



TOWN OF MILLINOCKET  
**SOILD WASTE & RECYCLING**

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RALPH SOUCIER, DIRECTOR



**To:** Richard Angotti, Interim Manager

**Ref:** Millinocket Recycling

May of 2020 the Town Officials decided to shut down part of the Recycling process at the Millinocket Transfer Station due to the risk of the Covid-19 outbreak. That specific process is packaging the Cardboard, Plastic Containers, News & Magazines, Mixed Paper, and Steel Cans being sorted “by hand”, bailed, and shipped as a recycle market item to capture revenue at that day’s pricing. We wanted to keep the employee’s and public as safe as possible without handling those loose products. At that time, we had to reduce the workforce by two employees which lowered the operating budget by a little more than \$40,000 including benefits.

The other factor at that time was we were hauling garbage to a new facility at Hampden Maine that started up which their process was to recycle the whole trash stream including recyclable items all together, so we did not have to separate out those items from the trash stream.

The other half of the recycling process was kept operational in the yard in which the public could drop off Scrap Metal, White Goods, Shingles and Lite Demo, and Tires in which there is a fee structure for those items for revenue.

Typically, the Recycle Facility for all “hand sorted” products average \$77/Ton in revenue back to the Town based on approximately 148 tons/year. Ex.  $\$75 \times 150 \text{ tons} = \$11,250$  annually. That 148 tons would be removed from the trash stream tipping fees to save  $150 \text{ tons} \times 72.25/\text{ton} = \$10,838$  annually. Total would be \$22,088.

It has been a question from the public “Why are we not recycling anymore”? So right now, we would have to hire back two more employees at a cost of \$49,824 annually, to make an average of \$11,250 of revenue from the “hand sorted” products as listed above based on 150 tons/year, and we would save 150 tons from being thrown in the trash stream at \$ 10,838. The purchase of bailing wires and straps, along with fork-lift fuel and more heat for the building would also have to be added.

$\$49,824 - \$22,088 = \$ 27,736$  plus forklift fuel of \$400 and Wires and Strapping materials at \$1,200 for a total of \$ 29,336.

\$49,824 would have to be added to the labor Part Time budget line, and \$1,600 to the supplies line budget line for a total of \$51,424 to re-coop \$29,336 in revenue if 150 tons / year where recycled and shipped, and kept out of the trash stream

Break-even point would be 350 tons of recycled product based on market value of \$75/ton.

Being based all on assumptions, the Town would need to increase recycling from 150 tons/year to 350 tons/year at market \$75/ton, or the market value of these products would have to increase considerably.

To give you a feel for what we have recycled in the past which stayed relatively consistent from year to year:

Product	Tons Shipped	Trailer Loads/Year	Market Value	Net Revenue
MIXEDPAPER	22	1	\$9/TON	\$ 198
NEWS&MAGS	44	2	\$54/TON	\$ 2,376
CARDBOARD	122	5	\$87/TON	\$10,614
STEEL CANS	6	1	\$140/TON	\$ 840
HDPE PLASTIC	4	1	\$454/TON	\$ 1,816

TOTAL = \$13,468

Respectfully submitted,  
Ralph T. Soucier