

Note regarding comments: Names and emails were removed. Comments were copied and pasted as written and spelling and grammar were not corrected. In order to achieve a more readable format, however, all comments were formatted with the same font. Lines are placed in between each comment.

Good morning,

Regarding trash/recycling in Portsmouth it would be great if it was included in our taxes. My taxes went up \$1000 with the most recent bill and we still have the same potholes, same sidewalks blocked, etc. At least do what Middletown does and charge \$140 for weekly trash/recycling with trash pickup. I don't even mind the bag fee. Paying an extra \$500 or more for trash is crazy.

Thank you,

Please start using a trash pick up service. I pay private for this service because I cannot get to the dump when it is open. I work a full time job. I have several health issue that hinder me from lifting heavy items. Also it may help with the trash problem in the town. We are one of the few towns that still does not have a pick up service.

This may sound silly. Prudence Island is pretty small after all. But, there aren't many things that require me to get in my car on the island.

1. Going off island.
2. Going to pick up mail or some milk at the Post Office / Prudence Variety.
3. Going to pick up packages at the ferry office.
4. The weekly trip to the transfer station

Maybe I'm an outlier, but I generally only brave the dirt roads of the island once or twice a week. So it is notable during the winter months that you cannot go to the ferry office, the store and the transfer station in one trip. The transfer station hours do not coincide with the ferry office or Prudence Variety (the latter of which generally do sync their hours).

Okay, we're an odd bunch out here, but it seems that it would be easy enough to make the hours coincide.

Sign me up for curb side trash pickup. I live on the Middletown - Portsmouth border. It's a 20 minute ride to get to the transfer station, probably a 10 minute wait to unload trash and then another 20 minute back home. The cost of gas and my time 50 minutes is something that I wish not to continue at my age 74. Please sign me up for residential trash pickup.

Thank You

Just leave the transfer alone. I am turning 60 in May and the last thing I want to do is chase trash bins around and have them left out in the street. I see it all the time with my neighbor's cans left out in the street. Cars are always swerving around them. I can see the writing on the wall that the town wants to close the transfer station. I pay a crap load of taxes to live in this town. So, I would say quit spending money on crap we don't need like brand new cars and trucks. You all bought a new John Deere for cutting the grass on the side of the road and a brand new backhoe, Live with in your

means town of Portsmouth like all the citizens do. My uncle was the Late Joe Carvalho and he did a great job with his budget to run public works for this town. If this town can live within its means, then there would be money to keep the transfer station up and running. That is just my take on it. I know it means nothing I am sure, but you all asked for public comments. Regards

Please see attached. (Document & Comments – reviewer provided comments directly on Whitepaper)

Items highlighted in yellow have comments affixed (can hover over the text to read). Alternatively, one can select the "comments" icon to view all 13 comments in a right-hand sidebar view.

Items highlighted in green are statements that I found to be particularly important to emphasize.

Respectfully submitted,

Regarding trash pickup — I live in the Melville military neighborhood and on numerous occasions I have witnessed our recycling and trash being dumped in the exact same compartment of the trash truck (I specifically looked to see if maybe there were separations and there were not.)

This is not only disheartening for someone like myself who prioritizes recycling for environmental purposes — but it's also a waste of my and my neighbor's time to sort it if it's all for nothing.

A neighbor once asked one of the truck's employees why they weren't separating recycling and trash and he just smirked.

Would love to see this remedied.

Thanks,

Good morning! Please keep the trash collection in Portsmouth exactly the way it is right now. We appreciate the freedom to choose how we dispose of our trash, and we have a lot of yard waste. The current way we get rid of yard waste is efficient and environmentally sound. Please don't change a thing.

I use the transfer station at least once a week to dispose of my household waste and recyclable items. I like the convenience of using the station when my time permits or I have collected too many recyclables and I want them out of my garage. The price of the station sticker and orange bags is much cheaper than my neighbors who use a recycling company.

My concerns with curbside pickup are the driving hazards that will develop on the main roads and side streets when the barrels are blown over or when they are not secured after they have been emptied by the disposal trucks. I can't imagine what East Main Road would look like if every residential home left trash pickup at curbside.

Many times I've had to pickup my neighbors' trash after their barrels were blown over before the disposal company arrived to empty their barrels.

My choice would be to keep things as they are. Residents can choose to use the trash station or hire a private contractor. I've been bringing my trash to either the town dump on Park Avenue or the transfer station on Hedly Street since 1973, and I want to keep it that way.

Sincerely,

I was drawn into the white paper by the charge of considering "curbside collection for residents of *the entire* Town".

The Town Council directed the staff to work with our waste consultant to develop a hybrid waste management option to develop into a Request for Proposal (RFP). The Council directed the hybrid RFP should include: **1) curbside collection for the residents of the entire Town**, 2) elimination of pay-as-you-throw bags, and 3) utilization of the Transfer Station for bulky waste and diversion materials

However, Prudence Island is not even mentioned in the paper. I'm not sure there would be a cost effective way to provide curbside collection on Prudence. And while some on the island may have interest in curbside collection, I know that there are many who would not.

The key question in my mind, not addressed in the paper, is how curbside collection would be paid for. Would a change in means of waste collection on the mainland end up having any effect on the town wide tax rate? Would it alter the current cost of the Transfer Station sticker and PAYT rate for Prudence residents?

I am also interested in the mention of the town's "waste consultant". Has the waste consultant been engaged to examine MSW disposal on the island recently? An island with connections to the mainland by ferry obviously adds cost and complexity to MSW disposal. With the (relatively) new compactors at the Prudence Transfer Station, is our disposal as efficient as possible? Is the island recycling rate what it should be? If the town goes to a different model for MSW collection are the opportunities to reduce costs on the island?

