

October 2011

Dear Resident,

The Town of Sweden opened the Sweden Recycling Center in June 1993 with a 10-punch pass card costing \$20. In July 2000 the price of the pass rose to \$25; and in 2006 the price increased to \$50 for a 10-punch pass card. Despite these increases, Town of Sweden taxpayers are subsidizing the operation of the recycling center at an ever-growing rate.

At the same time, the number of households using the recycling center has declined. This decline is despite our efforts to publicize the service through advertising, in our town newsletter, on our website and at our town facilities. The simple fact is that the private sector offers a more convenient alternative (curbside collection) that does not cost much more than the Town's service.

The Sweden Town Board has decided to **terminate operation of the Recycling Center as of December 31, 2011**. That gives recycling center patrons a little over two months to make other arrangements for refuse disposal.

In the meantime, we will continue to sell recycling passes, urging patrons to only purchase what they need to see them through the end of the year. We will allow patrons to purchase "partial" punch cards. For example, if you know that you will only need three more punches to make it to the end of December, you will be able to purchase just three punches.

In addition, patrons who have 2011 passes with punches left on them will be able to redeem the unused punches for a refund. This only applies to passes issued in 2011. To redeem the punches, all you have to do is drop the pass off or mail it to the Town Hall. A refund check will be issued (we cannot refund cash). All redemptions of 2011 passes must be submitted by March 1, 2012. Any passes not submitted by that date will not be redeemed.

In an effort to inform as many residents as possible, we will issue press releases to the local newspapers and will be taking out ads in the coming weeks. We have sent this letter to every resident who purchased a recycling pass in 2011 and we will have flyers at the recycling center and town hall.

Thank you for your patronage of the Sweden Recycling Center and for your understanding that efficiency and cost sometimes dictates the end of a service.

Sincerely,

The Sweden Town Board