



TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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February 19, 2021

Information Sheet: Waste Management Transfer Station Fee Increase

As part of the 2021 budget process, Regional Council has approved an increase to the minimum charge at the Region of Waterloo's transfer stations to \$10, effective April 1, 2021.

The minimum fee charged at the transfer stations mean those residents and businesses who choose to use this service pay for it directly, rather than having all taxpayers across the Region subsidize their waste disposal. This fee aligns with other municipalities in Ontario. In addition to covering some of the costs of handling waste through the transfer stations, the minimum fee also encourages transfer station users to bring consolidated loads to the transfer station less frequently (e.g. once a month instead of once a week, thus reducing the number of trips). Other waste diversion options are available in the community such as commercial metal recyclers, or other free local business drop-off locations for items such as e-waste.

Staff encourage all residents receiving municipal collection to take full advantage of the curbside services available to them for garbage and large items/appliances, as these services are covered through property taxes. For times when residents have more garbage than the curbside limits allow, there is the option of using garbage bag tags on extra bags for collection. Garbage bag tags are available for purchase on our [website](#), at the cost of \$10 per sheet (five tags per sheet). Garbage bag tags are a practical option for maximizing curbside collection and at \$2 per bag, it can be a financially favourable option compared to taking a small load to the transfer station.

What about household hazardous waste?

It is important to safely dispose of household hazardous items (e.g. paint and motor oil) and not put these into the garbage. Residential household hazardous waste is accepted at our transfer stations at no charge ([limit maximum 25 litres per day](#)) but please note this is for residential household hazardous waste only, the Region is not permitted to accept hazardous wastes generated by businesses.

There are other free options available for household hazardous waste disposal. Residents are encouraged to find neighbourhood drop-off locations for their hazardous and special wastes by checking on the [household hazardous waste](#) page on our website or visiting www.makethedrop.ca.

What about recyclables not accepted curbside, such as e-waste and scrap metal?

There are a number of free drop-off locations with local businesses for e-waste (visit www.recyclemyelectronics.ca) and large amounts of scrap metal. If the transfer station is the preferred option, fees will apply. If residents separate these materials from garbage for disposal, the loads containing only recyclable items are charged at half the rate of garbage (\$42.50 per tonne, effective April 1, 2021) but the minimum fee still applies. Although we receive some revenue for scrap metal, e-waste and other recyclables, it is not enough to cover the cost for handling and transportation.

Whenever possible, residents are encouraged to find reuse options for still usable items. Reusable household goods, such as small appliances, clothing, and other household items are accepted free of charge at many charitable organizations around Waterloo Region; some will even pickup at your door. There are many online buy and sell options. Residents can also find many options on the [Reuse and Reduce Directory](#) on our website.

What about yard waste?

Yard waste such as brush, grass clippings, hedge trimmings and leaves can be composted for reuse as a soil amendment, and kept out of the landfill. There is no limit to the amount of yard waste that residents receiving municipal collection can set out for collection, as long as it is properly prepared according to [collection standards](#). The cost to transport, grind and process yard waste for composting is still significant. Similar to recyclables, loads containing only yard waste are charged at half the rate of garbage (\$42.50 per tonne, effective April 1, 2021), but the minimum fee still applies.

For more information:

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