

9 Solid Waste Management

Overview: Solid waste management is a topic that touches every person and every aspect of society. It is one for serious attention and concern in Canterbury. The Transfer Station at 83 Baptist Road serves the town is situated on over 6 acres of land that once served as a landfill and currently accepts a wide range of recyclables. The station is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 4:00 to 6:45 PM, and on Saturdays 8:00 to 5:45.

Elements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Solid Waste Disposal; New Hampshire & Canterbury• Current Status, Challenges, & Future Recommendations
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Survey and Results

The Solid Waste Committee conducted a town-wide survey. Surveys were mailed to every residence in town. Residents were asked to fill out and deliver responses to drop boxes at the Transfer Station, Elkins Library, or via mail to the Town Office. A link was also provided for input online. Responses rate was 36%. 85.5% of residents utilize the transfer station to dispose of their trash, as opposed to utilizing a dumpster or private company for pick up. Over 90% sort their recycling and almost 58% compost their own food scraps at home. 63% would be in favor of “exploring the possibility of potential alternative site.”

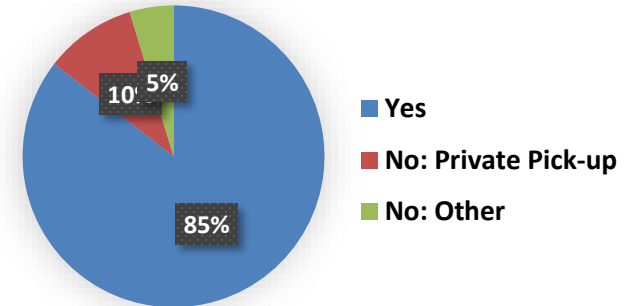
THE TOWN’S THOUGHTS

“Canterbury has a long history of environmental stewardship.”
“We request Canterbury continue to recycle all available materials even when there may be a negative financial impact.” From Warrant Article 19, Town of Canterbury 2019 Annual Report.

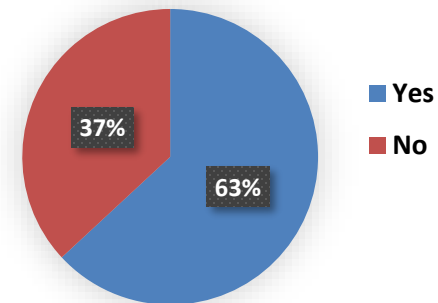


FROM THE SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE’S SURVEY

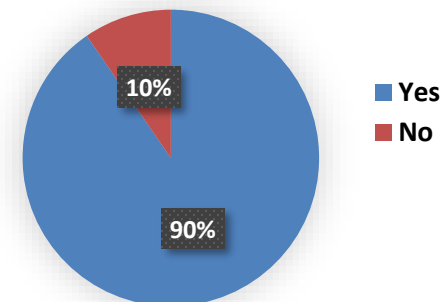
Do you use the Transfer Station to dispose of your household trash?



Would you be in favor of exploring potential alternative Transfer Station sites?



Do you currently separate recyclable materials at home?



Canterbury Solid Waste Disposal

The Transfer Station sits atop a closed and temporarily capped Landfill. The landfill ceased to operate in the mid-1980's (verify this). Required air and water monitoring by the State is ongoing to ensure protection of human health and the environment. The site is now one of 174 permitted "Collection, storage and transfer" facilities regulated by NHDES pursuant to RSA 149-M, all across the state.

The Transfer Station requires its citizens to sort items they bring to the station into separate waste components (household trash, common recyclables, items containing refrigerant, electronic devices, tires, construction debris, waste oil, brush, light bulbs, light Styrofoam, bulky furniture and mattresses, and scrap metals). NHDES estimates that the average municipal recycling rate across the state is 26%.

Canterbury is a "Pay-as-You-Throw" (or PAYT) community and performs periodic "bag checks" as methods for increasing participation in a mandatory recycling ordinance. A separate-colored bag is required with the purchase of bags available at the Transfer Station, Town Office and Shaw's in Concord.

The "Treasure House" is a long-time staple in Canterbury. Its purpose is to divert unwanted, previously used items from being disposed of in the waste stream, at least temporarily. The "house" is limited in space and a strict item acceptance policy ensures an items tenure and reuse capabilities. The Treasure House is staffed and open only when volunteers are available.

The transfer station does accept "clean" brush that is burnt under the direction of the Fire Department. Any form of composting (leaves or food waste) is NOT currently being conducted.

