

Town of Washington
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Washington island, WI 54246

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Landfill Operations – Update – Go Forward

As you may recall, the Town voted last fall to remove the landfill costs from the tax base, and move to a “pay as you throw” system. To accommodate the shift in the tax basis, we had to reduce our levy limit to ‘reimburse’ you, the taxpayers, for the costs associated with managing MSW on a 2013 basis. The calculations for this were reviewed by the Department of Revenue, incorporated into our 2020 budget, and landfill costs/fees are now separate from our tax base.

We have been operating on a ‘voluntary/honor system’ basis since last July, at the rate of \$0.15/lb. for MSW (wet garbage). However, with this approach, we have only averaged about 40% recovery of our costs, which is insufficient.

Back in January, the Town Board reviewed the various proposals for “pay as you throw” and decided that the use of custom

garbage bags was the most practical and 'user friendly' approach for Washington Island.

We have recently ordered two sizes of custom bags and **will be implementing "pay as you throw" beginning Monday, June 8, 2020** at the landfill.

The bags are 15 gallons and 33 gallons. The **15-gallon bags** are sized to fit your standard kitchen waste basket and **will cost \$1²⁰ each** (sold in a box of 5 for \$6⁰⁰), while **the 33-gallon bags** are sized to fit a standard domestic waste garbage can and **will cost \$2⁶⁰ each** (sold in a box of 5 for \$13⁰⁰).

For those interested in the calculation behind the cost, it is the same basis as we had under the 'volunteer/honor system' of \$0.15/lb., but simply calculated by volume and the average density of domestic waste at 300 Kg/m³, or \$0.08/gallon (Google it).

Prior to implementation, you will still be able to use your existing trash bags. However, **after implementation, all MSW must be contained in a Town of Washington trash bag.**

Unless prior arrangements are made with the Town, **All MSW Waste not contained within a Town of Washington bag will be charged at the current C&D bulk waste cost of \$1⁵⁰/ft³.** By this method of disposal, a **15-gallon** 'kitchen' waste bag **will cost \$3⁰⁰**, a **33-gallon** trash can **will cost \$6⁵⁰**, and a **55-gallon** trash can **will cost \$11⁰⁰.**

Bags may be purchased at the Town Office (M-F 8-12). In addition, bags may also be purchased at the landfill (through a Lion's Volunteer) on Saturdays until the end of June. Finally, starting in July, bags may also be purchased at the Mosling Recreation Center.

Regarding all other services and fees at the landfill, these remain unchanged. Paper recycling, single stream recycling (e.g. glass, plastic, aluminum, etc.), metals, C&D waste, etc., are all unchanged.