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Frederick News Post
Letter To The Editor

The Common Market has taken a step to reduce waste in Frederick County by offering a five cent per bag credit to local charities for every bag that customers bring in and reuse. This is timely since we now have special interests trying to build a trash incinerator, and stick the taxpayers with hundreds of millions of dollars of bonds. This will actually create an incentive to be wasteful, as the bonds will be paid back by charging for dumping. There will also be an incentive to bring in trash from outside the region.

The good news is that we have barely scratched the surface of waste reduction. We could start with mandatory recycling, while at the same time making it easier to recycle. There are companies that will work with us to take our waste and produce it into usable products such as pallets, recycling bins, dumpsters etc. which they then sell back to us. Jobs can be created by local entrepreneurs in recycling and reuse. The really big benefits go beyond recycling to reducing the creation of waste in the first place. For example some restaurants produce vast amounts of waste by using disposable plates, cups, and napkins, which can be replaced with reusable products. Businesses may need incentives to make these things happen, however these would be small compared to the cost of an incinerator.

We suffer from a lack of vision, leading to the current supposed “crisis”. Let’s have the creative minds of our community come up with dozens of solutions, at a tiny fraction of the cost of an incinerator.

Chris Hodge