

## SOLID WASTE REDUCTION TASK FORCE MEETING

Town of Southwest Harbor

Southwest Harbor Offices & Via Zoom<sup>1</sup>

Monday, April 29, 2024, 12 PM-1:00 PM

AGENDA [Draft, Final 4/24/24]

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **ROLL CALL**
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** *Minutes of April 1, 2024*
4. **AGENDA REVIEW AND ADOPTION:** *Meeting of April 29, 2024*
5. **WELCOME MESSAGE**
6. **COMMUNICATIONS**
  - Public hearing of 4/23
  - Town meeting 5/6
  - Municipal and State elections 5/7
7. **FINAL REPORT**
  - Review and discuss the draft report.
  - Date and process to release.
8. **Task Force swan song:** thoughts on future activities, actions include minutes of 4/1 meeting
9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Prepared by the Chair, Ellen Pope  
Submitted by Ken Rozsahegyi, Secretary

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<sup>1</sup> Zoom links for scheduled meetings are posted on the Town's website [www.southwestharbormaine.org](http://www.southwestharbormaine.org)



## SOLID WASTE REDUCTION TASK FORCE MEETING

Town of Southwest Harbor  
Southwest Harbor Offices & Via Zoom<sup>1</sup>  
April 1, 2024, 12:00 PM-1:00 PM

MINUTES [Draft 4/6/24, Revised 4/11/24]

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ellen Pope called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

### 2. ROLL CALL

Attending the meeting were:

Ellen Pope, Chair, Pat Welch, Craig Kesselheim, Ken Rozsahegyi, Secretary (remote). Kate Pickup, Vice Chair, Jim Valette, SB Liaison. Excused absence: Phyllis Acadia. Priscilla Ksionzyk, Visitors: Lee Worcester, Lyndsey Worcester, Alan Rosenquist

### 3. MINUTES APPROVAL

The minutes of March 4<sup>th</sup> 2024 were approved.  
The minutes of March 18<sup>th</sup> 2024 were approved.

### 4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The meeting agenda was adopted.<sup>2</sup>

### 5. WELCOME MESSAGE

The SWH Chair welcomed all. The joint meeting with the Trenton Solid Waste Committee and the SWH Solid Waste Reduction Task Force was a clear winner, with a strong focus on outreach and education, and a review of each town's accomplishments and concerns regarding solid waste budgeting, cost control, and volume reduction. (note: see minutes of 3/18/24 for details).

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<sup>1</sup> Zoom links for scheduled meetings are posted on the Town's website [www.southwestharbormaine.org](http://www.southwestharbormaine.org)

<sup>2</sup> All motions are unanimous unless otherwise stated.

## **6. PRIORITIES AHEAD**

With the remaining time of the Task Force, the Chair listed priorities of the task force:

1. **FINAL REPORT:** Presenting a final report to the Select Board, which may be a cover letter and summary of both phase I and II task force work, findings and recommendations.
2. **PUBLIC HEARING:** Preparing for the public hearing on the proposed ordinance to take place during a Select Board meeting on 4/23/24.
3. **STANDING COMMITTEE:** Proposing that the task force work be continued, perhaps as a standing committee or authority such as a board.
4. **ELECTION DAY:** Preparing for election day on May 7<sup>th</sup> at the SWH Fire Station when the ordinance is up for vote.
5. **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING:** Preparing for the annual town meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup> at the Pemetic Elementary School.

### **A. DISCUSSION ON THE FINAL REPORT**

The contents of the final report to the Select Board were discussed at length.

- 1) Craig said it could be a compendium with highlights and key accomplishments.
- 2) Kate said it was an important document for future reference.
- 3) Ken the key documents are available in the library, they can be included in the report or referenced. Ken will review the documents and synthesize the important ones for the report. There is a reports folder in the task force library.
- 4) Ellen will write the memo and intro for the final report,
- 5) Task force members can send Ellen their topics for inclusion in the report.
- 6) Alan suggested a flow chart and visuals to communicate quickly to the Select Board, and to the community as well. Include short term doable goals for cardboard, etc.

## **B. DISCUSSION ON THE HEARING FOR THE ORDINANCE**

What can be done to promote approval of the proposed solid waste ordinance?

