

Town of Woodbury Ad-Hoc Waste Advisory Committee Recommendation Report *Draft: January 18, 2024*

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Executive Summary

The Ad-hoc Waste Advisory Committee was formed by the Woodbury Board of Selectmen in November 2023 to recommend a permanent waste, recycling, and food scraps diversion program for Woodbury to replace the existing pilot. *Waste Zero*, the CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP), and the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) served as consultants and advisors to the Committee and the pilot. The Committee met eight times over the following three months, in addition to visiting the transfer station in Portland, CT, and reaching out to similar towns in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

The Committee’s intent was to balance the priorities of minimizing waste, maximizing recycling, handling food waste in an environmentally and fiscally responsible manner, while fairly distributing the costs between users of the transfer station and town taxpayers.

The Committee recommends a full unity-based pricing (Full UBP) program combined with a food-scrap diversion program, as the optimum way to balance these priorities. Details of the recommended program, together with our reasoning, are presented in this report.

Woodbury’s Trash Reduction Pilot

The Town of Woodbury applied for and received a Sustainable Materials Management Grant (SMM) from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for up to \$159,100 to pilot principles of unit-based pricing and organics diversion on a single trash collection route. The contract (ID #2023-155) was executed on December 30, 2022. The Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) entered into a separate contract with DEEP (ID #2023-180) to provide education and outreach services on behalf of Woodbury during the course of the grant.

The Trash Reduction Pilot officially launched on February 7, 2023. In the weeks leading up to the launch, contractor Waste Zero (WZ) and NVCOG distributed bags and information leaflets at the transfer station to as many residents as possible. Residents were asked to use no more than two 15-gallon orange bags per week for trash, one 8-gallon green bag per week for food scraps, and to increase their recycling. Throughout the pilot period, NVCOG engaged in a number of outreach and educational activities designed to increase awareness and build support for this voluntary pilot, such as handing out flyers, holding listening-sessions, presenting to community groups, and distributing free countertop food scrap collection pails. WZ tracked data related to the pilot, which is displayed in Appendix E.

According to the most recent data, Woodbury’s entirely voluntary program is capturing one out of every four pounds, *i.e.*, 25%, of food scraps. Woodbury has reduced overall waste being sent to an incinerator or landfill by 12% compared to last year. Most impressive of all, Woodbury has consistently maintained a contamination rate of just 2%, meaning that residents are putting only organic waste in the green bags

which results in a higher value of feedstock for the anaerobic digester. So, it is clear that the pilot is meeting its intended objective of reducing waste.

The pilot is still running and is scheduled to conclude in February of this year. The Woodbury Waste Advisory Committee feels we have obtained enough qualitative and quantitative data from both the pilot and our own deliberations to present a recommendation to transition to permanence.

Background and Justification

The mission of the Woodbury Waste Advisory Committee is to recommend a path to a permanent waste reduction program to the Board of Selectmen. The motivation for presenting the following recommendation is to increase Woodbury's economic resilience by insulating against rising costs of waste, promote a fairer way of managing waste, and increase environmental sustainability by reducing waste, increasing recycling, and removing food scraps from the waste stream.

The Waste Crisis & Woodbury

New England's waste capacity crisis is well-documented. The [closure of the MIRA trash incinerator](#) in 2022 caused the amount of waste Connecticut ships out to state – routinely as far as Pennsylvania and Ohio – to skyrocket from [17% to 40%](#). Longer transportation routes lead to greater greenhouse gas emissions and environmental justice problems associated with sending our trash to someone else's backyard. Financially, the Town of Woodbury is also feeling the effects of this issue. From FY22-23 to FY23-24, the Town saw an [11.6% increase](#) in waste removal costs. The prior year saw a [33.2% increase](#). This untenable rate of rising costs – projected only to worsen as landfill and incinerator capacity dwindles – has put a significant burden on the municipal budget, and therefore the taxpayers.

