

COST SHIFTING ANALYSIS

Moving solid waste services from Public funding to Private funding

Step 1: Trash:

- Public funding price on a per bag basis
- Private funding price on a per dumpster per month basis

Number of bags needed to be cost neutral: 20 bags/Month

Assumes:

- a) Smallest dumpster available through Riverside
- b) Dumpster emptied every 2 weeks
- c) Trash tickets at self sustaining rate of \$3.60/tag
- d) Does not cover 1 time dumpster delivery fee of \$75

Step 2: Eliminating Recycling:

Total Municipal budget:	\$2,165,619
Solid Waste Department (SWD) net budget:	112,379 ¹²
Percentage of Municipal budget for SWD ($\$112,379 \div 2,165,619$)	5.2%
<u>Percent of total taxes for municipal budget</u>	<u>30.5%³</u>
Percentage of Total Taxes for SWD	1.6%

Savings on a \$5,000 tax bill ($\$5,000 \times 1.6\%$) = \$80/year \$6.67/month or less than 2 trash tags/month (assuming \$3.60/tag)

COST NEUTRAL \approx 18 bags of trash monthly

¹ Source: Town Report

² If trash tickets were self sustaining at \$3.60 figure would be \$92,379

³ From Bowdoinham Tax Bills

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OTHER CONSIDERATIONS TO ELIMINATING SOLID WASTE SERVICES

- I. **Citizen preference**, and willingness to pay through trash tags and taxes:
 - A. 2020 Recycling survey 91.3% of citizens indicated having a facility where residents can bring recycling and waste material was either strongly, or very strongly endorsed.
 - B. 2023 informal Facebook feedback indicated strong preference for continuing current trash pick up model
 1. Also indicated in 2023 Facebook feedback indicated strong willingness to increase trash tag pricing to a self-sustaining level
- II. **Disproportionate financial impact** to citizens of lower means and seniors (e.g. snowbirds)
 - A. Taxes are based on valuations meaning citizens with lower valuations will pay less \$\$ than those with higher valuation. As private solid waste disposal is a fixed rate it represents a higher percentage impact to those with lower valuations.
- III. **Administrative burden** on citizens to individually contract with private trash hauler.
 - A. Initial availability of dumpsters, with an entire town requesting dumpsters there will be deficit of dumpster availability until private haulers can acquire stock the need.
- IV. **Trash dumped** on private property, roadside or piled up at individuals' residences
 - A. Elimination of trash services will result in higher rates of trash dumped on others' private properties, roadside or piling up at residences
 - B. Potential public health hazards
 - C. Responsibility for cleaning up dump sites? Town? Private citizens' property owners?
 - D. Responsibility for addressing public health hazards? Town?
 - E. The SWD currently works with local law enforcement when trash is dumped roadside.
- V. **Items not accepted by private haulers** including hazardous⁴ items. Currently the SWD accepts these items and disposes of them safely
 - A. Bulky Waste
 - B. Paint, electronics, lightbulbs, batteries, etc.
 - C. Dangerous chemicals, e.g. Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) banned in the Toxic Substance Control Act of 1976 PCBs are often found in lighting ballasts in old homes. PCBs have been found to cause liver damage, thyroid dysfunction and cancer.
- VI. **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** legislation
 - A. Will pay towns with recycling program to partially/fully reimburse cost of program - only available to towns with an active program
 - B. First expected payments in 2027 (for programs in effect 2026)
- VII. **Overall environmental concerns** of putting recyclable material in the solid waste stream by eliminating options of recycling.
- VIII. **Cross departmental cooperation**, currently SWD employee(s) help out Public Works in times of need, e.g. snow plowing

⁴ Private haulers can discontinue service if these items are found