


City of Taunton
Strategy Review Solid Waste Management

Briefing #2 for
Taunton City Council

Presented by:
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February 5, 2019



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Presentation Outline

- 1 – Key Points from Last Briefing
- 2 – Landfill Flyover Capacity
- 3 – Contractor meetings
- 4 – RFP Development
- 5 – Convenience Center
- 6 - Next Steps



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Key Points from Last Briefing

- Residents can expect higher costs once free disposal and Landfill royalties change
- In addition to what's presented today, team is assessing closure/post-closure costs at Landfill now
- Cart collection of residential waste should be considered in order to:
 - lower cost impact;
 - increase convenience for residents; and
 - improve cleanliness of City



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Landfill Flyover Capacity

- As of December 13, 2018:
 - 246,000 CY remain
 - Waste Management now filling 180,000 CY per year
- Next flyover June 2019
- December 2019 estimated planning for closure, could go into February 2020



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Contractor Meetings

- **Waste Management**
Tuesday, January 29, 2019
- **Republic Services**
Wednesday, January 30, 2019



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Contractor Meetings - WM

Waste Management

- Tuesday, January 29th 4pm at DPW
- WM Attendees:
 - David Pope, Landfill Operations Manager and Regional Transfer Station Manager
 - Peter Richer, Area Environmental Engineer
- Key takeaways:
 - WM will send letter of their response to the options
 - Mechanical Stabilized Earth Berm very challenging; provided useful background information



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Contractor Meetings - Republic


Republic Services

- Wednesday, January 30th 1:30pm at DPW
- Republic Attendees:
 - Gail Vanasse, General Manager
 - Brian Penney, Operations Manager
 - Chris Macero, Municipal Representative
- Key takeaways:
 - Interested to maintain contract
 - Opportunity for Taunton to negotiate for improved service efficiency



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RFP Development

- Planned RFP menu of options for proposers
 - Short-term
 - Long-term
- Potential sites under discussion
- Seeking MassDEP support
- Marketing event in Boston on Feb 27th




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Benchmarking

Demographic Information (All figures, 2017 U.S. Census data)	Taunton	New Bedford	Fall River	Middleborough	Brockton	Attleboro
Population	57,139	95,120	89,420	24,873	95,672	44,590
Households	22,000	39,500	38,600	9,000	32,200	17,000
Median Household Income	\$56,797	\$40,626	\$39,328	\$79,800	\$52,393	\$70,136




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Benchmarking-cont'd

	Taunton	New Bedford	Fall River	Middleborough	Brockton	Attleboro
Solid Waste Budget	\$2,561,000	\$8,199,221	\$5,754,000	\$1,145,830	\$8,339,686 Enterprise Fund	\$1,008,504
Budget per Capita	\$44.82	\$86.20	\$64.35	\$46.07	\$87.17	\$22.62
Collection Contract Includes Disposal?	No	No	Yes	City Collects	Yes	Yes
Periodic User fees?	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$51.00 per quarter	\$71.00 per quarter (4)	\$203.00 annually
Tipping Fee	\$0.00	\$70.00	\$66.44	\$25.00 (5)	Not available	\$73.00
Recycling frequency	Bi-weekly	Weekly	Weekly	Bi-weekly	Bi-weekly	Weekly
PAYT bags?	Yes, required for all trash; \$2 for 30-gallons	No (6)	No (7)	Yes, overflow trash only; \$3 for 30-gallons (half size available too)	Yes, overflow trash only; \$1 for 30-gallons	Yes, overflow trash only; \$2 for 30-gallons
Bulky restricted?	52 items annually (8)	By appointment	By appointment	Not provided, residents must bring to landfill	1 item per week, scheduled	1 item per week



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Benchmarking - footnotes

³ Massachusetts 41C Law allows for residents, senior citizens in particular, to receive free waste services, among other utilities, based on income. Eligible residents must make less than \$15,000 a year, have \$10 - 15,000 in assets and be over 70 years. <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/01/02/dor-proptax-guide-seniors.pdf>.

⁴ Fee is \$71.00 per unit; customer addresses can have up to 5 units.

⁵ Certain number of their tons are free under the landfill contract; thereafter is \$25.

⁶ Each user pays a one-time fee to use a rolling cart (not 1-3 units).

⁷ Prior to January 29, 2019, Fall River required City PAYT bags for all trash.

⁸ "The City will not collect more than one Bulky Item per week from each residential unit. The City may require stickers on Bulky Items in the future to offset the cost of managing these items." <https://www.taunton-ma.gov/sites/tauntonma/files/uploads/solidwasterecreg.pdf>.



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Convenience Center Example: Guam




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Timeline

- Feb 2019
 - Contractor and MassDEP meetings
 - RFP development
- March 2019
 - RFP approval to advertise
 - Convenience Center planning
- May 2019
 - RFP short-term due
- June - December 2019
 - RFP long-term due
 - Select option going forward
 - 5-year financial plan
 - Negotiations support



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Thank you!