Doing Nothing is Not an Option

The Waste Advisory Committee is in strong agreement that doing nothing is not a tenable option. To demonstrate the unsustainability of Woodbury's current waste system, WZ has put together a "do nothing" scenario for 2024. The projection accounts for a higher tipping fee than last year while assuming the same amount of trash is produced and acts as a baseline against which to compare other options. This projection is for illustrative purposes only, and should not be construed as a recommendation:

Woodbury Budget and Pro Forma

WASTE / RECYCLE (10133)	2023-2024	2024-2025
		"Do Nothing"
Expense		
<i>Transfer Station Operators Salary</i>	\$56,208	\$56,208
<i>Landfill Monitoring</i>	\$5,434	\$5,434
<i>Hauling Fees - Bulk</i>	\$18,150	\$18,150
<i>Hauling Fees - Recycle</i>	\$27,000	\$27,000
<i>Bulky Waste/Wood Chipping</i>	\$81,589	\$81,589
<i>Tire Disposal</i>	\$7,250	\$7,250
<i>Freon Disposal</i>	\$3,408	\$3,408
<i>Food Scrap Collection</i>	\$0	\$0
Sub Total Expense	\$199,039	\$199,039
<i>Tipping Fees & Haul</i>	<i>\$140,642</i>	<i>\$151,812</i>
Total Expense	\$339,681	\$350,851
Revenue		
<i>Revenue from Fees</i>	\$54,891	\$54,891
<i>Revenue From Bags</i>	\$0	\$0
Net General Fund Budget	\$284,790	\$295,960
Net Benefit		(\$11,170)

Waste Advisory Committee Guiding Principles

The committee’s guiding philosophy is to reduce Woodbury’s overall waste to save taxpayer money, protect the environment, and maintain a municipal waste management structure that is sustainable in both the short- and long-term. We believe that raising awareness among the community empowers residents to make better choices at the point of generation, resulting in lowering our waste footprint. We also believe that the goal of a waste reduction program should be to cover the costs of hauling, tipping, and administration in a fair and transparent manner and encouraging residents to connect the volume of waste they produce with a dollar amount. There is no intent to design a program that generates a financial surplus or profit.

Community Support

Building consensus and support in the community has been of paramount importance to planning efforts. NVCOG has worked closely with the town of Woodbury to both educate and gather feedback. Below are some positive quotes from Woodbury residents regarding the pilot:

- *"I used to live in [a different state], and we always separated our food scraps there. I was wondering when Connecticut would catch up!"* - Woodbury resident, at an event
- *"My husband and I have been participating in the trash reduction program and we like it very much ...It feels good to be a part of a positive activity that actually creates energy from trash. It's now part of our routine, and we would like to see it continue."* – Woodbury resident, email
- *"For a few weeks now, I've been following the guidelines for the Trash Reduction program. What I'm finding is that I use fewer trash bags. Since the compost goes into its own bag, the other garbage doesn't get stinky, and I can wait and put more trash in the bag. A win-win!"* – Woodbury resident, Facebook
- *"I love the program. I can't believe how much this has reduced the amount of trash I produce each week."* – Woodbury resident, email
- *"I am a Woodbury, CT resident and very happy that we as a town are participating in this trash reduction pilot."* – Woodbury resident, through the app
- *"My daughter and I are absolutely in favor of this program! It has been an eye-opening experience for us, and we have been much more thoughtful regarding our consumption habits and the waste byproduct. I truly hope the Town of Woodbury implements this program on a permanent basis!"* – Woodbury resident, email
- *"I am so proud of Woodbury for taking this on. I feel proud of myself, too. Please continue to offer Earth-friendly, sustainable options. I am here, and I appreciate the efforts."* – Woodbury resident, email

In addition to abundant outreach directed to residents, NVCOG and WZ have presented information regarding permanence planning to the following community groups:

- 9/14 – Board of Selectmen
- 9/18 – Flanders Nature Center
- 9/27 – Board of Finance
- 10/4 – Planning Commission
- 10/5 – Conservation Commission
- 10/19 – Chamber of Commerce
- 11/15 – Democratic Town Committee

NVCOG summarized the reactions of these community groups in this excerpt from their grant report to CT DEEP: "In Woodbury, I have been pleasantly surprised by how well the stakeholder groups (listed above) responded to both the food scrap and UBP components of planning for permanence. The questions I received were relevant, and the great majority of people appeared to be in support of a permanent program with both components. Most of the comments I received were questions about particulars." The Board of Selectmen even received a support letter from Flanders Nature Center after their meeting, encouraging adoption of a permanent program.