- a) Letter to the editor: The Chair read an excerpt of Craig's recent letter to the editor MDIslander in reference to the question. "What difference will it make?" (See attachment A for the full text of the letter).

Craig wrote:

"At this spring's Town election, Southwest Harbor has the opportunity to approve a Solid Waste Ordinance. If passed, the ordinance will not immediately resolve the issues we share. But for the first time, it will create an obligation on our town's government to shepherd the taxpayer's dollar and seek ways to mitigate our exceptional per capita output of trash."

- b) The existing email list can be used again to communicate with interested parties to alert them to the hearing and vote on the ordinance. There should be just one email blast sent to keep it efficient.
- c) Personal calls reaching out to contacts will help. It can be said as follows: "Did you hear about the solid waste issues coming before the town?"
- d) Perhaps another letter to the editor...

## **C. DISCUSSION ON THE EMR CONTRACT QUESTION**

- 1) Alan, raised the question, that people will respond, "where will the trash go if we don't have a contract with EMR?" That is the main concern. The answer is that it is a Select Board decision, and the task force is just advisory.

Responding to Alan's question, Jim spoke to the legal questions currently before the Select Board, that will frame the next steps and options available in regard to EMR.

The three legal questions are:

- Is the "exclusivity" in the current contract with EMR constitutional? This refers to a US supreme court decision under the US Constitution.
- Does a private transfer station who receives trash from customers who do not have a contract, including Acadia National Park, a federal government agency (Department Of the Interior), obligated to open gates to receive trash from SWH if SWH chooses not to have a contract with EMR?

- Is SWH required to hold a competitive RFP process prior to engaging with EMR in a multimillion-dollar multi-year contract for solid waste services? The answers will be ready for the Select Board Meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 2) Answers: The next two weeks these questions are expected to be answered. The answers are essential in order to make decisions about next steps and opportunities going forward.  
  
Craig: The answers to these questions do not mean that there will be no contract, but that these will be part of solutions going forward.
- 3) Municipal Facilities advantage: Ken referred to the recent successes where significant federal and state funds were made available for upgrading the SWH sewer treatment plant and for the establishment of a new SWH town garage, These are both examples of how funds are available to municipalities for public services, and if solid waste facilities are municipal they could more readily attract financial support for acquisition and operations. This may be a long-term goal. This funding would reduce the tax burden locally and benefit everyone in the long term.
- 4) Jim is looking to reduce the tax burden in the short term too!

## **7. BRIEFS**

- a) Jim expressed appreciation on behalf of the Select Board for the body of work and knowledge gained from the task force, that rises above that from other area sources.
- b) ADD membership renewed: Jim reported that the SB did vote to continue with ADD<sup>3</sup> membership.
- c) Public Hearing Date: The public hearing is coming up, on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 at the SB meeting, which starts at 6 PM. Ellen, Ken Pat will be there.
- d) Final Task Force Meeting The chair proposed having a final meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup>. to wrap things up. TBD

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<sup>3</sup> Acadia Disposal District is composed of area towns that share solid waste concerns and solutions

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS AND ASSIGNMENTS

	Action Item	Assigned to
1	Send note and cc of 3/18 TF minutes to Michael Gilmartin, to distribute to the Trenton SWC	Ellen
2	Write content for message to TF e-list for distribution by 4/20 and for a second “reminder” message a few days before election	Kate
3	managing e-distribution	Ken
4	Develop outline for final report	Ellen
5	consider the best documents/data to include	Ken
6	Prepare for and attend the public hearing at the 4/23/24 Select Board meeting including the purpose of the hearing, which is to listen to comments and questions, respond for clarity, note input for further reflection; ensure town will post a timely public notice	Ellen- Intro & Task Force members
7	Further develop a proposal for an ongoing citizen committee	Craig & Ellen
8	Stand ready to support the Select Board and its TF liaison, as requested	Team SWRTF

**8. NEXT MEETING:**

The Next SWRTF Meeting: will be on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 12 PM -1 PM.

