

Municipal Solid Waste Unit-based Pricing (UBP)¹

Case Study

Dover, Vermont²
Population: 1,410

Prepared by: The Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA)³

The Town of Dover is a rural community located in southern Vermont and is the home of the Mount Snow ski resort. Dover is a member of the Windham Solid Waste Management District (WSWMD).⁴ Dover has had their “Pay-Per-Bag” system for over 20 years. Residents can bring their trash and sorted recyclables to the transfer station. Recycling is free and the current fee for trash is \$2.50 per 30 gallon bag or container. Dover does not require the use of special bags. To receive that price, the vehicle must have a current transfer station sticker. If a vehicle does not have sticker, then the per-bag fee is \$5.00. Annual transfer station stickers are sold for \$7.50 per car at the Town Clerk’s office. For those 62 years or older, Dover allows free disposal of up to two bags per week. The transfer station attendant collects the applicable fees.

In 2014, 630 transfer station stickers have been sold to-date. This represents most of the single-family households in Dover. The condominium developments near Mount Snow typically have private contracts for trash pick-up and therefore, those residents do not use the transfer station. The Dover transfer station is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturdays from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm, and Sundays from 8:30 to 11:30. The transfer station is closed on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The fees collected through the Pay-Per-Bag system cover some of the cost of operating the transfer station. In 2013, the cost of operating the transfer station was approximately \$121,000 (\$58,000 for staff and \$63,000 for hauling & disposal), and the fee program generated approximately \$55,000 of income. In 2013, the transfer station handled 211 tons of trash and 83 tons of recyclables. In addition, residents pay drop-off fees for a variety of bulky wastes, and in 2013, the transfer station processed 211 tons of construction & demolition waste, 123 tons of scrap metal, and 17 tons of tires. Town leaders are happy with the Pay-Per-Bag system and report that illegal dumping is not a problem.

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¹ Also known as: Save Money and Reduce Trash (SMART), variable rate pricing, and pay-as-you-throw (PAYT).

² The information in the case study is based on correspondence with Andrew McLean, Dover Town Clerk and Patricia Westlake, Dover Treasurer.

³ NEWMOA is a non-profit, non-partisan interstate association whose membership is composed of the state environmental agency directors of the hazardous waste, solid waste, waste site cleanup, and pollution prevention programs in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Visit www.newmoa.org.

⁴WSWMD provides solid waste education and recycling management for its member towns.