Recommended Program: Full Unit-Based Pricing and Food Scrap Diversion

After deliberations that have taken place over three months and seven meetings, the Woodbury Waste Advisory Committee recommends that the Town adopt a full unit-based pricing and food scrap program for its transfer station users. The details of this plan are outlined below.

1. Residents will be required to use town-branded bags for all waste brought to the transfer station. Other bags will not be accepted.
2. Woodbury will work with a provider to design color-coded, Town-branded bags for trash and separate bags for food waste. These bags will be stocked directly with local retailers.
 - a. Bags will be priced to include the price of the bag and the true cost of disposal for the material that is in the bag. Bag revenue will therefore cover the cost of municipal waste disposal rather than drawing on tax income. Bag prices are shown below.
3. Residents will still need to purchase \$25 transfer station permits.
4. Residents will bring trash and food waste in their respective bags to the transfer station, and place them in separate receptacles.
 - a. Only Town-branded bags will be accepted for trash.
 - b. Food waste may be brought either in town- branded (green) bags or no bag at all (per anaerobic digester specifications).
5. Woodbury will enter into a contract with a food scrap hauler to bring those bags to an anaerobic digester or compost facility. Trash will be sent to its regular destination.

Thus, residents will be incentivized to maximize recycling, divert food scraps, and change their behavior to minimize their own costs and save tax money by reducing trash.

With the help of WZ, the Committee has determined the following bag costs and sizes:

Bags	Gallons	Cost
Trash		
Large Bag	33 gallons	\$1.65
Medium Bag	13 gallons	\$1.00
Small Bag	8 gallons	\$0.75
Food Scraps		
Small Bag	8 gallons	\$0.25
Mini Bag	4 gallons	\$0.15

Local retailers who have confirmed agreement to stock town-branded bags include New Morning Market, LaBonne’s Market, and Woodbury Saw & Motor. Additional, potential retailers include Agway, Ace Hardware, and other grocers and hardware stores throughout the town.

In the subsections below, we expand upon the strategies informing this plan, particulars around education and enforcement, expected cost to residents, and the projected benefits to Woodbury.

Financial Projections

WZ has developed the following financial projections for this program:

Woodbury Budget and Pro Forma- 2024/25	
WASTE / RECYCLE (10133)	<i>Lg \$1.65 , Sm\$1.00, Mini, \$0.75</i>
Expense	
<i>Transfer Station Operators Salary</i>	\$56,208
<i>Landfill Monitoring</i>	\$5,434
<i>Hauling Fees - Bulk</i>	\$18,150
<i>Hauling Fees - Recycle</i>	\$27,000
<i>Bulky Waste/Wood Chipping</i>	\$81,589
<i>Tire Disposal</i>	\$7,250
<i>Freon Disposal</i>	\$3,408
<i>Food Scrap Collection</i>	\$18,000
Sub Total Expense	\$217,039
<i>Tipping Fees & Haul</i>	<i>\$75,906</i>
Total Expense	\$292,945
Revenue	
<i>Revenue from Fees</i>	\$54,891
<i>Revenue From Bags</i>	\$73,213
Net General Fund Budget	\$164,840
Net Benefit	\$119,950

Unit-Based Pricing

The term Unit-Based Pricing (UBP), also called “Pay-as-You-Throw”, refers to a system where the cost waste disposal is built into the price of designated town-branded bags that residents must purchase at local retailers. Connecting the amount of waste produced to the price paid by residents motivates behavior change and when implemented has effectively reduced waste in communities across New England and the world.

