: 40, 36, 33
- Landfill: 3, 11, 9
- MRF: 0, 3, 1
Collection Fatalities

2011: 33
2012: 26
2013: 36
2014: 40
2015: 36
2016: 33
2017 SWANA Data

126 Fatal Incidents
132 Fatalities

- Both workers & members of the public
- Occurred during collection, at MRFs, TS, landfills, etc.
38 Solid Waste Workers Died

- 23 drivers and helpers out on collection
- 8 at landfills
- 2 at MRFs
- 2 doing maintenance
- 2 at transfer stations
- 1 in the yard
94 members of the public died

- Majority were driver or passenger in a vehicle involved in an accident on the road
- 23 pedestrians
- 8 bicyclists
2018 So Far

• **42 solid waste-related fatalities**
  [3/30/18]

• **17 solid waste workers**

• **25 members of the public**

• **18 fatalities in January alone**
  • One of the worst months in recent memory
Michigan Fatalities 2017-2018

Detroit, Michigan | March 2, 2017
• Vehicle crossed center line colliding with garbage truck

Detroit, Michigan | September 29, 2017
• Helper struck and killed by vehicle

Grand Rapids, Michigan | October 5, 2017
• Garbage truck and pickup truck collided

Ridgeway Township, Michigan | December 18, 2017
• Garbage truck struck stopped roll-off truck

Kalkaska County, Michigan | March 6, 2018
• Vehicle crossed center line colliding with garbage truck
SWANA
Solid Waste Association of North America

• Largest waste and recycling association in the United States and Canada
• 10,000+ individual members
• SWANA’s core programs focus on education, certification/training, research, and safety!

Jesse L. Maxwell
240-494-2237
jmaxwell@swana.org