Thanks!

I would be inflator of curbside pick up.

Hello,

As residents of Portsmouth, my family would love to see town curbside collection. Private contractors have been a headache to work with and are costly.

As for the collection of yard waste, we advocate for option 2 (model used by Middletown) with a staggered collection cycle.

Town curbside collection would be such a great service - we are eager to learn more!

Thank you,

Hi,

I support transfer station fees being included in the tax base.

Thank you

Hello,

I read the recent white paper and I want to make a few comments about it

1. I believe that the status quo with the transfer station is still the best option for the town at large. It allows the freedom to dump as much as needed and at time that is most convenient to people. While the transfer station is not without its issues, in my opinion utilizing trash pickup services has more issues. Especially when the service will just include the trash truck claw instead of a handler dumping anything on the curb.
2. Trash pickup is very schedule based and you will get more complaints from people that the contractor did not pick up their trash or didn't pick it up at the time they thought. This means more staff will be needed to manage it compared with the transfer station
3. I strongly disagree about the elimination of the pay as you throw bags. There are some families that generate an insane amount of waste and the community at large shouldn't be subsidizing them. My only argument against the bags is that it sometimes restricts people to dispose large items that are not considered bulk waste.
 - a. Eliminating pay as you throw bags will also be a liability for the town down in the near future. Right now RIRRC will consistently be raising its tipping fees more and more as the Johnston Landfill reaches capacity. Once the Johnston Landfill closes, the cost will probably triple in price as trash has to be trucked to a further distance and that landfill will charge the municipality out of state rates.
4. Limiting the Leaf and Yard amount of material for residential is a bad idea and I am against it. The problem is that for most households do not have an area to store bags, and storing them for a long period of time causes issues. "IF" a hybrid model was selected than L&Y debris should be part of it.
5. Also "IF" a hybrid system was selected, a system like the waste management transfer center in Newport North End could help residents. Where a scale would measure the trash and then pay based on the weight. This would eliminate the issue of certain trash have difficulty fitting into bags or there is so much it that it fills a van or truck.
6. While from a contracts a perspective it is easier to go with a single hauler, the biggest downside it will reduce the amount of haulers available in the community. This will ultimately result in higher prices for the town and the consumers as it will reduce competition.

Thank You for your time and consideration

The Transfer Station should remain open as long as the users are willing to pay for the entire operation. Unfortunately, due to numbers and market forces this trash model will fail in the near future. After the Transfer Station is no longer viable, the Town of Portsmouth should get out of the commercial trash business forever. I have a private company pick up my trash and I am satisfied with the service. There are multiple contractors on the Island which assures good service at a competitive price. We do not need Town involvement. When you consider the questionable decision making by the Town, the resulting bureaucracy and the exhausting Town Council meetings, any perceived cost savings is an illusion. Just like my electric bill I would like to "opt out".

Portsmouth Teammates,

I am seeing the public debate about keeping the transfer station versus a curbside collection.

I just wanted to offer my two cents: I very much prefer the flexibility and convenience of the TRANSFER STATION over curbside pickup.

I love that I don't have to wait 6 days to dispose of my smelly garbage — I can do it any day of the week (minus Sun and Wed).

I love our Portsmouth Transfer Station!

Thank you,

We have lived in Portsmouth for 15 years, but before that lived in many municipalities in three other states and the District of Columbia. Never before have we been required to haul our own trash and recycling, or alternatively, pay even more for a private hauler. As we get older (now 78 and 80), it gets harder and harder to take our trash/recycling to the transfer station, but as senior citizens on a fixed income, it will also become more and more difficult to pay a private hauler.

We strongly urge you to develop a hybrid option to include curbside waste collection. We have loved living in Portsmouth, but if you fail to do so, it may force us out of the town.

Ive lived in portsmouth 44 years. Life long resident of Aquidneck Island.

Yes i would like town curbside pickup. We used to use the transfer station but it got to be too much work for my husband even though we bought an old truck to continue to try to do it. We have used two different companies for curbside but would prefer a town hauler.

Weekly trash and recycling would be perfect. Monthly yard waste from April to December would also be perfect. Obviously no payt bags. We recycle perfectly now with curbside pickup. If you have available bulky waste available once in a while or by appointment that would be the cherry on top.

Currently paying about 92\$ a quarter as a special rate with waste management.

If you could beat that price that would be good.

Cannot wait until you can make this happen.

I like things just as they are. Transfer station so convenient, cheaper than hiring a company for curbside. Don't have to have set day if go with municipal pick up nor have to secure trash in terrible weather on your scheduled day. Right now everyone has a choice. If don't want to bring it yourself hire a company.

Thank you for providing the info and encouraging input:

I am ok with opt. 2 L & y schedule

And opt.3 weight limit

Ok with 60/65 gal for MSW and Mixed recycle

And elimination of PAYT bags

The cost will determine if I am willing to join. I am disabled and a senior so I am unable to utilize the transfer station. I am also on limited income due to my disability. I just switched to WM after Harvey decided to no longer pu yard waste. WM charges about \$70-\$90 per cart to PU if discontinue service. Can the town make arrangements with WM to waive that if residents want to be part of town program?

Would establishing a community compost help with the cost?

Would the town consider reestablishing the Your Trash is my Treasure program? Several of my neighbors were delighted with it and got great finds. This could mean less trash.

Could the town provide pu of bulk trash for those, like myself, who would be unable to get bulk items to the Transfer station?