This represent a departure from Woodbury’s current system, where a household pays a flat fee for a transfer station permit and the balance of disposal costs are paid for by taxes. There is no connection

between the amount of waste a household produces and the amount they pay. This system would be considered unfair if we used it for other utilities, like electricity. It also provides no incentive for a household to reduce its waste – indeed, those who produce more than the average amount of waste in Woodbury actually benefit from being subsidized by their less wasteful neighbor’s taxes and the taxes of residents who do not use the transfer station, such as condo residents and those who contract with a private waste hauler.

In addition to redistributing the payment structure more fairly, UBP has an additional key benefit – it incentivizes waste reduction at its source. Take, for instance, Brattleboro, Vermont. When they implemented UBP, their average weekly waste generation dropped 59% from 15.5 tons/wk to 6.4 tons/wk. For reference, Brattleboro is roughly the same size as Woodbury (population of 12,000 compared to Woodbury’s 10,000). Other examples include Sandwich, MA which saw a 49% drop; Hanson, MA which saw a 64% drop; and Duxbury, MA which transformed from having three times as much trash as recycling to equal amounts. Charts for these communities are available in Appendix A.

It is reasonable to ask where is all the waste no longer collected under UBP going? According to the 2015 DEEP Waste Characterization study, around 22% of the waste stream is food scraps. Additionally, another 38% of the waste stream is material that could and should have been recycled in single-stream recycling. When people are incentivized to separate out food scraps and recycle as much as possible, that leaves only the 40% of what is currently being thrown out as waste. Additionally, consumers make better choices, use reusable bags for groceries, opt for products with less packaging, and change their habits – because of the price incentive and raised awareness. We have copious examples of UBP programs working well across the United States and beyond. Finally, we also know that illegal dumping has not been observed to increase with the implementation of such programs, although Woodbury already has ordinances in place to fine violators (more detail on this later).

For these reasons, the Waste Advisory Committee agrees that any successful waste reduction program must be founded upon unit-based pricing.

Food Scrap Diversion

Food scraps comprise 22.3% of the average Connecticut trash can, according to a 2015 Waste Characterization Study. CT DEEP describes organics as “the largest opportunity to increase Connecticut waste diversion” in its Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy. Just a few months ago, the EPA released a report that found that even though food waste makes up only 24% of landfill contents in the U.S., it is responsible for a staggering 58% of methane emissions.

Woodbury’s trash reduction pilot demonstrated that it does not have to be this way. The voluntary program captured as much as one third (33%) of the food scraps estimated to be produced by transfer station users during its most successful week (the average was closer to one quarter, 25%), even without the financial incentive of UBP. The collected organics were hauled by Blue Earth Compost to the Quantum Biopower anaerobic digester in Southington, where they were depackaged and processed into both biogas and digestate. The biogas is converted to electricity to run the plant and the excess is sent into the grid, while the digestate is turned into compost and other similar products. Unlike waste-to-energy incinerators, this process does not involve burning trash and does not result in air pollution.

As listed above, food waste bags would be available in two sizes (8 gallons and 4 gallons) and would be sold at the cost of manufacture in order to incentivize organics diversion. The pricing structure is designed so that income from the trash bags would fund hauling and tipping fees for food waste. Participants would be asked only to use the town-branded bags – just like during the pilot – or no bags at all, *i.e.*, tipping from their personal bucket or container into the food dumpster.

Although this is how the Committee recommends the food scrap program handles food waste removal from the transfer station at this time, there are a variety of other options that could be considered now or in the future (when the quantity of food waste under the new program is more accurately known). See Appendix C for other potential organics haulers, destinations, and end-uses.

Expected Cost to Residents

The following table represents examples of costs that two typical households might incur under the proposed program, compared to the cost of hiring a private hauler.

	Expected Cost to Residents	transfer station Sticker	Cost of trash	Cost of food	Annualization	Final Annual Cost
Average Household	One large trash + one small food bag per week	\$25	\$1.65	\$0.25	52	\$ 123.80
Single person/couple Household	One medium trash bag + one mini food bag per week	\$25	\$1	\$0.15	52	\$ 84.80
	Private hauler collection annual fee	<i>Note: hauler collection fee does not include cost of grocery store bags</i>				\$ 480.00

It is important to note that although a municipality can never promise a tax *decrease*, the above chart does not account for the fact that residents will no longer be funding waste disposal through their taxes, nor the savings from no longer purchasing generic, non-town-branded, trash bags. Even if this does not result in a decreased mill rate, the money can go towards more productive uses for Woodbury.

