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Bartholomew County Solid Waste Management District

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## **Bartholomew County Solid Waste Management District to End Commercial Cardboard Recycling Program, New Recycling Facility Announced**

COLUMBUS, Indiana – August 1, 2025 – The Bartholomew County Solid Waste Management District announced plans to discontinue its Commercial Cardboard and Office Paper Program for area businesses, effective Sept. 8, 2025.

“After careful consideration and a detailed financial analysis our Commercial Recycling operation, it was determined that our Commercial Cardboard and Office Paper Program is no longer fiscally responsible to continue to fund,” said Heather Siesel, Director of the Bartholomew County Solid Waste Management District. “While this was not an easy decision to make, it’s our job to consistently assess our programs to ensure economic viability with our use of public funds while also providing quality waste management and reduction services. We appreciate those businesses who have participated in the program over the years and hope they decide to continue Commercial recycling services with another provider.”

Around 230 businesses currently participate in the cardboard collection program, which began in 1994. The decision to discontinue the program was discussed and voted on at a Solid Waste Management Board of Directors meeting on July 24.

In addition to the collection change, the Bartholomew County Solid Waste Management District is also partnering with Rumpke Waste & Recycling on a new commercial recycling facility located at the Bartholomew County Landfill, located at 811 East 450 South in Columbus. The facility will accept source-separated cardboard as well as a variety of common, mixed recyclable items such as paper, plastic, glass and metal. Facility construction is slated to begin in August with an expected opening date this fall. When it opens, commercial deliveries to the Columbus/Bartholomew Recycling Center, located at 720 South Mapleton Street, will be eliminated.

“Earlier this year, we met with the City of Columbus and the Bartholomew County Solid Waste Management District to discuss opportunities to better manage the acceptance and transfer of recyclable materials generated locally,” said Eric Curtis, region vice president, Rumpke. “We’re excited to construct a new commercial recycling facility to provide an efficient, cost-effective and centrally located recycling solution for the community. This facility will help better manage the transfer of material and hopefully increase the volume of recyclable material captured, diverting more material from the landfill.”

The commercial recycling facility will feature an open-air concrete pad with containment walls and litter fencing to contain material. Cardboard will be loaded into tractor trailers and transported to Rumpke’s recycling facility in Medora, Ind., where it will be baled and sent to Indiana manufacturers to produce new products. Mixed recyclables will be transferred to Rumpke’s recycling facility in Cincinnati for sorting and processing.