

May 8, 2015

To: Southborough Board of Selectmen

From: Southborough Green Technology and Recycling Committee

Subject: Transfer Station Waste Management Alternatives

The Southborough Green Technology and Recycling committee would like to contribute information and suggested alternatives to the upcoming Board of Selectmen review of the Transfer Station management. Our committee asks the Town of Southborough to approach management of the Transfer Station from a Best Practices viewpoint using evidence-based decision-making thereby achieving optimum results in terms of cost, fairness and protection of the environment. We understand tradition and culture can be at odds with proposals for change. Breaking from long standing habits is sometimes difficult, but there is evidence that doing so could produce tangible benefits. The approach we are proposing is a management practice of increasing acceptance both in the State of Massachusetts and throughout the United States. We feel delay in acceptance of these new methods is not in the best interest of the town residents and the environment.

Our proposal is for Southborough to establish a user based pricing model to finance the operation of the Transfer Station. Data comparing Southborough's waste stream to communities in Massachusetts shows current practices at the Transfer Station result in users of our facility burdening the towns financial resources by disposing of 40% more waste than the average community in Massachusetts. Of the one third of Massachusetts's communities who have implemented a progressive user based pricing operating model, the waste disposal habits we now have place put us at 80% above these communities. There is also an environmental benefit associated with user based pricing. Users are encouraged to redirect more of their waste stream into the recycling process. Doing so reduces their waste disposal cost. Finally there is the fairness user based pricing brings to the process. Those whose situation and habits reduce trash destined for incineration thereby reduce their individual costs for waste disposal.

Our committee would like to have the opportunity to explore with the Board of Selectmen the opportunities user based pricing has for Southborough. If you are willing we can make expertise in this technology available for your consideration.

Please let us know if you would like to proceed with this approach at this time.