Transition Period

With the pilot and SMM grant scheduled to conclude next month, and the new program not expected to take effect until the beginning of the fiscal year, The Town of Woodbury applied to CT DEEP for bridge funding to fill the five-month gap. In an email dated 1/11/24, CT DEEP committed to awarding up to \$22,500 in bridge funding. This budget consists of the following:

Enforcement	\$ 5,000
Outreach & Education	\$ 3,600

Transportation Support	\$ 4,500
Program Management	\$6,000
Bridge Funding Total	\$ 22,500

Funding will cover the food scrap hauler to continue food scrap separation until official program launch. The program management funds will allow WZ to continue their work with Woodbury, while NVCOG will use their own funding to extend certain outreach services throughout the transition.

During this transition period, free bags will still be available on a limited, as-needed basis, however, use of the bags will become mandatory on July 1.

Equity

The Committee recommends that subsidies/assistance be made available for individuals and families with real economic need. We recommend developing a partnership and procedures in collaboration with Community Services Council to identify criteria to determine who would qualify for free town-branded bags and how the bags be distributed.

Education

The Waste Advisory Committee acknowledges that no program will achieve success without thorough and sustained education.

The “Community Support” section above explains how NVCOG worked with various stakeholder groups to raise awareness about the planning for permanence process. Once a finalized program is decided upon and prior to and during its implementation, NVCOG and WZ will engage in a similar circuit of presentations to communicate the information to the public. Public information sessions, presentations to municipal boards and commissions, and appearances at community group meetings will help spread the word. Newspaper articles and social media posts will ensure that multiple informational channels are saturated with this information. Content will be generated by NVCOG and WZ with oversight from the Town of Woodbury.

The Town website will also serve as a repository of information on the program, including FAQs. We believe the best place for this information is under the [transfer station webpage](#), where residents currently go to access information about waste and recycling.

We intend to have a presence at Woodbury’s Earth Day celebration, as it is an invaluable opportunity to spread the word and talk about the many benefits of this program.

The Committee believes that one of the most effective ways to reach people about this program will be during their annual transfer station permit renewal. Along with their permit, residents will be provided with a sheet or brochure that enumerates the details of the program, including where bags can be purchased and at what price. This will ensure that every person using the transfer station has been provided with information on the program.

WZ, NVCOG, and the Waste Advisory Committee are deeply committed to the success of the program. We are open to other ideas regarding education.

Enforcement

As demonstrated in the breakdown of bridge funding, CT DEEP will provide money for enforcement that can be used through the initial launch of the program.

The Committee recommends that some of this money will be used for permanent signage at the transfer station indicating that only official town-branded bags are allowed.

This money can also be used to fund a temporary worker who will be stationed full-time at the transfer station for the first 4 weeks of the program to monitor compliance and continue education. Assuming that most residents will have been informed of the new program during the initial Feb-June education & permit purchase, this worker will be continuing conversations with residents who still are not purchasing orange bags. This worker will also be tasked with collecting data on compliance (*e.g.*, the number of non-compliant residents) to inform future action, and for chronic non-compliers, they can record license plate numbers, so that the town can follow up with further enforcement action.

The Committee heard complaints that current windshield adhesive transfer station permits are disliked, and hence not displayed, because they are difficult to remove when the vehicle is sold and/or that residents may use two or more vehicles when coming to the transfer station. To mitigate these concerns the Committee recommends that the town transitions to a review mirror hanging tag system (such as that used in other CT towns and for disabled parking and that display of the transfer station permit be made mandatory and enforced.

