



Postal Patron

Important Information for Hampstead Residents

- Trash Disposal & Recycling
- Pay as you Throw
- Tips to Reduce your Trash
- Recycling Bins Available at the Town Hall

Stay up-to-date by visiting www.hampsteadnh.us



Dear Resident,

When it comes to trash disposal, our town has found itself in the midst of a perfect storm. With landfill capacity decreasing each year, Hampstead is facing the reality of significant cost increases for future trash disposal. In addition, Hampstead's recycling rate remains at 17% (half the national average), which increases the weight of our trash and the fees we all pay to dispose of it.

The Town of Hampstead has two options for trash disposal and recycling:

1. Stay on the current path and allow our solid waste budget to increase with these rising costs, or
2. Increase our recycling rate to decrease the amount of trash sent to the landfill and help maintain or even reduce our solid waste budget.

The Environmental Protection Agency supports Pay as you Throw (PAYT) as a means of increasing recycling rates, managing disposal costs, and creating a fair and equitable usage-based cost structure. 7,000 US communities, including 45 in New Hampshire, have successfully implemented PAYT, with typical recycling rates increasing to 40% immediately. Based on these results, the Hampstead Solid Waste Committee is recommending PAYT to the Board of Selectmen.

My purpose for writing you is to provide information on the Pay as you Throw program, and to encourage you to get involved in the discussion of this important issue. In the coming weeks, Hampstead's Solid Waste Committee members will be attending local meetings and town functions to educate residents on PAYT and answer questions about what it means for our town. If you would like one of our members to join your meeting, or if you have questions that you would like answered please email me at HampsteadRecycles@gmail.com. You can also access the Committee's Facebook group- "Hampstead Recycles." By joining this group you can stay up to date with the town's recycling progress and committee updates.

On March 9th, Hampstead will hold a warrant ballot vote to guide the Board of Selectmen's decision regarding Pay as you Throw. In preparation for this vote, I encourage all Hampstead residents to learn the facts about our town's trash disposal and recycling status, and the Pay as you Throw program. To help answer some common questions about Pay as you Throw, I am attaching a list of Frequently Asked Questions.

For all of those residents who recycle, we thank you. For those who do not recycle – today is a great day to start. If you do not have a bin you can pick up one at no charge at the Town Hall. You can also use your own bin as long as it's marked "Recycling" so Bestway knows to put in the recycling truck. For every item recycled, that's one less item to go into a landfill.

In addition to the FAQs, I have also included tips on how you can reduce your trash.

Regards,

Patrick Bracken
Chairperson, Hampstead Solid Waste Committee



For detailed information regarding Pay as you Throw, transfer station information, tips to reduce your trash, bulky item disposal and more, please visit the town web site at www.hampsteadnh.us or call the town office at 329-4100.

Frequently Asked Questions: Pay as you Throw (PAYT)

What is Pay as you Throw (PAYT)?

Pay as you Throw (PAYT) is a system where residents pay for each bag of trash and are not charged for the collection of approved recyclable materials.

How does PAYT work?

Residents purchase special bags for their trash pickup. All approved recycled items will go in the red and/or blue bins. The more you recycle, the less trash you will produce.

Will everyone have to use purchased PAYT bags?

If you are currently getting your trash picked up by Bestway, you will need to purchase the PAYT trash bags. If your apartment complex provides a dumpster for your trash you will not have to use the PAYT bags.

How much will each bag cost?

This is still undetermined, but an estimate would be \$1-\$2 per bag.

I pay my taxes – why do we need another trash fee?

As trash disposal fees increase each year due to less landfill space, the town will be forced to spend more tax money on trash disposal if we stay on the current path. The most effective way for the town to maintain (or reduce) the solid waste budget is to encourage residents to reduce the amount of trash by recycling more. The less trash, the less money spent on disposal to the landfill (tipping fees).

Due to the fact that many residents do not to recycle (or not recycle everything they can), the town has a 17% recycle rate, which is half the national average. The cost to dispose trash to the landfill is \$78/ton, compared to \$0/ton for recycled materials to go to the recycling facility. Based on EPA statistics, the Solid Waste Committee is recommending the town move to PAYT.

PAYT will incur an additional cost to residents since the bags will need to be purchased, but the goal is that this keeps (or lowers) the solid waste budget which would prevent the solid waste budget from impacting the future tax rate. PAYT allows residents to pay for only their trash and not have to subsidize those residents who do not recycle.

Will the town make money on the purchased bags?

No. The money from the purchased bags would be rolled back into the solid waste budget to cover solid waste fees the town must pay, such as the fee to pick up the trash/recycling, which in 2009 was \$370,000.

Why not get rid of curbside pickup & keep the Kent Farm Transfer Station open year round?