Members who have content to share can forward that to the Chair, and to the Secretary for inclusion in the library.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at @ 1 PM

Minutes recorded by Ken Rozsahegyi

I CERTIFY THESE ARE THE MINUTES OF THE STATED MEETING  
AS APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON : **DRAFT**

Secretary April 11, 2024



**Draft for discussion 4/29/24 version 5**

**2024 REPORT TO  
THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST HARBOR, MAINE  
BY THE SOLID WASTE REDUCTION TASK FORCE**

**Submitted to Southwest Harbor Select Board Members:**

*Carolyn Ball, Chair; Natasha Johnson, Vice Chair; Luke Damon, Chapin McFarland, James Vallette*

**Task force members past and present:**

*Phyllis Acadia, John Burton, Lio Cook, Craig Kesselheim, Priscilla Ksioncyk, Kate Pickup, Ellen Pope, Ken Rozsahegyi, Alan Rosenquist, Sean Sullivan, Patrick Welch, and Anne Wells.*

*Special thanks to James Vallette, SB liaison for solid waste*

History	Inception	Duration
Solid Waste Reduction Task Force Phase I formed	October 2022	6 months
Solid Waste Reduction Task Force Phase II formed	April 2023	12 months
Report submitted to Select Board		

**Mission Statement:** The Southwest Harbor Solid Waste Reduction Task Force will identify methods for reducing the amount and cost of managing solid waste generated by our town’s residents, businesses, and visitors.

**Note:** The contents of this report and the many documents created, reviewed, and shared, represent the good faith effort of the volunteer SWH Solid Waste Reduction Task Force members, with input from citizens who care about these issues.

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## **SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION**

It is in the best interest of the citizens of, and visitors to, the Town of Southwest Harbor to protect the environment and natural resources of the Town and the State of Maine by encouraging public awareness to reduce the amount and cost of solid waste; reuse and recycle material that would otherwise be waste; and provide a comprehensive and effective means of regulating the disposal of solid waste.

As the date to sunset approaches, the SWH Solid Waste Reduction Task Force takes this opportunity to assure Select Board members that there are ways to reduce waste and its cost: Some are available right away, others will take shape in the years ahead.

The Town's State-mandated responsibility for waste management and disposal is ongoing, so the TF urges Select Board leaders—present and future—to reflect on the true costs of the Town's current practices and on the risks presented by the current way of doing business. We encourage long-term thinking to plan ahead and sequence changes that serve the public interest.

## **SECTION 2: THE FOUR MAIN ISSUES**

### **WHY ARE SOLID WASTE COSTS HIGHER HERE?**

Because:

- 1) Business waste is co-mingled with residential waste.
- 2) SWH pays prices charged by a private, not municipal, transfer station.
- 3) SWH pays all the trash bills it receives using public funds without limits or conditions.
- 4) SWH is bound to a restrictive contract that hinders municipal autonomy and authority.

So, the task force proposes changes to address each of these four issues:

- 1) Business waste should be identified, and high volumes of trash paid by producers.
- 2) Assert that the in-town private transfer station will not charge higher rates to SWH.
- 3) SWH should cease the use of public funds to subsidize unauthorized waste producers.
- 4) SWH must reset its relationship with the transfer station and haulers using Maine law.

### **DISCUSSION**

Making recommended changes can cut the taxpayer burden of solid waste costs in half and help the environment with the resulting reductions in waste. Businesses that experience an increase in costs simply pass the cost onto their customers or change the way they waste in order to reduce volume.

- 1) Prudent, ecologically minded residents practicing frugality in waste generation are also paying for unlimited business trash. High tonnage waste businesses currently get a blank check and have no financial incentive to reduce their trash volume or to recycle. In Southwest Harbor, no business pays more than a residence- despite the excessive tonnage they produce.
- 2) In 2023 the lowest EMR trash rate was bestowed on Acadia National Park, delivering up to 33 tons monthly without a contract on a gate rate basis, while higher rates were charged to the contract towns. In 2023 the difference has been as much as \$20 per ton more. EMR recently offered the Select Board that SWH will pay \$10 less per ton than Acadia National Park to reflect volume pricing<sup>1</sup>.
- 3) Taxpayers have been paying indiscriminately for all waste disposal, including trash from tax-exempt federal government facilities and many nonprofit tax-exempt organizations. Authorized users should therefore be identified resulting in thousands of dollars in reduced costs each year.
- 4) The 5-year EMR local solid waste contract did not result from competitive procurement. SWH should facilitate competition for component services to achieve savings and stimulate innovation.

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<sup>1</sup> Select Board meeting of March 12, 2024- see video in library.