The Committee believes that the town possesses the legal authority to fine repeat and persistent violators of the new program's provisions. [The Woodbury Town Code](#) already includes a section related to waste and littering, and gives the Board of Selectmen the ability to establish rules and penalty fines. Section 205-9 through 205-10 empower the Board of Selectmen "to establish rules and regulations it deems necessary for the public health, safety, and welfare concerning the separation, collection, removal, storage, and disposition of refuse, garbage, trash, commercial and industrial waste, and all other solid waste." Furthermore, section 205-11 states that "any person who shall violate any provision of this article or the regulations adopted hereunder shall be fined not more than \$100 for each violation."

Of course, we only envision the use of a monetary penalty in extreme situations. Our hope is that between education, a grace period, and positive peer pressure, the great majority of Woodbury residents will pick up on the system quickly.

We can adjust the level of enforcement based on what is observed during the transition period. If residents seem to understand and comply with the program, as WZ anticipates and most other programs suggest, the measures listed above should be adequate. If there are large numbers of users that refuse to use the bags, we are prepared to work with the Selectmen to consider other options, such as erecting a barrier at the base of the waste ramp to ensure each vehicle is checked and turned away if necessary. There is also potential to increase the bag price to fund a longer-term enforcement role. Again, we hope that such measures will be necessary.

Projected Benefits

The Waste Advisory Committee has concluded that full UBP with food scrap diversion will yield the greatest benefits for Woodbury. As part of our outreach and research, we conferred with the Planning Commission. They provided our Committee with their findings and excerpts from the [Plan of Conservation and Development](#) that direct the Town in relation to waste and resources:

- *“The Town should also seek to improve its facilities, services, and schools to make Woodbury more attractive to new residents and to retain residents who might otherwise move for better schools or services”*. pg. 12
- *“The town’s residents and its leadership are strong advocates for protecting the unique qualities of the community and are unwilling to sacrifice the town’s rural landscape and historic charm for expansion of its tax base”*. pg. 12
- *“Woodbury should continue its stewardship of the town’s historic resources, land, open space and environment”*t. pg. 13
- *“Residents also feel that the Town has been a good steward of Woodbury’s environmental resources and that it should continue this vigilance”*. pg. 16
- *“The Town should implement sustainable practices at Town properties, facilities, and rights-of-way. Consideration should be given to local, regional, and global environmental impacts in identifying and selecting sustainable practices”*. pg. 21
- *“Proactively manage, maintain, and expand infrastructure to meet the community’s needs while preserving rural character”*. pg. 40
- *“Support the deployment of energy efficient systems and renewable energy systems in a manner consistent with the historic and rural character of the Town”*. pg. 52

We feel that these sections of the POCD support the waste reduction program we are recommending.

Furthermore, the financial projections shared above represent a path forward in which the municipal budget will no longer be weighed down by the costs it currently allots for waste. Instead, that cost will be redistributed in an equitable manner so that those households producing the greatest amount of trash will shoulder the largest share – just as with other utilities and commodities, like electricity or groceries. For most families, the cost of bags would be no more than a two extra dollars a week.

Woodbury would be in good company by adopting our recommended program; over [150 municipalities in Massachusetts](#) use a UBP system, and [Vermont bans food scraps from trash](#) as part of its universal recycling law. Here in Connecticut, [Middletown](#) (another SMM grant recipient) recently adopted a UBP and food scrap program, joining other UBP communities like [Stonington](#) and [Voluntown](#). NVCOG held a recent [webinar](#) with a discussion panel of three waste management professionals who run transfer stations with UBP and food scraps, which can serve as a resource for more information.

Alternative Plan: Overflow Unit-Based Pricing and Food Scrap Diversion

During a structured decision-making exercise that the committee undertook, Full UBP was narrowly adopted as our recommendation over Overflow UBP. We have decided to provide the details of an overflow model as an alternative for your consideration.

In an overflow UBP model, a number of town-branded waste bags are provided free to transfer station users when they purchase their permit. The Town covers the cost of these bags from taxes. If and when residents use all of these free town-branded bags, then they are required to purchase additional town-branded bags for waste disposal. Other details of the Overflow UBP would be similar to the recommended Full UBP program.

