



Report of the Solid Waste Disposal Committee

Presentation to Board of Selectmen

2010

July 13, 2010

Solid Waste Disposal Committee Tasks

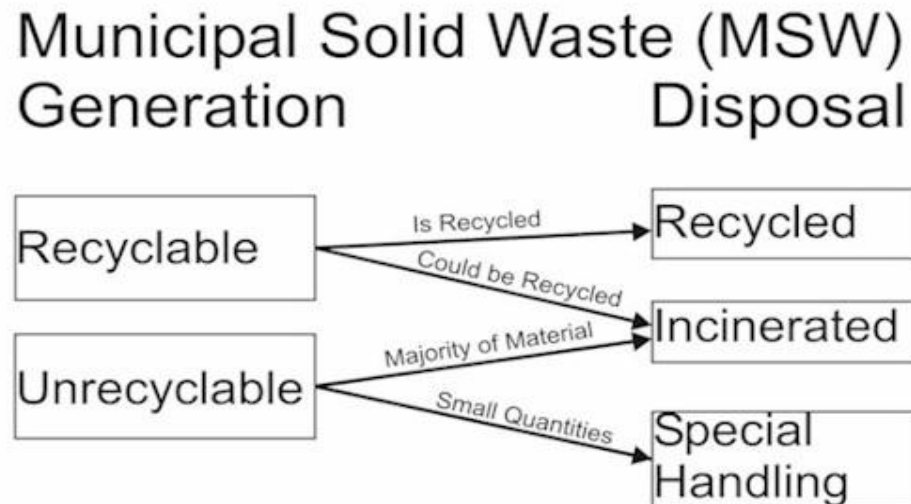
The committee was created by the selectmen to determine the current and projected waste stream for the Town of Henniker and assigned five tasks:

1. Short term and long term costs of a variety of solid waste disposal systems
2. Estimated costs for curbside collection
3. Estimates of costs associated with options by the area Cooperative
4. Including costs of labor, land, equipment and facilities
5. Impacts of all options upon business and industry, educational institutions, residences of all types, and other categories such as disabled and the aged.

Overview of Current System

➤ Materials handled by the Henniker Transfer Station (T/S):

- Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) – includes ‘trash’ and recyclables
- Other Materials – includes construction and demolition (C&D) debris, ‘white goods’ and other non-incinerated items.



Report Reference: APPENDIX 8
pg.47 are the materials being
taken into account in this
discussion.

Overview of Current System (cont.)

- 2008 Budget (used for this report): \$609,012
- Current system for MSW disposal:
 - Approximately 35% of MSW processed through the T/S
 - Approximately 65% of waste taken directly to incinerator by commercial haulers for the majority of business and some apartment buildings and individuals. Some business cardboard brought to T/S for recycling.
 - Multiple types of materials recycled, some of which provide revenue through sale – markets monitored for best price by T/S and NRRA used for some items
 - ‘Trash’ hauled to Penacook Incinerator for a fee
 - C&D hauled and buried for a fee – T/S charges per load accepted
 - ‘Swap Shop’ – for usable items to be reused

Alternative MSW Disposal Options

- The SWDC Report outlines several options for changes to the current system:
 - Unit Pricing (a.k.a Pay-As-You-Throw)
 - Mandatory Recycling
 - Single-Stream Recycling
 - Curbside Pickup
 - Elimination of All Recycling
 - Steady-As-You-Go with small adjustments

It was determined by the committee that putting in a new landfill or constructing and operating our own incinerator were not viable options for many reasons.

Unit Pricing (PAYT)

- Residents and business pay for what they throw away (recyclables free), instead of funding all town waste handling through taxes
- Two primary ways of handling trash:
 - Disposed of in designated bags bought at multiple locations
 - Items not fitting in bags receive ‘tags’ to show paid for
 - Charged by weight rather than per bag
- Price per bag/tag or pound can be determined in multiple ways depending on how much of T/S budget you want to cover through this method
- Cost reductions for the elderly and those on low incomes can be easily arranged.

Unit Pricing (cont.)

➤ Advantages:

- More equitable system
- Residents free to choose how much they recycle
- Similar to system already being used by businesses and residents who hire commercial haulers
- Proven to increase recycling rate and reduce amount of trash disposed of – bringing more revenue into T/S
- Evident line-item tax reduction for T/S portion of budget

➤ Disadvantages:

- Unit prices rarely cover entire T/S budget, therefore need to still have some T/S costs in taxes
- If more than tipping and hauling is included in unit cost, may be difficult to calculate for those using commercial haulers
- Requires significant education prior to implementation

Mandatory Recycling

- Residents required to recycle all materials able to or may be fined
- Simple in concept but difficult in practice, due to the need for enforcement
- Option for mandatory clear bags to dispose of trash so recyclables can be easily spotted
- Do not anticipate unique impact for the elderly or those on low incomes.

Mandatory Recycling (cont.)

