

## Recommendations

The Solid Waste Committee recommends a program similar to what was offered pre-Covid. We have termed this a “hybrid” program with a combination of source separation and single stream. Silver Bullets or trucking of recycling could be part of the program when markets are not favorable to source-separation.

- Space for the program should be at least 10,000 square feet; vertical storage options may lower this number

- If curbside recycling is offered, it would require more space in the facility (See note below.) This would not be storage space but a place to contain and process material as it is collected.)

Pros:

- Convenience (especially people with mobility needs)
- more people participating/less recycling in waste stream
- In 2018 1,000 bags collected each month demonstrating resident participation

Cons:

- Historically high rates of contamination
- Plastic bags become trash
- Cost of labor to process material for hauling
- Cost of picking up bag \$.75

- Program should take advantage of recycling markets when possible/feasible to help offset costs.

- Look for ways to divert items from the waste/recycling stream to encourage reuse and help bring down costs, for example crushing glass for fill or processing mixed paper into fire bricks.

- Program should include an area/space for a Swap Shop of 1,000 square feet. This may require an organized volunteer component.

- Facility must meet ADA requirements for safety and accessibility for employees and the public, and include adequate heating and a restroom facility for both staff and the public.

- Program should include an ongoing education component for the community about what can be recycled, what cannot be recycled, and the background on why.

- Ideally, the building will serve as a transfer station to allow for storage of some materials.

- Solid Waste manager position should offer adequate hours to manage the program in a forward-thinking and creative manner, with duties that include coordination of waste removal, research on possible revenue markets, education about the program for the public.

- Consider increasing the cost of trash tags to \$3 to help offset costs of the program.

FYI: It currently costs \$3.15 to dispose of a 25-lb trash bag. (\$2.05 pickup + \$1.10 disposal @\$88/ton tipping fee). The average weight of a bag is around 16 lbs. It should be noted that in 2006, when trash tags went from \$2 to \$2.50, there was a significant increase in the use of dumpsters and loss of trash tag sales. The increase to \$2.50 covered the cost of trash pickup, disposal AND recycling bag collection at that time. If the town resumed curbside collection of recycling, trash tags would need to cost approximately \$4 each to cover the cost.