It should be noted that under Overflow UBP the trash reduction, recycling increase, and food diversion effects of this program are significantly less than that of the recommended Full UBP option. While Woodbury would realize some of these benefits, they would not realize them to the same extent. Additionally, the monetary benefits of this option are less, as shown below, and in the comparison table in Appendix B.

We emphasize that the Waste Advisory Committee remains in agreement that our recommended program is the Full UBP program.

Financial Projections

WZ has developed the following financial projections for the Overflow UBP that is presented in comparison with the “Do Nothing” and Full UBP recommendation below:

Woodbury Budget and Pro Forma				
WASTE / RECYCLE (10133)	2023-2024	2024-2025		
		Do Nothing	Lo \$1.65, Sm \$1.00, Mini, \$0.75	Overflow
Expense				
<i>Transfer Station Operators Salary</i>	\$56,208	\$56,208	\$56,208	\$56,208
<i>Landfill Monitoring</i>	\$5,434	\$5,434	\$5,434	\$5,434
<i>Hauling Fees - Bulk</i>	\$18,150	\$18,150	\$18,150	\$18,150
<i>Hauling Fees - Recycle</i>	\$27,000	\$27,000	\$27,000	\$27,000
<i>Bulky Waste/Wood Chipping</i>	\$81,589	\$81,589	\$81,589	\$81,589
<i>Tire Disposal</i>	\$7,250	\$7,250	\$7,250	\$7,250
<i>Freon Disposal</i>	\$3,408	\$3,408	\$3,408	\$3,408
<i>Food Scrap Collection</i>	\$0	\$0	\$18,000	\$18,000
Sub Total Expense	\$199,039	\$199,039	\$217,039	\$217,039
Tipping Fees & Haul	\$140,642	\$151,812	\$75,906	\$106,268
Total Expense	\$339,681	\$350,851	\$292,945	\$323,307
Revenue				
<i>Revenue from Fees</i>	\$54,891	\$54,891	\$54,891	\$54,891
<i>Revenue From Bags</i>	\$0	\$0	\$73,213	\$0
Net General Fund Budget	\$284,790	\$295,960	\$164,840	\$268,416
Net Benefit		(\$11,170)	\$119,950	\$16,374

Comparison to Recommended Plan

To summarize, the key differences of this plan compared to our preferred recommendation include:

- An allotted number of free trash and food waste bags will be distributed to transfer station households during the permit renewal process, funded through the municipal budget (taxes).
- Only residents who exceed their free allotment must purchase “overflow” bags at local retailers.

Compared to our Full UBP recommendation, here are the advantages of Overflow UBP:

- An overflow model may be more palatable to the public, as they will need to spend less money out of pocket.

Compared to our Full UBP recommendation, here are the disadvantages of Overflow UBP:

- Without full UBP, the magnitude of waste reduction will be considerably lower. Providing an allotment of free bags does significantly reduce the effect of “UBP” in trash reduction and recycling increase.
- In an overflow model, waste disposal costs will still eat into the municipal budget, albeit not as much.
- The logistics of distributing free bags to transfer station users may be time consuming and puts more of a strain on municipal staff, compared to stocking all bags with retailers.

Continuation of the Ad-hoc Committee

During the deliberations of the Committee a number of topics arose that the Committee did not feel could be addressed within the time constraints of the current committee. These topics include:

- A food scrap program for condos and/or condo residents
- A food scrap program for Region-14 schools
- A food scrap program for the Senior Center
- A full consideration of on-site composting of food waste.

Since, the charter of the Committee expires with the delivery of this report and the recommendations contained within it, the Committee further recommends the Board of Selectmen consider reconstituting the Ad-hoc Waste Advisory either effective immediately, or at some point in the near-future, to address the and topics related above and any other related topics.

Appendices

Appendix A: Supporting Information from Waste Zero

Appendix B: Summarized Financials for All Options

Appendix C: Alternative Food Disposal Options

Appendix D: Waste Advisory Committee Membership & Meeting Dates

Appendix E: Waste Zero Pilot Data