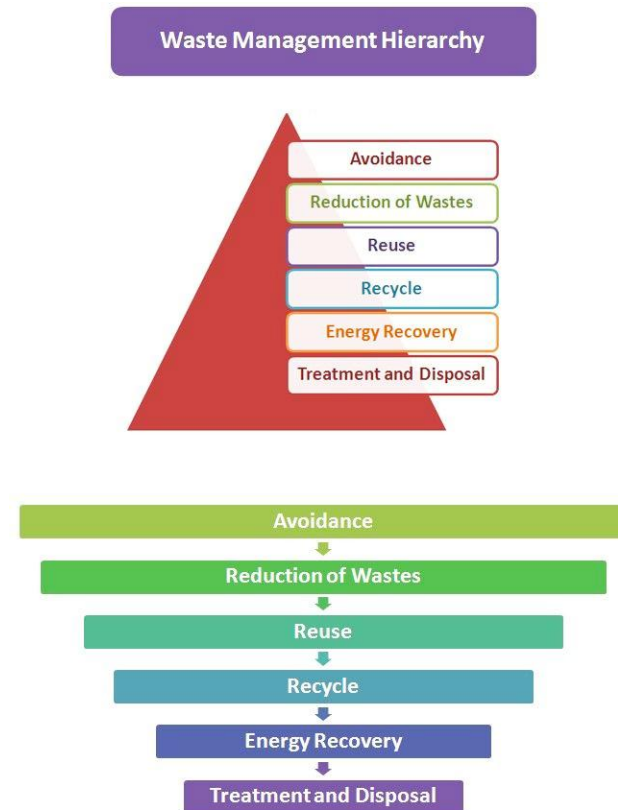
SOLID WASTE IN NH

The State of New Hampshire has published its Solid Waste Management Plan (September 30, 2022). It set waste reduction goals for 25% by 2030 and 45% by 2050. It included all municipal solid waste (MSW) and construction and demolition

debris (C&D) within these goal parameters. In 2024, HB 1371 was passed (effective 9/24/24) to allow municipalities to include a waste reduction chapter in their Master Plans. Canterbury is currently undergoing a comprehensive Master Plan update.

THE IMPORTANCE OF RECYCLING & WASTE DISPOSAL

In 2019, NRRA estimated that 71% of communities in NH used source separation (sorting recyclables separately), however, those communities only encompassed 43% of the population at the time. Canterbury is one of these communities. The alternative is "Single stream" programs that rely on regional Materials Recovery Facilities (MRF) to separate co-mingled recyclables. Currently, all single stream MRFs are located out-of-state.



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Current Location

The current site consists of 6 acres, but the usable space is limited to 2 acres due to its being shared with the highway department and their storage of salt and sand. It sits atop a temporarily capped landfill therefore any type of renovation or manipulation of the ground is tenuous at best. Annual water quality is conducted around the site in dedicated test wells. Minimum staffing includes the Station Manager and one assistant. Assistance from the Highway Department is provided as needed. Space to store bailed and recycled materials is limited and difficult to orchestrate mainly due to the different types of sorted material and other debris that is collected and accounted for. Clean brush is collected and burned in a pit under the direction of the Fire Department and Station Manager. There is no space to compost leaves or food waste at the present time.

UPGRADES

The most recent upgrades to the transfer involved new wiring and installation of energy efficient lighting, an electrical 200-amp service, a refurbished bailer to recycle cardboard and mixed paper, and installation of broadband cable. The current project is to obtain a credit card reader to process cashless transactions.

TIPPING FEE TRENDS

Household trash is taken by the town to the Wheelabrator Incinerator in Pennacook NH. It is expected that the incinerator will continue to operate for at least the next 10 years, having recently extended a contract with a local city to dispose of its waste. Disposal fees, also known as tipping fees, have been steadily increasing. They were \$71.14 per ton in 2021, rising to \$74.70 in 2022, \$85 in 2023, and \$90 in 2024. They are expected to reach \$120 by the end of their contract in less than 10 years, or sooner!

New Challenges & Concerns

The Transfer Station is situated in part, atop the Town's old landfill with landfill closure to occur in the future. The financial aspects of recycling are a key issue. The market for selling recyclables is unsteady and unreliable. Storage of baled recycled materials waiting to be shipped to market is problematic at the current small site. On many instances, a "penalty" is assessed because a tractor trailer sent to market was not fully loaded. The inability to modify or construct structures on site makes changes or modifications challenging. The small footprint of working space is constraining. New Initiatives such as composting food scraps, collecting packing Styrofoam (around new televisions, for example) for processing, along with maintaining the current collection efforts all require "space" and that is very limited at the current location.



Objectives and Recommendations (future measures)

Continue to account in a Capital Reserve fund to prepare for eventual landfill capping. Earmark funds in another Capital Reserve for a new site investment and equipment purchases. Plan and conduct Hazardous Waste collection events.

Objective One

Reduce the quantity of solid waste generated to align with future State of NH goals:

- 1 Consider participation in State Surplus Program for future purchases.
- 2 Reduce plastic consumption and subsequent waste byproduct through public education programs and materials.
- 3 Initiate food waste diversion; increase organic waste composting through public education programs and materials.
- 4 Explore efforts to recycle materials (i.e. collaboration with the town of Guilford and their Styrofoam recycling efforts).

Objective Two

Reduce the toxicity of our solid waste:

- 1 Plan, Finance, and conduct Hazardous Waste Collection-events periodically.
- 2 Educate and publicize strategies for disposing of complex waste which may contain things like batteries, latex paint, cat litter, antifreeze, small gas cylinders, e-cigarettes/vaporizers, and items containing mercury.

Objective Three

Maximize the diversion of solid waste from disposal:

- 1 Expand the scope and efforts of the Treasure House by:
 - Eliciting volunteers to repair damaged items prior to disposal. If the item can be repaired easily, it will prevent its disposal entirely, thereby diverting the amount of waste disposed of.
 - Broadening outreach capabilities to facilitate the diversion of an item prior to disposal (Items not accepted at treasure house) such as electronic devices and/or bulky furniture. These items could instead be listed on a bulletin board for someone to retrieve for free.

Objective Four

Ensure adequate capacity:

- 1 Explore the possibility of relocation to a site with greater storage capacity and space to achieve goals.

Objective Five

Funding sources:

- 1 Research potential funding sources which may be allocated towards equipment costs and/or public education programs.