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GBB



- Headquartered in McLean, VA
- Established in 1980 as an objective adviser to governments, institutions, and businesses
- 39 years implementing innovative solutions for waste and recycling industry
- Dedicated exclusively to solid waste management
- “Change Agents” to produce better services and facilities



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City of Taunton, MA: Community Benchmarking

as of February 5, 2019

Taunton staff initially suggested 3 cities for benchmarking—New Bedford, Fall River, and Middleborough.

GBB prepared a list of cities in Massachusetts comparable to Taunton based on the following criteria:

- Weekly collection of refuse and recycling using rolling carts
- Operation of at least one recycling drop off center¹
- Curbside collection via a contract with private company²
- Collection contract is combined (i.e., same company for both refuse and recycling)
- Customers pay annual or quarterly fees for solid waste fees
- Special pay-as-you-throw bags for setting out overflow

A list of eight cities was presented to Taunton staff, and two cities were chosen to add to the list—Brockton and Attleboro. The table shows how the demographics of these cities compare to Taunton.

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As the scope of the benchmarking exercise was limited to readily-available data, GBB was able to use desktop research to gather the information. The results were assembled in a table and then GBB identified similarities and differences, as described below.

1.1. Results of Research

- All the cities except Middleboro, which is the smallest by far of the cities in the benchmark survey, contract out for solid waste collection services. New Bedford, which is effectively tied with Brockton to be the largest of the cities in the survey, is the only city that provides service for any businesses.
- Most of the benchmarking cities have a pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) bag system, but they use it for overflow trash, only. Taunton is the only city that requires all refuse to be in PAYT bags. Fall River previously required PAYT bags be used as Taunton does, but the program ended January 29, 2019. Middleborough, Brockton, and Attleboro use the PAYT bags for overflow, or extra, refuse that will not fit in a customer's cart or barrel on collection day. New Bedford does not use any PAYT bags, but it does require all refuse to be inside the carts because it is collected using automated trucks. Experience of 35-gallon cart in New Bedford to be avoided.
- Two cities have a similar bulky collection policy to Taunton—unscheduled weekly collection limited to one item per week. Two cities require appointment scheduling for bulky collection.

¹ The cities GBB provided, along with New Bedford and Middleborough, operate single stream recycling drop off centers; Fall River has a drop off center for certain recyclable materials, like metals and yard waste, but not single stream recyclables like bottles and cans.

² Middleboro collects solid waste using city forces, not a contract with the private sector.

- Of the benchmarking cities, three had weekly collection of recycling and two had bi-weekly.
- Middleborough is the only city that does not collect bulky at the curb, instead requiring customers to bring bulky items to the landfill. All the other cities somehow restrict bulky set outs, either limiting the amount or requiring an appointment.

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Periodic User fees?³	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$51.00 per quarter	\$71.00 per quarter ⁴	\$203.00 annually
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Recycling frequency	Bi-weekly	Weekly	Weekly	Bi-weekly	Bi-weekly	Weekly
PAYT bags?	Yes, required for all trash; \$2 for 30-gallons	No ⁶	No ⁷	Yes, overflow trash only; \$3 for 30-gallons (half size available too)	Yes, overflow trash only; \$1 for 30-gallons	Yes, overflow trash only; \$2 for 30-gallons
Bulky restricted?	52 items annually ⁸	By appointment	By appointment	Not provided, residents must bring to landfill	1 item per week, scheduled	1 item per week

1.2. Correspondence Between Solid Waste System Features

- The cities with higher tipping fees had higher per capita costs;⁹ however, there did not appear to be a correspondence between tipping fees and any periodic user fees, as the cost of the periodic

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⁶ Each user pays a one-time fee to use a rolling cart (not 1-3 units).

⁷ Prior to January 29, 2019, Fall River required City PAYT bags for all trash.

⁸ "The City will not collect more than one Bulky Item per week from each residential unit. The City may require stickers on Bulky Items in the future to offset the cost of managing these items." <https://www.taunton-ma.gov/sites/tauntonma/files/uploads/solidwasterecreg.pdf>.

⁹ Although not every resident receives service from the city—i.e., the cities do not collect from residents of apartment or condominium complexes—it is a good metric for the size of the city as compared to the size of the budget.

fees in the city with the highest tipping fee (Attleboro) was virtually the same as that in the city with the lowest tipping fee (Middleborough).

- There did not appear to be a correspondence between per capita budget and recycling frequency, bulky collection, or PAYT bag requirements.
- There did not appear to be a correspondence between recycling frequency and bulky collection, nor between recycling frequency and use of PAYT bags.
- There appears to be a correspondence between bulky collection and use of PAYT bags. The Two cities which require an appointment for bulky, but allows larger set-outs, do not use PAYT bags. The cities that limit bulky set-outs to zero or 1 item per week use PAYT bags. These two policies may work together as a disincentive for residents to set out large amounts of debris and refuse as “bulky” waste, with the attendant variable costs. Another result is that residents have to deal with large amounts of debris promptly, either by hauling to a facility or hiring a specialty contractor, which has a benefit to cleanliness.