

Planning for backhaul....it's never too early to start!

Are you are planning to backhaul out any waste materials next spring or summer, such as batteries, computers, tv's, scrap metal, etc)? It may seem like a long way off, but the time is now to start planning for backhaul next year, particularly if you rely on barges that only come in the summer.

Through our technical assistance program, we've worked with several communities that carried out backhaul this year, and the number one piece of advice from them is to **start preparing as soon as you can** (even a year early!). Everything **takes longer than you think**, and **early planning allows you to maximize what you're sending out for the least amount of money**.

This bulletin contains "lessons learned" from a number of Coastal and Middle Kuskokwim communities—such as Newtok, Tununak, Chefornek, Kipnuk, Akiachak, Tuluksak, Nightmute, Toksook Bay, Kwethluk, Quinhagak, Hooper Bay, and many more. They all have carried out successful backhaul projects within the last two years! Follow these steps to help you best prepare for your own backhaul project next summer.

Step 1 - Determine your inventory.

Almost all of your planning will require knowing what and how much you have to ship out. Carrying out a full inventory of what you've got will help you figure out the most cost efficient way to ship your materials out, where you'll be shipping them to, how many supplies you'll need, etc. You can use the links below to download forms to fill out during the inventory. Start now with counting all the materials you have before winter arrives to avoid access issues for where your materials are stored. One community we talked to couldn't get into their connex full of materials all winter because snow/ice blocked access. By the time they were able to get in, they were too late to prepare the materials for the first barge. You can also count/tally materials that people have stored at their homes so you know the full amount of what you'll be shipping out. By the time spring comes around, you will probably have more materials to add to your inventory. But it is much easier to add to an existing list versus having to do a huge inventory last minute. And remember, getting your inventory numbers early allows you to plan everything else for the backhaul.

www.zendergroup.org/docs/backhaul_inv.docx

www.zendergroup.org/docs/avg_annual_generation_future_backhaul.xls

Step 2 - If needed, prepare the backhaul material for safe storage.

If you have any unsafe materials, or you need them out of the way, store them while you work on the rest of the steps. For example, store batteries off the ground and in a covered space. You can hold a collection event in your community to gather materials that should be stored in a safe area (this will also help you get more accurate numbers for your inventory).

www.zendergroup.org/reuse_shed.html



Step 3 - Contact your vendor—that means the company that you are sending your materials/waste to.

- Ask about their packaging or other requirements
- Double check what materials they take and don't take
- Set up an account and negotiate rates. You might have to pay them to take materials, or they may pay you if the materials are valuable. If you get a good rate that isn't always offered, request it in writing.
- Ask for suggestions for transport companies
- Find out if they can pick up from the port or airport

www.zendergroup.org/docs/backhaul_transport.pdf

www.zendergroup.org/docs/recycling_buyback.pdf

www.zendergroup.org/docs/Who_to_contact_for_backhaul_assistance.pdf

Step 4 - Contact your transporter

- Ask about their packaging, labeling, and paperwork requirements
- Negotiate a rate that you pay them (or try to get it free of charge!). If you negotiate a discounted rate, be sure to write down their names and get it in writing with an agreement from them as soon as you can.
- Work out a schedule for getting the material to them
- Find out if they can deliver all the way to the vendor. If not - you'll need to find a middleman transport company, or another kind-hearted company or person, to pick it up from the port or airport (or train station) and deliver it to the vendor.
- If you're going to be shipping by barge, find out what connexes are available for you to use. Be sure to call them before the barge comes to let them know the exact connex number for them to pickup.

