

Report Shows Green Ridge Recycling and Disposal Facility is Consistent with Environmental Justice Principles

Cumberland County, VA –Green Ridge Recycling and Disposal Facility, LLC (Green Ridge), released the findings of a study which examined the demographic and economic make-up of the area surrounding the Green Ridge facility in Cumberland County. By all objective measures, the location of the proposed Green Ridge facility does not disproportionately impact minorities or low-income communities. On the contrary, people living within 5 miles of the site (6.2-mile radius from the center of the site)¹ enjoy an average income higher than the state average of rural localities and make up a minority population smaller than the state average.

The study was conducted by Mangum Economics, one of Virginia’s leading independent firms that specializes in objective economic analyses. Key findings of the report include:

Race

- The percentage (19%) of black residents within 6.2 miles is equal to that of the statewide population in Virginia (19%). Furthermore, the percentage (18%) of black residents within 2.2 miles and the percentage (18%) of black residents within 4.2 miles is slightly less than of the statewide population (19%).
- Within Cumberland County, the percentage of black residents within 1 mile and the percentage of black residents within 6.2 miles (19% and 24%, respectively) is less than the percentage of black residents in Cumberland County as a whole (30%).

Income

- The median household income within 1 mile, 2.2 miles, 4.2 miles and 6.2 miles (\$52,699, \$54,614, \$54,520 and \$52,948, respectively) is significantly higher than the median household income in rural localities of Virginia (\$40,153).
- Within Cumberland County, the median household income within 1 mile (\$50,775) is higher than the median household income countywide (\$45,328).

Home Values

- The median housing value (\$174,120) of the homes within 6.2 miles is significantly higher than the median housing value across Virginia (\$162,361).
- Within Cumberland County, the median value of homes within 1 mile and the median value of homes within 6.2 miles (\$138,439 and \$138,689, respectively) is approximately equal to the median housing value countywide (\$139,570).

¹ To include all people living within 5 miles of the facility, a circle with a 6.2-mile radius was drawn around the center of the facility. Similarly, to include all people living within 1 mile of the facility, a 2.2-mile radius circle was drawn around the center of the facility. To include all people living within 3 miles of the facility, a 4.2-mile radius circle was drawn around the center of the facility.

Employment

- The employment level of residents within 1 mile, 2.2 miles, 4.2 miles and 6.2 miles (95%, 96%, 96% and 96%, respectively) is approximately equal to the employment level across Virginia (97%).
- Within Cumberland County, the employment level of residents within 1 mile and the employment level within 6.2 miles (94% and 95%, respectively) is approximately equal to the employment level countywide (95%).

“Green Ridge is fully committed to the principles of environmental justice and we have worked tirelessly to ensure that this project follows those principles,” said Jerry Cifor, Manager of Green Ridge. “Green Ridge will continue to respect historic resources, including the Pine Grove School, and go above and beyond to mitigate any potential impact on these important treasures.”

Green Ridge and its parent company, County Waste, have been working for the past several years to gain a permit for a landfill in Virginia. Their efforts started by canvassing Central Virginia in search of a willing host for the landfill. After meeting with multiple localities across the state, County Waste determined the best locality for the landfill was Cumberland County. The location was selected for its accessibility to County Waste’s service territory, its proximity to a state highway, the rural, sparsely populated nature of the county, and the geology and hydrology of the site. It is just two miles from a previously permitted (and since withdrawn permit) sanitary landfill and shares many characteristics with that previously vetted and approved site in terms of geology, hydrology, groundwater and traffic impact. Following the decision to locate the landfill in Cumberland County, Green Ridge successfully rezoned the proposed site, ratified a host agreement and gained a conditional use permit to operate a landfill by a vote from the Cumberland County Board of Supervisors. In January of 2020, Green Ridge filed its Part A Application for a solid waste landfill to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

The project will generate millions of dollars in annual revenues for Cumberland County as well as jobs and other economic opportunities for residents. The project is also vital to localities throughout Central and Southwest Virginia, as evidenced by the letters of support from localities, including the counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Botetourt, Buckingham, Chesterfield, Culpeper, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Hanover, Madison, Prince Edward and Prince George, the City of Colonial Heights, the towns of Ashland and Culpeper, and the Rappahannock Regional Solid Waste Management Board.

For a copy of the full report and to learn more about the Green Ridge Recycling and Disposal Facility, visit GreenRidgeVA.com.

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