The Solid Waste Committee ran the numbers on this and found this option would cost the town tens of thousands more than what the town is paying now for the current curbside pickup and with the Kent Farm facility open 7 days a year.

Where would I be able to buy PAYT bags?

The committee is looking into local venues, such as grocery stores.

What if my trash item doesn't fit into the PAYT bag?

If your non-recyclable item does not fit into the PAYT bag, then the item will not be eligible for curbside pickup, which is consistent with the current policy. Please refer to the Hampstead web site for details on bulky item disposal.

How will the Town of Hampstead minimize or eliminate potential illegal dumping?

According to NH Department of Environmental Services and US Environmental Protection Agency officials, the majority of PAYT communities do not experience illegal dumping. In limited cases where it has been seen, early and aggressive illegal dumping enforcement has been successful in stopping the problem. The town will have an active enforcement program regarding PAYT.

Tips to Reduce Your Trash

All paper & cardboard are acceptable & to be placed in one bin or clear bag or paper bag (and to be separated from plastics/glass/etc)	Start a composting area outside your home. Did you know you can compost all of these items?
All boxes from: cereal, crackers, frozen meals, tissues, etc	Bread
Cardboard	Coffee grounds
Egg cartons (empty)	Egg Shells
Flyers/Catalogs	Dryer lint
Paper Gift Bags, Wrapping Bags	Freezer burned fruits & vegetables & flowers
Junk Mail (including envelopes with plastic windows)	Fruit & vegetable peels/scrap
Magazines	Grass clippings & Leaves (small amounts)
Milk Container (paper/wax)	Newspaper (small amounts)
Newspaper	Rice or Pasta (cooked, plain)
Orange juice container (paper/wax)	Peanut Shells
Paper, Paper Bags	Pet hair
Pizza Boxes (empty)	Spices
Phone Books	Tea bags (remove staples)
Plastic Containers with a <1> or <2>, glass and aluminum are all recyclable in Hampstead. Don't forget to recycle these:	Note:
Aluminum foil & trays (must be clean of food/rinsed)	Please remove all food from recycled items. Rinse cans, remove pizza from pizza boxes, etc.
Dish soap/hand soap bottle	You do not need to crush milk bottles or plastic bottles.
Glass bottles & jars	
Laundry detergent bottle	
Orange juice container (Plastic)	
Plastic bags with a 1 or 2	
Soup cans, Soda Cans	
Water bottles	

Other tips on how to reduce your trash:

BYOB (Bring Your Own Bag). Use your own reusable bags when shopping.

Purchase products packaged in materials that the Town of Hampstead can recycle.

Make a backyard compost pile for kitchen/yard waste – it's up to 12% of your trash weight!

Learn more: des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/swrtas/documents/compost_flier.pdf

Choose rechargeable batteries and long-life bulbs.

Use ceramic mugs, cloth napkins & towels, plates and silverware instead of paper or plastic.

Look for products with less or no packaging – i.e. tools, fresh produce, dry goods.

Avoid individually wrapped portions (cheese slices, juice boxes, etc.).

Buy cereals, grains, etc. in BULK – there's no additional wrapping or packaging.

Take your own mug/thermos to the coffee shop – often times you'll get a discount!

Get rid of junk mail! Request that your name be removed from bulk mailing lists. dmachoice.org/dma/member/regist.action

Use concentrated products, such as juice and household cleaners.

Buy reusable items, such as razors or batteries, instead of disposable ones.

Donate books, furniture, or clothing to a local thrift store and/or donate them to a charity such as Goodwill or Salvation Army

Give unwanted items away on www.freecycle.org or www.craigslist.com

To stop receiving catalogs in your mail: www.catalogchoice.org

Donate CDs, DVDs, Books and Videos in the 'Got Books' bin at 35 Stage Rd in Hampstead, NH.

Donate women's business clothing: dressforsuccess.org (helps disadvantaged women get back on their feet)

Donate prom dresses: www.thecinderellaprojectofnh.org

Donate wearable athletic shoes: oneworldrunning.com - this company sends to athletes in need in Africa, Latin America & Haiti.

Donate worn-out athletic shoes: www.nikereuseashoe.com Nike turns old shoes into playground surfaces and athletic flooring.

Donate furniture & working appliances to Good Will or Salvation Army (pick-ups available by SA)

Donate computers to Good Will or National Cristina Foundation www.cristina.org

Recycle foam packing peanuts: Check local pack-and-ship stores or loosefillpackaging.com website locate a drop-off site.

Recycle ink/toner cartridges: Check the post office for return envelopes or go to www.recycleplace.com

Recycle cell phones: www.collectivegood.com or www.donateaphone.com

Learn how to recycle just about anything: www.earth911.org

Provided by the Solid Waste Committee, Hampstead, NH - www.hampsteadnh.us

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