➤ Advantages:

- Increase in recycling rate, decrease in trash disposal – creating additional revenue for T/S
- Simple system if specific bags not required

➤ Disadvantages:

- Anger possible from people feeling their privacy being invaded by bag search
- If not enforced not likely to bring about much change
- Enforcement could increase staffing needs at T/S
- Already been turned down by town (1993)

Single Stream Recycling

- Simplified way of collecting recyclable material
- Recyclables do not need to be separated at home or at T/S
- Materials hauled to Single Stream processing facilities where they are collated and sold
- Can lead to increase in types of recyclables able to be collected
- Should be no additional impact on elderly or those on low incomes

Single Stream Recycling (cont.)

➤ Advantages:

- Much simpler system which can encourage non-recyclers to start and save space for those who already recycle
- Very little education needed to implement system
- Increased number of recyclables taken from MSW, reducing tonnage to incinerator, thereby reducing cost
- Reduced need for T/S staffing and equipment due to lack of sorting

➤ Disadvantages:

- Materials all hauled together to one facility - no ability to shop for better prices on open market
- Lower revenue for recycled material per ton as single stream
- Initial investment in second roll-off container for single stream materials
- Limited number of single stream facilities currently operating in area, requiring longer hauls

Curbside Collection

- Trucks collect MSW at home of each resident
- Can be feasibly implemented in a town our size
- Cost-wise, Henniker would need to contract out for collection as purchase and maintenance of trucks, as well as staffing would be cost prohibitive
- Collection of both trash and recyclables would be more expensive than collection of trash alone
- T/S staffing could be reduced significantly if both trash and recyclables are collected through curbside
- Implementing Single Stream Recycling with Curbside would reduce cost of adding a recyclables pick up
- Need to determine involvement of businesses
- Possible impact on both elderly and those on low incomes that would need to be considered.

Curbside Collection (cont.)

➤ Advantages:

- Ease for residents
- Significant increase in recycling rate if recyclables also collected
- Attractive bonus for possible home-buyers

➤ Disadvantages:

- Increased cost for handling of MSW
- Significant education needed, especially if recyclables collected
- Winter time management of bins and pick-up
- May be difficult for elderly or those with physical limitations.

Elimination of Recycling

- Stop collection of recycling – all MSW goes into the hopper for incineration
- T/S would still need to collect the Other Materials (white goods, C&D, all materials unable to be incinerated) in addition to MSW
- Goes against current cultural trends and State of New Hampshire policy
- Alternately, significantly increasing recycling rates could also create greater revenue stream and save T/S money in tipping fees
- No additional impact on elderly or those on low incomes.

Elimination of Recycling

➤ Advantages:

- Easier for residents
- Reduction in T/S staffing and equipment
- Reduction in T/S budget

➤ Disadvantages:

- Wasteful and would increase tipping to incinerator
- Leads to overall increased costs in future
- Goes against accepted practice
- May be deterrent to home-buyers
- Would anger many residents

Steady-As-You-Go

- Maintain current structure of MSW handling
- Current T/S well run, despite space limitations
- T/S operating budget expected to increase by about 5% a year.
- Look to capitalize on certain options in the existing system:
 - Increase recycling through education
 - Install truck scale for accurate measurement of C&D, etc. to increase revenue
 - Move or reconfigure T/S for additional use of space to add in composting, increased recycling options, etc.
 - Recruit volunteer workers for certain T/S tasks

Steady-As-You-Go (cont.)

➤ Advantages:

- Predictable budgets and outcomes
- No major changes to present to voters or for town to adjust to
- Steady on with a trusted team

➤ Disadvantages:

- Difficult to increase recycling
- Difficult to decrease amount of waste taken to incinerator
- Limited footprint of existing facility makes significant changes difficult
- Lack of truck scale makes getting correct payment for C&D and other materials coming into the T/S difficult
- Little ability to control rising costs or increase revenue significantly

Overall issues to be considered:

- Where should cost of MSW disposal be borne – by those who create the waste or as a town service through taxpayers?
- Should the town work to increase the recycling rates of those already contracting with private haulers?
- Should the town help businesses reduce their cost of doing business by reducing the cost of their trash disposal?
 - Should business pay for the disposal of their MSW or should they be entitled to the same T/S services currently allowed residents?
 - Should changes be made at the transfer station to make it easier for business to increase recycling and decrease cost of trash disposal?
- Is the town ready to make significant changes to its MSW handling practices?

Findings (cont.)

The SWDC did not identify any 'silver bullet' for changing the way Henniker manages its MSW

- Unit pricing will create the largest reduction in tax-based expenditures for the transfer station, making it a more 'self-sustaining' operation.
- Mandatory recycling would increase recycling revenue and is low cost to implement depending on how enforcement is done.
- Single stream recycling has upfront capital costs but leads to ongoing reduction in costs for operation of the T/S (wages and equipment maintenance). Additionally, Single Stream makes many other options more effective.
- Curbside collection creates a significant increase in MSW handling costs, but is a service desired by many and can greatly increase recycling rates.
- Elimination of recycling might show only modest short-term savings and garner bad publicity for the town.
- Remaining steady leaves us with the same issues that caused this study to be conducted, but smaller T/S and town-wide changes could be made within the existing system which would be beneficial.
- Combining several options may be the best opportunity to see a positive change in the handling of MSW and prove the most cost effective and easiest to implement for some options.

Questions?