Thank you for your time and consideration,

I have been a resident of Portsmouth for 36 years. I love the transfer station. I only use it once a month (for one large bag and lots of recycling) for 10 months a year. It is easy and convenient. And much cheaper than curbside pickup. I am a senior citizen and live alone. I also live on a windy and well travelled hill. It would be very difficult to get a large container to the street, plus the wind and traffic would raise havoc with the container. Plus the hazards of snow banks and extra traffic of large trash trucks.

It seems to me Portsmouth could find other ways to save money and not mess with the Transfer Station!

Town Council Members

I've just read the Hybrid Waste Management White Paper and have the following comments. First of all I want to commend the Council for continuing its efforts to help the Portsmouth constituents in saving money with their waste disposal while still being cognizant of the importance of proper waste disposal.

I have a home and live alone therefore my waste disposal needs are very little. I do pay for one of the disposal companies to take the trash/recycling weekly as it's more convenient than buying the PAYG then waiting at the transfer station for disposal, but the constant yearly, (sometimes bi-yearly) pricing increases is making me consider my options.

My recommendations would be to offer 60/65 gallon bins to all residences as a way to help combat higher pricing together with an option to "buy-up" to the 90/95 bin sizes. I think you'd find a good majority of residences would go for the smaller bins to save costs because frankly their weekly waste doesn't fill a 90/95 bin size. I have one trash bag per week and it would probably take 4 weeks to fill a smaller bin.

Would also suggest a bi-weekly trash/recycle pickup schedule to help reduce costs as well as the bi-weekly schedule from April 1st to second week in December, together with Public Works continuing the Christmas tree collection the second week in January .

Thank you for this opportunity to express my opinion.

Ditch the the orange bags, but if curbside pick up is established keep the Transfer Station available for bulk waste, please.

Dear public works,

I think the transfer station should remain as is.

People that want trash pick up can have it, but it makes the town look trashy, With barrels everywhere. Also, it ends up being more expensive and not as convenient.

I am totally against any change in the transfer station.

Dear team,

We know trash has always been a challenge in Portsmouth but PAYT doubles and even triples my use of plastic!

I stuff my white full trash bag into the orange one! Our neighbors do the same thing! We are educated & very responsible & well aware of recycling & faithfully separate trash from recycle material. The environment is being harmed by more plastic use in our humble opinion. Thanks for your consideration.

Hello,

I read in the Portsmouth Times that the committee was looking for feedback for the RFP for Waste Management. Having read through the White Paper, here are my thoughts on the Key Discussion Items:

- Leaf & Yard Debris: Option #2, weekly in April, bi-weekly May - Oct and weekly November through the second week of December is reasonable and provides a cost savings. Having the weekly service during key yard clean up times and bi-weekly during the other times should satisfy the majority of households that need to use paper yard bags.
- Leaf & Yard Debris Point #3: 50 pounds per container is a reasonable number and when compared to delivery services is aligned with the weight limit. If L&Y has to be manually picked up by the vendor, a weight limit per container is a good rule to put in place.
- Elimination of PAYT Bags: My home uses a curb side pick up service and therefore we don't use the PAYT bags. I would happily use the 60/65 gallon tote for the solid waste but would definitely want the 90/95 gallon tote for the recycling. We hardly ever have more than a few kitchen sized bags in our our waste tote but frequently fill the recycling tote (we have the 90/95 one today. I would like to see the smaller tote for regular waste and the larger tote for recycling as the standard. By having one standard, that makes things consistent across the service and should also save money.
- Single Hauler and Est. Number of Residents: Why even make this an opt-in program? Many cities and towns have waste management be provided by one provider for every household. There is no opt-in or opt-out. Yes, it may be part of the taxes for the city or town, but there must be another way to bill

for it - we get billed separately for water and fire taxes already. Give each of the current haulers a chance to bid on the RFP or break the town into zones and have a couple of carriers in total.

- Transfer Station Hours: Limited hours for bulky waste and diversion is reasonable and would help reduce the cost. With curbside pickup, especially if mandated, even more limited hours can be offered and a schedule published with those hours.

I participated in the survey a few years ago and advocate for town wide curbside pickup. Having a single provider and mandating it for all households is also something that I am in favor of.

Hello,,

Saw ad for residents input on trash collection.

I personally would like to see more use of the railroad .

A man to see on this subject is .

Mr John Deli (owner of Quansett point railroad an Edaville railroad.

He owns an operates a garbage an recycling facility,(by rail) in Quansett,RI.

He is the best to answer all cost savings for Portsmouths citizens.

At the moment a new railroad bridge is in the works ,but a small facility could be built in Tiverton.

Mansfield , Mass is we're Capecod railroad takes their garbage an recycling.

I would assume Mr.Deli would be able to facilitate a plan ,If acceptable.

Changes are hard on small communitys, but a cleaner public appearance should be tantamount

In public policy .

Fall River is connected to new passenger rail.

An on Aqudneck Island we have all new rails all the way Boston etc.

One link in tiverton needs replacing.

Also The Railroad is Governed by The Federal Government (branch)

I see too much garbage being dumped illegally all over town etc .

What is the answer?

Thanks for all your efforts!

Cordially.

Dear Public Works

We appreciate all that you do keep our town in good working order and to provide opportunities for the residents to get rid of trash in an economical and environmental safe way.

We really like the current system...we feel we are responsible for sorting our trash to keep tipping fees low and like recycling.

We like the convenience of getting rid of trash ASAP...as we travel out of state often, we like having the ability to rid our house of trash immediately...if we had a weekly hauler, it would mean storing trash until we return which I do not want to do.

