



P O Box 999 Carbondale, CO 81623  
 (970) 963-3435  
 mountainwaste.com

**Important Notice  
 Your Rates Are Changing  
 Effective March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016**

**We Strongly Support Recycling  
 and More Landfill Diversion to  
 Give Our Local Landfills More Life.**

Please go to our web site for more information about the challenges we all face regarding recycling in our area.  
**mountainwaste.com**

To Our Customers:

We sincerely thank you for Recycling for your environmental services. It is our privilege to serve you at your home, business, construction site, or special event.

choosing Mountain Waste &

**◆ FIRST, THE GOOD NEWS! AT THIS TIME, WE ARE ELIMINATING ALL FUEL SURCHARGES**

With the continuing low price of diesel fuel we are pleased to announce that we are **removing fuel surcharges on your account effective March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016**. Please remember that fuel is a significant component of our cost and if the price of diesel fuel goes back up to \$2.30 per gallon or more we will be forced to implement a fuel surcharge once again.

**◆ SECOND, THERE WAS A LANDFILL DISPOSAL INCREASE ON JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2016. We have increased your rate accordingly effective March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. This increase is included in your new rate.**

**◆ NOW, THE MORE COMPLEX MESSAGE:**

**Where Can We Take Our Recyclables?**

In November, 2014, Pitkin County made the difficult decision to limit the amounts of recyclables that they accept from the various service providers in Pitkin and Garfield counties. For decades this has been the only location accepting recyclables in the area. We fully understand why Pitkin County would make this difficult decision, they were losing a reported \$350,000 per year in the process. Their decision was based on the extraordinary amounts of money necessary to accumulate recyclables and prepare them for shipment to full-service processing plants elsewhere in Colorado. We hope you will join us in thanking Pitkin County for their years of embracing recycling, and their willingness to bear its cost on behalf of all of us.

All haulers are now limited to 40 tons per year at Pitkin County – For Mountain Waste that is about 2 weeks’ worth of recyclables. So we as a company, and you as someone who wants to recycle, are faced with the challenge of where we can take our recyclables. This is a uniquely profound change for all of us locally. Because of this, we have no other option but to take our recyclables to two different facilities:

- Recycling processing center owned by Eagle County in Wolcott, CO (60 miles away)
- Recycling processing center owned by Alpine Waste & Recycling in Denver (180 miles away)



**Recycling Drop Off Centers Face Challenges**

The various drop off centers in our region are also challenged by the high cost of transportation of recyclables to these distant processing facilities. As the cost of curbside recycling service goes up at home, more people have begun to utilize the region’s recycling drop off centers, but

- Pitkin County has closed several recycling drop off centers (downtown Basalt is an example)

- The remaining drop off center in Basalt off Willits Lane is owned by Waste Management, Inc., the nation's largest waste corporation, and has been accepting temporary subsidies from the Town of Basalt in order to remain open
- The City of Glenwood Springs is considering a land swap with the school district which may eliminate its drop off center on School Street

As a result of the increased costs associated with recycling, residents can expect drop off centers to become more restrictive as to who may utilize each center (for example, residents who live within that jurisdiction only). We can see the future possibility of drop off centers charging a fee to users.

### **More Recyclables Are Being Taken to Work by Employees**

Some of our customers who own businesses have shared with us that their employees have begun bringing recyclables to the workplace location. In a few instances employers have addressed the situation by providing additional containers for recyclables. In other workplaces, employers have asked the employees not to continue the activity due to the additional cost to the business.

### **State of Colorado Planning – State Adopts Hub & Spoke Recycling Concept for Rural Areas**

The State of Colorado is currently revising its Solid Waste and Materials Diversion Plan. Pitkin County is revising its own Solid Waste Management Plan and there is an increased call for a regional approach to solid waste planning within our area. These plans will possibly increase recycling goals and perhaps set more aggressive targets for material diversion from landfills.

Also, the State of Colorado has adopted a hub and spoke model of processing recyclables from rural and mountain areas. Our area is just one spoke leading to the larger recycling facilities in Denver (the hubs) so that more waste diversion can take place in our state. These facilities are increasing their rates for processing recyclables to haulers around the state who bring materials to them (*see attached letter from Alpine Waste & Recycling announcing their fee increase from \$25 per ton to \$36 per ton effective March 1, 2016*). **It currently costs us about \$80 per ton to transport the recyclables to Denver and an additional fee of \$36 per ton to empty our trucks at the facility – a total of \$116 per ton.** We can take these same materials to the most expensive landfill in our area for literally half the cost, but is that the right thing to do?

---

### **OUR PRICING**

At Mountain Waste & Recycling, we have taken the time to evaluate the effects of the Pitkin County recycling facility limits and the impacts of additional transportation costs of getting materials from here to the most logical processing facilities before reaching out to our customers with our long term plans. That time is now.

We are required by nearly all of our local governments to offer some form of recycling. Some towns are now contemplating mandatory compost collection at the curb. The local governments prefer (and often require) that we charge more for trash collection and less for recycling in order to “incentivize” you to recycle more materials and divert more from the landfills. For example, the City of Aspen will not allow us to charge a fee for recycling. The city ordinance requires us to offer recycling. In order for us to cover any extra cost of recycling, we can only increase the trash portion of the bill. Now that we are forced to transport recyclables great distances, these extra cost will be passed along to you on your trash bill.

---

**Because of these cost impacts, you will see a change in the rates we charge for environmental services at your home or business effective March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.**

We have placed a great deal of information on our new web site to educate our customers about the environmental services we provide. We have a special section about the challenges of recycling and waste diversion in our rural area.

***PLEASE GO TO MOUNTAINWASTE.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.***

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the information in this letter, please feel free to contact us at (970) 963-3435.