

## Environment Committee – Recycling Collection and Market Impacts

Feb. 18, 2020

10 AM to Noon

Hosted by the City of Elmhurst

Elmhurst City Hall, 209 N. York St., Elmhurst

It has been two years since China stopped allowing plastic waste to be imported into its country in what is known as the National Sword policy. This Environment Committee meeting will cover [how this has affected the recycling market in the United States](#) so far and what municipalities can expect in the future. Have waste haulers and municipalities been able to reduce contamination in order for recycling to become profitable? If not, will municipalities pay more in their contracts for recycling or even consider [canceling their recycling programs](#)? We will explore whether recycling markets are healthy enough to support municipal recycling, what municipalities can do to improve the situation, and innovative solutions that have emerged to address the problem.

Specifically:

- The Executive Directors of the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) and the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) will discuss market issues and provide insight from negotiating dozens of municipal contracts, including what municipalities should look out for and best practices.
- In 2021, recycling plastic could become even more difficult with changing regulations, which a U.S. EPA expert will discuss. However, there are actions municipalities can take to address this problem.
- Lake County conducted a waste audit at five of its government buildings, as part of a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions assessment. Two Greenest Region Corps Members will discuss the waste and recycling findings from this audit, as well as a [new cart tagging program SWALCO implemented](#) and whether it's effective at changing residents' recycling behavior.
- The [City of Elmhurst](#) offers a variety of recycling options and programs for residents. After hearing an overview of Elmhurst's recycling events and options, we invite you to share ideas and resources on what you are doing in your municipality, what has worked, and areas where you need more assistance.

The agenda will be finalized and provided before the meeting.

We will offer remote participation, but nothing can substitute the value of being in the room to hear the conversation. If you need to join remotely, please dial (425) 535-9896, access code: 684-078-793. Go to <https://join.startmeeting.com/cscott> to view the presentations.

Parking: Free, three-hour parking is available in the Hahn Street parking garage. The entrance to this garage that is closest to Elmhurst City Hall is best found by typing 242 N. York St. into a GPS, rather than the garage's official address (123 Hahn St.). Elmhurst City Hall is one block south, at 209 N. York St. On-street parking in the area is also free for three hours.