Even though yard debris is restricted some months, we like having the ability to take lawn debris to the recycling center...especially after a wind storm

Several neighbors use a weekly hauler and we find that the street and yards can be very messy as the lids are not tight and trash blows all over the place...

The curbside garbage cans in my neighborhood are everywhere now. They blow around in the wind and there is garbage in the street far more. Putting a bin or two at every house in the neighborhood will be much worse. Before the garbage cans I had much less or no trash blowing in my yard and I did not have to dodge blowing bins coming down the hill when walking or driving. There are noisy large garbage trucks belching fumes often in the neighbor hood. This new idea just forces to have urban problems in a suburban town. A very bad idea to force us to store giant garbage bins outside some neighbors pile firewood on bins to keep the lids on. This is a very bad idea.

Hello I am a life long resident of Portsmouth and no longer able to haul my own waste to the transfer station. For that reason I've been using a private company who just recently dropped their yard waste service leaving me scrambling to find someone else. Waste Management is the only company I could find who would pick up my yard waste but unfortunately, for new customers anyway they are only picking up yard waste once a month!

Portsmouth desperately needs a reliable curb side pick up option for it's older residents who are less physically able to haul their own waste any longer

My comments on the white paper:

- Yes, eliminate pay and throw. If you do, many more residents will participate and would be willing to pay a little extra
- **Option 1 on yard waste please!** We need weekly pick up as most people have no where to store paper bags that will get wet and fall apart if left sitting wet too long. Please start in April. **May is much too late for yard clean up.**
- If we must go with option 2 and every other week for yard waste, allow residents to store the yard waste in plastic waste containers instead of just bags **but please start in April.**

Thanks for allowing public input

Please keep the Transfer Station as it is.

-it's more advantageous

-you can go when you want

-you don't have to drag the barrels out to the end of the driveway and deal with inclement weather

-recycle container

-metal container

Why are we going through this again. The transfer station appears to be working just fine. I have lived in this town for 41 years, never had a child in schools, so basically have gotten nothing other than road maintenance for my tax payments. (and we have been paying for stickers for the last 10? years) If we are getting rid of the Transfer station for all but bulky waste and a limited schedule, why doesn't the Town pay for trash removal? I hate this idea. How much money is the transfer station losing? It was not stated in the white paper. Even if there is some loss, can't the town cover it? I am very concerned about lawn and yard waste collection; some haulers are also charging extra and limiting the amount collected. (which happened mid-contract) This needs to be discussed in an open forum and not just on the internet. Many seniors do not spend a lot of time on the internet, unlike the younger generation who can't get their heads out of their phones. (and don't want to dirty up their fancy cars). This really is infuriating. Needs an open forum!

I'm voting to keep the PAYT system service . The Transfer station covers all our disposal needs. Everyone is charged the same. It allows the residents to frequent the station as many times as necessary...particularly with yard waste. Multiple trash and recycling options are available. When large items are gotten rid of , there is a small additional charge; but most things are accepted.

Please don't try to fix the present system. It's not broken.

Regarding the Portsmouth Curbside Collection RFP White Paper

My comments about the present system:

1. Every day is trash day. All the different vendors are driving by, backing and filling, clogging the streets, beep-beeping their backups, and generally having way too much of a presence.

2. I never used to have trash in my yard. Now, the edges of my property and my bushes are home to the flyaway debris that occurs almost daily. I don't eat Dunkin Donuts, but their boxes wind up in my yard.

3. Trash pickup should be funded by town taxes. All single family residences should just have trash and recycling services, period. No opting out. Surely there would be savings on a contract for the whole town

4. A single contractor should have an exclusive contract with the town with scheduled stops during the week, not all this random contractor business. Why should the town care about contractor push-back? The best proposal will win the contract.

Regarding the White Paper: Key Discussion Items

L&Y debris.

The Middletown schedule makes sense.

The weight limit seems ridiculous (like the 32 gallons of construction debris...what's that about). Perhaps a limited number of brown paper lawn bags per pickup would make sense....like 6 or so? It might take a couple of weeks to get rid of a spring cleanup, but OK.

PAYT

It would be a shame to reduce the rate of recycling. The smaller trash totes seems like a good way to encourage people to separate out their recycles. Provide the smaller tote and requiring PAYT bags for overflow is fine.

Single Hauler

Trash pickup should be a simple benefit managed by the town with a single hauler with an exclusive contract. I think this would provide the best service and the best price. It would also reduce trash truck traffic, noise, and litter. Whatever subsidies (taxes) are necessary to provide a reasonable contract should be implemented.

Transfer Station

The hours proposed are good. I would guess that every two weeks would be sufficient.

Bulk disposal

In Middletown, you tell them what you have, pay a fee depending on what it is, and the contractor picks it up. If the transfer station can accept the material for significantly less, then perhaps that is a good idea. Middletown's price list is online. It is very convenient, though, to have it picked up from your own location.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Hello ~

I've read the white paper on subject; thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback:

Strongly opposed to the curbside collection – strongly in favor of PAYT:

- Data show it will negatively impact our already unacceptable recycling levels – leaving to more costs.
- PAYT is proven to be the more environmentally sustainable approach for many communities
- PAYT is the fairest approach from a cost perspective – you pay for what you throw
- PAYT is the most economically fair to all participant versus being forced to sign a contract for removal
- While I understand going with a single vendor for curbside may have an (initial) cost benefit – once you are signed into one company and eliminate competition costs will go up.
- I would pay more for the bags / reduce bag size to drive more recycling

I'd like to see a coordinated effort with the school system to reinforce the importance of recycling with student with meaningful ways they can increase recycling at their own homes which would also reduce costs to the Town.

