

# SWRC Recommendations

Economic Analysis and Proposed Way Forward

# The Bottom Line

- TS program is funded via an enterprise fund, funded primarily by user sticker fees (closed system).
- Lack of economies of scale (single provider).
  - Instead of selecting the most popular option utilized by the residents.
  - The supermajority of Portsmouth residents utilize curbside, and are paying higher prices for various reasons:
    - \$47/ton (\$80/ton if over the cap), and if a private hauler 2.44 times higher (for at-large), \$115/ton if non-contract (gate rate).
      - RIRRC's pricing scheme makes it more feasible to pursue a municipal option used by a supermajority of residents.
  - Higher indirect prices (eight haulers wear and tear on Town Roads).
  - Middletown's rate remains [\\$141/year](#) for 2022.
    - While Portsmouth's rates continue to climb.
  - The cost of doing nothing is higher direct costs (rates) and indirect costs (road usage and less overall diversion).
- Composting is an important objective for a variety of reasons.
  - Avoid cost for tipping and transport costs through townwide diversion.
    - [17.1% vegetative food waste, 7.3% compostable paper, and 3.1% protein food waste](#) = 27.5% (over a quarter of residential waste stream!).
  - Transportation rate is \$23.64/ton for MSW.
    - Based on our 2017 bids, which is likely to climb significantly when rebid.
  - Extends the life of the RIRRC landfill.

# Formal Recommendations

- **Retain PAYT.**
  - Recycling rate trend was around 20% for 2017.
    - Once PAYT implemented November 2017, rate rose to and is now consistently 35%+.
  - Fairest way to share the costs of the program.
  - Haulers to flag contaminated recycling bins (affix sticker) and track rejection rates.
  - WasteZero contract option expires 18DEC2022.
    - 15% fee, are there other models to explore (ribbons or holographic decals)?
- Townwide curbside.
  - Expand program to small residential multi-dwelling units (MDUs).
  - **Shift all MSW and diversion programming to tax base, should the model switch to town-wide curbside.**
  - Expand program to municipal facilities (including Sandy Point Beach) and facilities receiving civic support (such as CFP Community Hall).
- Create a standalone composting solicitation and/or officially recommended solution.
  - "Take rate" is harder to project.
  - Recommend smaller proposed increments (blocks of 250/500 HHs) and presenting various models (curbsides or drop-off "hubs").
- Explore options for local diversion of yard waste vice transporting to RIRRC in Johnston, RI.

# Awareness of Potential Collaboration

- Determine feasibility of collaboration with Middletown.
  - Per Will Cronin 09JAN2020: *"...Middletown extended our contact with Republic for three years last July, so we have two and a half years left."*
    - Determine if would increase efficiencies at the municipal staffing level and allow for a more attractive bid response.
    - Larger pool normalizes/stabilizes the numbers.
  - SWRC declined to make a formal recommendation at its March 2021 meeting as there are too many unknown variables.
- NOTE: School Department issues its own RFPs for waste management services.

# “Diversion Station”

- TS remains operational and rebranded as the “Diversion Station”.
  - Extends life of RIRRC landfill.
  - Open to all residents of Portsmouth.
    - Simply show driver's license with a Portsmouth address.
  - Current services, but add standing special collections such as bulky plastics, e-Waste, scrap metal, and shredded paper, TBD if fee based with amnesty days (variant of PAYT model), or.
    - Ability to dispose of a variety of items is a popular feature [per survey results presented [15AUG2017](#)].
- Mitigate illegal dumping (eliminate barriers).
  - Especially if services already being covered for via taxes.
- Yard Waste option at TS for ad-hoc, curbside yard waste not year round.
- “Amnesty days” for bulky waste items.
- Specify in bid various coverage options (10 – 20 hours a week).
  - For example, 16 hours coverage could be 0800-1200 Saturday, 1100-1900 Mondays, and 0800-1200 Thursdays.
    - Current coverage is 48.5 hours.

# Other Outstanding Recommendations

- Update SWRC bylaws to specify a Town Staff to liaison.
  - Requires action by the TC to amend.
- Require a diversion plan for all applications to utilize Town facilities.
  - Require recycling bins (slotted) and composting bins (if food scraps) to be staged at such events.
    - Formally recommended [11SEP2019](#).
  - Coordinate with various event sustainability firms such as 11th Hour Racing.

# Proposed Way Ahead

- NOV 2021 – Set TS sticker pricing.
  - Consider a mechanism to transition to for first 6 months of CY22 only or to a curbside solution (redeem for a bin sticker).
- DEC 2021 – Review and update prior RFPs (from 2017).
- JAN 2022 – Advertise RFPs for Townwide services.
  - Recommend separate composting RFP as the large haulers are not likely to be responsive to a composting option.
- FEB-MAR 2022 – Negotiation and Vender Selection.
- APR-MAY 2022 – Public education, refresh pertinent Town website sections (including FAQs).
  - Utilize public resources posted by other municipalities.
- JUN 2022 – Delivery of bins (if curbside option selected).
- 01JUL2022 – Current Transfer Station option expires/new contract in place.

## 2017 Timeline:

- [29AUG2017](#) – Special Workshop.
  - Discussion of SWRC Survey and Presentation of SWRC's recommendations.
- [10OCT2017](#) – TC Selects Waste Services Contractor From Bid Results.
  - P18-002 (Solid Waste And Recyclables Operations)
  - P18-003 (Residential And Municipal Refuse And Recyclables Collection Services)
- [23OCT2017](#) – TC Awards TS Contract to J.R. Vinagro.

# The SWRC is here to help!

- Continue to provide analysis to Town Council.
  - Formal presentations to TC:
    - [08FEB2021](#).
      - TS “take rate” and cost analysis over the course of the current contract.
    - [13AUG2019](#).
      - Tax base vs. enterprise fund.
        - Updated [slides](#).
      - Prorated stickers.
- Review pre-solicitation RFP documents.
- Documentation review and recommend updates.
  - Pertinent Town website pages (including FAQs).
- Public education and outreach efforts.