www.zendergroup.org/docs/backhaul_transport.pdf

www.zendergroup.org/docs/moa_backhaul.docx

www.zendergroup.org/docs/backhaul_trans_requestletter.pdf

Step 5 - Gather the supplies that you need and get training

Once you know what you'll be shipping and what the packing requirements will be, you can start ordering supplies that you'll need such as pallets, shrink wrap, totes, banding equipment etc. You can also order safety gear so that you have everything you need when it comes time to handling the materials. Planning early also means getting training that might be needed so that you and your workers are best prepared to safely handle materials (for example HAZWOPER training if you will be handling hazardous wastes). You can also learn more about the process of properly packing materials so you and your staff know exactly what to do when it's time to package the materials. You can get this information by talking to your vendor and transport company over the phone or stopping by their office when in town to get information in person. If you will be in town, consider asking them to give you a hands-on demonstration of how to pack. You can also, read the documents listed on this page, and remember to watch the videos in the links given in Step 6. Several communities have now successfully packaged their materials simply by watching these films.

www.zendergroup.org/docs/backhaul_supplies.pdf

www.zendergroup.org/docs/HAZWOPER.pdf



Step 6 - Package and stage the material, if you haven't already.

If you have a lot of materials to ship out, and you have the supplies and safety gear you need, you can always get an early start packaging your materials -- especially if you have a place to store the finished product (such as a connex). Packed materials are typically much safer to have around your community, than unpacked ones. And if you're shipping out by barge, exact arrival dates can be unpredictable. The sooner you have all your materials packaged and ready to go, the less stress it will be. You also need to make sure your materials are labeled properly and that you fill out the correct shipping forms. This step can take time and if you're not sure how to fill out the paperwork, you want to leave enough time to get the assistance you need.

Be sure to label your materials properly:

- include name, address, and contact info for *you*, and
- include name, address, and contact for the *vendor*

www.zendergroup.org/packing.html

www.zendergroup.org/labels.html

www.zendergroup.org/ship_forms.html

www.zendergroup.org/backhaul_videos.html



Step 7 - Contact the vendor to let them know when the material will arrive. Give them a list of connex numbers if shipping by barge.



More Backhaul Tips Shared by Villages!!



Safety first- Order safety gear first. Gloves, masks, suits, boots. Your safety is always important, especially for handling household hazardous wastes. Make sure you also get the training you might need to get the job done safely (such as HAZWOPER training). When you rush to try to get the job done before the barge comes, and decide to wear no protection while moving batteries, you're at risk for burning your skin. Please, order your supplies before jumping into the work.

Start your collection early- Find a connex or shelter for your materials that is out of the rain, and away from kids. Tell everyone in your community what you're collecting and where they can take their materials so you maximize what you can ship out.



Outreach - Teach everyone about hazards to the environment and people in the context and purpose of collecting the household hazardous wastes. When people understand the role and importance of recycling and separating materials, it will lead to a more successful backhaul program.

Inventory - Again, get your inventory done as soon as possible. Count all your electronics, batteries, lights, all your materials. It takes time to get everything counted, but best to start soon because the barge won't wait for you! Once you know what you've got, you'll be able to figure out the amount of packing supplies you'll need, what size container you'll need to ship the materials in, and how much it will cost.



Things to think about:



The barge often comes quicker than expected.

The barge sometimes won't come on the last run of the season so you might not be able to count on it - for reasons such as low tide or no cargo. It's better to *plan to ship on the first barge* and then if that one doesn't happen, you'll have a 2nd chance with the next one, and you'll be prepared and ready to go.



Keep track of your budget at all times so you know what you have available to spend when it's crunch time.

Follow directions that the recycler (vendor) or shipper gives- ask as many questions as you need to understand how to complete the work



Keep a tracking/log sheet. As you're filling up a connex, *log everything going inside*. It helps to keep track of what you have and what is packed, which will help you when filling out shipping forms.

Prioritize your materials to backhaul - hazardous wastes are usually the most important materials to send out first. While they are bulky and take up landfill space, white goods and scrap metals, pose much less of a health risk compared to hazardous wastes.



Need help or more information?

If you need help planning and preparing for backhaul, call or email Zender Environmental. We can provide free assistance. 907 277 2111 ssebalo@zendergroup.org For more backhaul information and resources see our website at www.zendergroup.org/backhaul.html



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