I have thoroughly read the "Portsmouth Curbside Collection Request for Proposal White Paper". I am very satisfied the way the Transfer Station is run. My opinion is to keep the same as well as keep the PAYT.

Thank you for your time,

I read the white paper just now and came away very concerned for people like me. I had heard a "hybrid" transfer station/rubbish collection was being considered and was relieved the transfer station option would remain. However, after reading the white paper, it looks like the transfer station would remain an option only for bulky items and diversion materials.

For people like me, the option of using the transfer station for trash and recycling is **essential**.

Here's why I (and likely others) need the transfer station option:

- My driveway is 256 ft long and on a hill. Curbside pickup would turn an easy job of loading my car in my garage into a herculean task for a woman in her 70s (particularly in winter).
- I strongly support recycling and the majority of my waste is recyclable. As the white paper points out, eliminating pay-as-you-throw bags will diminish recycling.
- It seems wasteful and unjust to require me to pay for a service I neither want nor need (but would be forced to pay for if I could not use the transfer station).

Please retain the option of continuing to use the transfer station for trash disposal and recycling and yard waste. If you need to restrict hours, I could work with that.

Hello,

Forgive me if I've overlooked this, but I hope the town would provide a few Bulky/Hazardous waste amnesty days per year like Middletown and Newport do.

That is all I have for now. Thanks for your consideration,

Dear Sir,

We've been contracting curbside pick-up for our household waste for the last 5 years. During that time, costs have risen (see enclosed) and service quality has declined => the latest blow being the elimination of L&Y collection by our current company and the (no doubt related) reduction in same by their largest competitor. In addition to the rising cost and mediocre service, our neighborhood has been suffering the rumbling presence of as many as 4 different trash haulers on any given week. The current system of choose-your-own-hauler, has created a climate of too many companies spread too thinly to provide consistent service at a reasonable price.

For those of us currently contracting curbside pick-up, the designation of a **single hauler** by competitive bid will at least reduce the trash-truck traffic in our neighborhoods and has the potential to improve the quality of service and (maybe) lower our costs.

For the residents currently using the Transfer Station, **the town must to do it's best not to raise trash disposal costs**. By our calculation, the cost of the annual sticker and one 30 gal bag/week runs about \$312 a year.

Key Discussion Items

Leaf & Yard Debris:

What's good enough for Middletown, should be good enough for us. We should adopt the 22-week schedule and impose the "50-pound in its containers" limit.

Elimination of PAYT Bags:

To encourage recycling, issue the 60/65 gallon tote for MSW and the 90/95 gallon tote for recycling. PAYT bags should be used for overflow. Residents could request the larger tote for MSW at an additional annual cost.

Transfer Station Hours:

Hours need to be convenient/plentiful enough to discourage the improper disposal of Bulky Waste and Diversions while minimizing the cost of the operation. Do we know how much (as a percentage of total traffic) the transfer station is currently used for Bulky Waste and Diversions Disposal? In the absence of data, we suggest the following schedule as a starting point:

Monthly => Saturday (7:30-4:00), Sunday (11:00-4:00) & Weds (7AM-7PM)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to this process.

Good morning,

NO, I don't want the town involved in my trash.

The transfer station promotes recycling, private services do not.

There are many small households that should not be paying the same a larger household.

Additionally, I don't want my taxes increased to pay for trash pick up and employees to administer this service.

Regarding Leaf and Lawn Debris:

1. I like the current system where I can drop off my L&Y at my convenience and without a special container or bags.
2. If that is no longer an option and we are forced into curbside pickup
 - a. Absolutely we need **35 weeks minimum**. Even at that, I find myself hoarding branches and leaf debris throughout February and March and waiting anxiously for the 15th to come around.
 - b. We need weekly (not bi-weekly) collection from 15 March through 30 November.
 - c. I don't want to have to buy paper bags for L&Y; a container might be OK.
 - d. Tying in bundles doesn't work for leaves, grass, weeds and odd-length/width tree debris.
3. Our driveway is on a steep and windy hill. The automated pickup containers would be a problem because they have to be positioned precisely for collection. Any tall containers we set on the driveway would likely blow over.

Thank you for trying to provide the taxpayers with some options. It still puzzles me that the current Transfer Station is the cheapest option and the most convenient for our household. If the Transfer Station would be closed on Mondays could that keep the facility open? Also the Transfer Station operates without tax payers money. Just think how many towns would enjoy that facility.

The proposals mentioned in the WHITE PAPER all greatly reduce the citizens-taxpayers choices.

On page 4, "Having a single hauler in town for curbside collection is the preferred option." Whose preferred option? This "preferred option" would negate my power to choose what works best for my household; therefore, I reject it. This option will be the most expensive one for the taxpayer despite what the WHITE PAPER has stated; with no competition the hauler will charge more. I suspect the Town is receiving pressure from Providence or Washington DC to abolish some of our choices for trash removals? The taxpayers pay the salaries of the Town employees and in return we receive fewer/no choices.

If we have the option of the hybrid choice(unless it's a carrot on a stick?) I would like to use the Transfer Station to drop off yard waste, bulky waste and other items. Prefer that the Transfer Station would be open on an additional day like Thursday. It should be open weekly. I would like the option of the 90/95 gallon tote.

If all the residents must be on curbside pick up please let us have a choice to choose our hauler.

Key Discussion Items (page 5)

L&Y Debris:

1. Yes, but April 1 to December 30
2. No
3. No

Thank you for letting me participate in the WHITE PAPER. Understanding it's a complex issue. Thank you, again.

Respectfully,

Just spent more than an hour finding this "waste mgt survey" , reading the white paper and then was in the middle of my email response to town, and poof- website shut down/ kicked me off, something, mid sentence and now I have to rewrite my whole response. I am unable to do so now, due to an infirmity, which also prevents me from being able to push those proposed barrels up and out to the street from the back yard.. Any idea how those garbage trucks shake my house already? How often they wake me up because they are so loud? Our streets are not stable enough for the extra weight of those trucks.. Going to have to rewrite what I already composed, but pain prevents me from sitting here a moment longer. BUT , please consider the partial response, for starters. Thanks.

Sent as a whisper

Dear Portsmouth Department of Public Works,

Thank you for the white paper you published. I have only two comments:

We began using Black Earth Compost service a year ago, and now we only go to the transfer station twice a month and mainly just for recycling. The trash is rarely stinky, so we only remove one small bag biweekly (or less). As an additional incentive to cut back on MSW, could a fee reduction for households using compost options be considered?

Secondly, is it possible to move to smaller (60/65) trash cans, while still using larger (90/95) recycling bins?

I believe both of these changes would also address some of the concerns with respect to falling below the 35% recycling rate, as it would, due strictly to space, incentivise households to recycle as they otherwise do not have sufficient space in their trash cans, as well as incentivise more households to compost.

Thank you for your consideration. And thank you for your work in moving to a municipal curbside collection model!

Hello DPW-

I am responding to your request for comments on the waste management white paper:

The Transfer Station is an enterprise fund which pays for itself. It costs the Town taxpayers absolutely nothing if they do not use it.

The Transfer Station is the lowest cost trash service option and serves a very significant segment of the Town's population.

Most Transfer Station users (many are retired, elderly, or part time residents) believe the Transfer Station is the most convenient trash service for their lifestyle, regardless of the cost. They clearly stated this in the last public trash discussion with the Council.

PAYT bags, have dramatically increased the Town's overall recycling rate. Doing away with the Transfer Station as a place to throw trash (the only place PAYT bags are required) would be a major step backwards for town-wide recycling efforts - assuming the Town is serious about its recycling efforts. Requiring PAYT bags with curbside as the paper indicates, would seriously reduce adoption of that Town option and hence recycling.

A quick check with Waste Management shows anyone can have curbside service for \$37/mo. So EVERYONE has that option for just \$444 a year - if they want it. The Town could put out an RFP for a single hauler, without changing the Transfer Station operation to see if that would reduce that \$37/mo price. Even so, it is the Transfer Station which provides the real benchmark for competitive pricing. If the Transfer Station is eliminated as a place to throw trash, that competitive benchmark will no longer be in place. Any low "introductory" curbside price will quickly escalate.

Continuing the Transfer Station as it is, is a win-win option for thousands of Portsmouth residents at no cost to the taxpayer. It is disappointing that this option of keeping the Transfer Station as is, was not explored in the white paper at all - why? That is clearly what the residents that showed up at the last public discussion overwhelmingly wanted. Closing or reducing the Transfer Station from the complete trash service it provides today will save the taxpayers no money at all, it will inconvenience a significant segment of our population, and by eliminating a competitive service, it will likely contribute to higher curbside prices whether a single hauler or not.

Eliminating the Transfer Station as it is today, does not make economic or rational sense! No one is forced to use it if they do not want to, and if they do not use it, it costs them nothing. Please keep the Transfer Station open as it is.

Dear Administrator Rainer,

I congratulate you on your White Paper, reasonably thorough and very understandable. However, you did not address the following requirements:

1. How is a somewhat-handicapped person going to move his or her two "totes" from his or her garage to the curb? I do not think I am the only home-owner in this situation, as I know at least 2 elderly widows who live in homes by themselves.

Currently, my recycle bins are located in my garage directly outside the door from my kitchen; I can use my walker to move each of them to the tailgate of my mini-van. Over the course of the week (or two), I deposit my (white) tall kitchen trash-bags in a 32-gallon plastic barrel (in a different part of the garage). When I have accumulated enough kitchen bags to fill a medium-sized orange bag (not every week - about 40 times/year), I carry the orange bag (only partially full) to my mini-van and then fill it with the remaining kitchen bags. I take it to the Transfer Station, where John, a tall (and very kind) worker carries just about everything to the correct compactor-location (I have to move fast if I want to dump something).

So how will I be able to push or tow these "totes" up the slope of my driveway (the elevation of my cul-de-sac is 4' - 6" higher than the floor of my garage; my driveway is 40' long)? Consider that my driveway may be covered with snow or ice on my scheduled pickup day; and again on the following scheduled pickup day. Currently, when the weather is forbidding, I can wait until good weather and then drive to the transfer station.

2. I understand that the reason for this White Paper is to obtain guidance on the requirements to include in its subsequent Request for Proposal; the objective is to lower the costs for Portsmouth property owners who currently pay trash-collection contractors rather than buy stickers and haul their own trash to the transfer station. **My cost for 2023** will be \$250 (for the sticker) plus 5 times \$10 for a total of 40 (medium-sized) orange bags (40 transfer-station trips per year) **for a total cost of \$300**. I buy my orange bags at Ace Hardware where I always receive a 10% Veterans' Discount; plus, I use one of the \$5 gift cards I receive from Ace every month (the last orange bags I bought cost about \$8.50 each). **Your White Paper indicates you expect a \$402 annual-cost per resident. So I will be required to pay \$102 more per year in order to lower the annual costs for other home-owners! Do we not live in America?**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your White Paper.

Thank you for taking comments on the proposed trash hauling situation for Town of Portsmouth.

We used the transfer station for many years - aside from the the lines, the waiting as the bins and routes to drop trash, recycling etc. changed and apparently confused people, and the price of the stickers to use the place went up - the final straws for us were ...

1 - having to replace 2 large SUV tires at different times because of nails, screws etc in the compactor area (expensive - worth more than a years worth of private hauling)

2 - the PAYT bags. Expensive, non biodegradable or compostable plastic! And just a general annoyance.

Our current Waste Management contract is \$32 per month for weekly trash and recycling (96/95 gallon bins)

We rarely have more than 1 bag of trash per week. We DO have a lot of recycling. So larger recycling bin and smaller trash would work for us.

We use a mulching mower and we compost in the yard. That leaves tree and bush trimming that needs disposal still and bulky items.

A townwide service would be great to

1 -reduce the number of trucks and noise to one day per week per area.

2 -reduce price of service for most depending on how many sign ups.

3 - keep the transfer station available for bulky items or oil, tires, hard plastics etc.

25 years ago I participated in a Town Council meeting where there was discussion about a “Co-Composting” plant with other towns to deal with yard waste and compostable material (foods waste?) That apparently never materialized although private businesses do it.

Perhaps the composting situation should be revisited?

We would participate in a town pick up service if the price were competitive with private haulers, a reliable hauler is picked and there are NO PAYT bags.

Thank you,

Hi, I have always favored curbside trash pickup in the past but now that I am 80, it would be too difficult for me to get those large containers up my driveway, especially in the winter. If there was an option to have pickup outside my garage, I would be in favor even if I had to pay extra. I favor having the compactor available for bulky items disposal etc.

We vote to keep the Transfer Station system as is. It meets all the residents needs, fairly and at a reasonable cost. Trash collection, recycling, yard waste, etc. are all provided for in as many trips as are needed.

The system works. It doesn't need any intervention.

I vote for curbside pick up and to clean up the Transfer Station eyesore. Please do something better with the transfer station property than to have such an ugly mess at the gateway to our town. Please offer us something for our tax dollars. We already pay WM less than what you are proposing so surely you can negotiate a reasonable price for a town wide contract.

Thank you,

Hello

I am a resident on Prospect lane. We utilize the dump. It is the most cost effective means for disposal.

Plus, we can get our trash out at our leisure, we don't have to wait for a company that may or may not show up and raise prices at their discretion.

Additionally, if trash and recycling pick up is on a windy day which is often the case on Prospect lane, my neighbors rubbish blows all over the place a makes a mess.

Keep the dump open and fine the litterbugs for adding revenue.

Thank you

Dear Department of Public Works,

Our family moved to 191 Sea Meadow Drive during COVID in July 2020. We are A military family but will be retiring in our home after my husband is 30 years in the Army, (June 2025).

We have valued the Transfer Station greatly for many reasons.

-Our garbage does not blow away while waiting for trash pickup -we can bring numerous bags of yard waste and nobody is counting how many we drop off like a trash company -we know our recycling is actually going into recycling -our dogs love the transfer station attendants and look forward to biscuits -the staff is friendly and helpful -the hours are flexible

Please do not take away the transfer station as we depend on the ease of location and especially their art gallery.

Thank you,

hello publicworks at portsmouthri dot gov,

My comments on the "Portsmouth Curbside Collection Request for Proposal White Paper":

1. for bulky waste at the transfer station - have the transfer station open for more hours - maybe one evening a week as well as the times listed. How about all day Wednesday, into the evening, to 7pm?

That would allow people who work to come in in the evening, rather than just on weekends.

2. Bulky waste - how about taking the 'big city' approach - like Boston or NYC or others? They allow bulky waste to be put out on one collection day per week, and the city garbage trucks just pick it up. They have weight and size limits, but just about anything can be put out. For really big stuff, or lots of it, appointments (put it out on a specific day, city picks it up some time on that day) are made to pick up that bulky waste. Can Portsmouth do that?

3. Bulky waste fees - too many TBD's! I can see that quickly becoming the same as the fee schedule that appeared in the RFP responses from waste haulers that we saw a year or so ago? They came up with outrageous and unrealistic fees, like \$50 to pick up a microwave oven, etc.

4. Bulky waste as curbside pickup and no fee to pick it up? Maybe schedule it for one collection day each month, when you can put out your bulky waste and the hauler takes it away. That day would be when your household waste is normally picked up. I assume that curbside pickup would be scheduled - my street would be on Tuesday and your street on Thursday, etc. and the bulky waste pickup would occur on the same day as my household waste is picked up. Or do that kind of 'bulky waste pickup day' every two months? Rather than having the transfer station?

5. Eliminating PAYT and meeting the 35% target by RIRRC for recycling rates. Will curbside pickup have TWO bins - one household waste and another for recyclables? That can help with recycling - make it obvious that the household has two bins.

6. Also, how well do all the other cities and towns in RI do towards meeting this 35% target by RIRRC for recycling rates? Maybe we just are not a recycling state?

7. No mention anywhere of taking the L&Y that the town generates and having a town composting facility for that, and letting residents take that compost. That could divert some that extra L&Y that Portsmouth seems to generate so much of. And, Portsmouth might have to 'borrow'

less, or at least not worry about both exceeding the town's cap and not being able to borrow from the L&Y amount from neighboring cities and towns.

8. No mention of special recycling events - electronics? Hazardous materials (paints, etc.)? Hard plastics? Should those be mentioned?

9. Instead of a fee based system for bulky waste at the transfer station, would a yearly 'bulky waste' sticker do the same? The sticker would allow use of the transfer station for bulky waste, etc.

With this approach, there would still be curbside L&Y pickup.

10. Putting curbside pickup as a tax item, and have it handled in a 'big city' approach. Everyone would pay for it. Individuals could opt out, get a private hauler, but still pay for curbside as part of their taxes. We already have a precedent for this - school tax.

Residents continue to pay for the schools, via taxes, long after their own children have stopped going to the schools, and keep paying and never even have children that would go to schools.

11. The cap on how much town taxes can increase every year - there are provisions to go around that. That needs an effort to do.

Thanks for taking this debate and town wide issue to the public!

Regarding the descriptions of the options for the transfer Station:

It all sounds complicated and whatever is decided will cost us more. My main objection to the possible decisions is that the yard waste is taking a hit. I depend on yard waste being available, and of course because the transfer station was open 5 days a week, it was very convenient. With the yard waste removed from the transfer station, and the trash collection being weekly, it will be very inconvenient to store yard waste for a possible 7 days before it will be picked up.

I understand that things are more complicated, but it doesn't mean that I have to like it. I do appreciate that people are working hard for our benefit.

Thank you for that.

And here I thought Pay As You Throw was working well. The recycling rate sign shows the town performing well. So let's switch to a system guaranteed to lower the recycling rate. Brilliant! Not!

Do any of the Town Council members actually use the Transfer Station? The last time this was discussed, there were some members that wouldn't ever consider putting a stinky bag of trash in their car.

The current system is a lot cheaper for a lot of people. Leave it alone!

To the Portsmouth Town Council,

Thank you for considering the options for a curbside waste collection. I believe this is a better option than the current systems we have serving the town now. I will remind you that the majority of the citizens of Portsmouth use a curbside

collection service rather than the transfer station, though the TS users are more vocal. I feel it is in the best interest for the town to listen to the majority.

Here are my suggestions below as to why I believe curbside is the better course of action.

In regards to Option 2: Leaf and Yard Waste:

Collection of yard waste seems most reasonable, except the majority of the properties are large in Portsmouth. Would it be possible to do April and May every week and from October till the weekend before Thanksgiving every week and then switch to the every other week program?

If the town was to compost its collected yard waste, as Bristol does, the town could offer a curbside food scrap collection service. This would solve two fiscal problems, in the long run:

Not have to borrow weight from other towns for L&Y.

Reduce the amount of weight going to the landfill therefore reducing the cost of dumping.

20% of all waste weight is food waste. If the town composts the yard waste and the food waste the town would save money at the dump, Portsmouth would also be producing a desirable product (compost) that can either be sold to cover the cost or given back to the residents of Portsmouth as a reward to the program. Portsmouth *would also be a leader in the state to run such a program*. As Ted Pietz has recommended, Eva Touhey of Clean Ocean Access has graciously offered to present an overview of residential composting options; the Town Council might want to extend an invitation to her.

There is plenty of land in Portsmouth that could be utilized as a compost processing facility. I think Ragged Brewing has many acres they are not using and the town could always ask/ partner with the Aquidneck Land Trust to help find a piece of land. There is also the Navy land on the west side of the island that could be repurposed for such a program. It also might be advantageous to propose a partnership between the base and the town.

Elimination of PAYT bag:

I would love to not have PAYT bags. Buying one bag to line the trash bin and then buying another bag **both** with one purpose; to buy it and throw it out. This is an awful idea. What a waste of money and resources and ironically creating more waste!

Downsizing the trash bins is an excellent idea. The question is, would it be possible to go lower than a 60/65 gallon bin (35 gallon)? 60/65 gallon bins still seem to be an excessive amount of waste. And if a household has more trash than a 35 gallon bin every week perhaps they can purchase a second bin for an additional cost. The second bin gets a sticker. Also, having a food scrap collection program would help reduce the volume in the trash bin.

Transfer Station:

I think it would be great if the town could afford to leave this open with limited hours for bulky and hazardous waste. It is possible that the people who want to keep using the transfer station instead of curbside could do so. If ~4,000 people sign up for the curbside collection and ~2,000 people continue to use the transfer station, everyone gets what they want.

Thank you for considering my suggestions,

comment 1 : Page 2 "Curbside Collection" para. 2 L&Y collection: In 2022 519 tons of L&Y was disposed of:

1. How does the Public Works department dispose of L&Y generated from town streets, grounds and landscape maintenance?
2. Can the Public Works Dept shred L&Y from town maintenance as well as what is brought to the Transfer Station?
3. If all L&Y is shredded in town why can't it be used as mulch on town public areas and trails?
4. Has shredding been considering as was done in prior storms (Hurricane Bob for example)?
5. Would shredding reduce the number of truckload trips to the State site?

comment 2 : Page 3 Elimination of PAYT bags: My household consists of 2 retired persons 75+yrs old.

On average **per week** we dispose of about **19 gal of trash in Mini-PAYT** bags and about **20 gal. in volume of mixed recyclables.**

We have no garage space to store two 60 or 90 gallon curbside containers. They are too unsightly to place outside the house and too difficult to manage moving down and up from the street particularly during storms and Winter months.

Will smaller containers (maybe 32 gal. size) be available to lower volume users like us at a lower curbside rate?

Highly recommend considering this in your RFP.

comment 3: page 5, "3. Waste Diversion items. For ABC, metal and white goods- does the town get any financial credit as metals dealers would pay?