### **SECTION 3: ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Charged by the Select Board to identify ways to reduce the Town's high volume of solid waste and its cost to taxpayers, the Solid Waste Reduction Task Force accomplished the following:

**1. POLL**

Presented a Town-authorized straw poll, where 82% of 638 SWH voters said "yes" to pursuing the development of a waste ordinance (11/23)

**2. ORDINANCE**

Researched, developed, received comments, and held hearings for a new proposed Solid Waste Ordinance for SWH

**3. COST ANALYSIS**

Analyzed monthly cash payments by SWH taxpayers for solid waste services.

**4. AUTHORIZED USER ISSUES**

Identified an oversight with immediate Town savings: The US Coast Guard hasn't been charged for their waste. Correction could result in significant retroactive payment.

**5. CONTRACT ANALYSIS**

Submitted recommendations related to the Town's contract and relationship with Eastern Maine Recycling, Inc. (EMR)

**6. AWARENESS:** Increased public awareness of solid waste issues.

**7. DIGITAL LIBRARY:** Published a digital library of related resource materials.

**8. CONNECTIONS**

The Task Force held many public meetings, heard from professionals in the field, engaged in a close reading of the Town's contract with EMR, and researched best practices for waste management of other Maine towns. Recently the SWRTF met jointly with Trenton's Solid Waste Committee to explore common interests. Reciprocal cooperation among Towns and the region can lead to shared strategies and greater leverage.

## SECTION 4: FINDINGS

1. Half of Maine towns comparable to SWH have a solid waste ordinance. Larger cities and towns have robust solid waste ordinances and municipal waste management operations such as Ellsworth and Bangor. Most municipalities separate business waste from low cost residential waste, although SWH still does not.
2. SWH is a paying member of the Municipal Review Committee (MRC), a group of 115 municipalities collectively organized to have a comprehensive destination for area municipal solid waste. This is a long-term contractual commitment, made with State support.
3. EMR is a commercial transfer station and hauler located in SWH and licensed by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. EMR accepts waste and hauls that waste to the destination specified by SWH and MRC. As a transfer station, EMR does not store waste but aggregates it for transport to the SWH authorized destination.
4. SWH is among the highest producers of waste per capita in Maine.
5. SWH is just one of many customers of EMR.
6. SWH has not solicited competitive bids for solid waste services.
7. Federal government customers do not have contracts with EMR, and instead pay market gate rates for daily deliveries of trash from Seawall Campground and other facilities. Acadia National Park has its own licensed hauling trucks. The ANP waste is delivered by EMR trucks to the SWH authorized MRC destination paid for by ANP but with tonnage credited to SWH.
8. The area towns having contracts with EMR have different prices and terms.
9. Acadia Disposal District (ADD) is a quasi-municipal organization comprised of paying member towns. ADD does not act as a negotiation agent with EMR. ADD has secured funding for regional hazardous waste facility development and is working with county planners.
10. Prices for solid waste are measured in price per ton. SWH receives monthly invoices based on tonnage delivered for each type of waste, totaling around \$50,000 per month (see cost reports).
11. SWH could plan for, open and operate its own municipal transfer station, submitting an application to DEP. Federal and State grants are available for municipal solid waste solutions. This option ensures maximum independence free of exclusivity commitments.
12. The heavily trafficked access road to the transfer station is Long Pond Road, a town-maintained road. This road also provides the only paved access to the Acadia recreation areas of Long Pond (the town water supply) and area hiking trails.

## **SECTION 5: RECOMMENDATIONS**

The SWRTF recommends consideration of the following actions and ideas to improve outcomes for our Town:

### **1. ESTABLISH A SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE**

Raising public awareness and reflecting the municipal authority of SWH the ordinance establishes the values of the public and supports policy with law.

### **2. SUPPORT PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Raising awareness about reducing waste, reusing material, protecting our environment from contamination and learning how recycling is changing in our age of diversion technology.

### **3. COLLECT DATA**

Analyzing data provided to SWH by area haulers would help determine high tonnage business or residential waste sources.

### **4. SEEK CARDBOARD REVENUE**

Find self-funding solutions for cardboard disposal. Cardboard has market value and SWH should generate revenue from its disposal. Selling SWH cardboard was requested all last year but nothing happened, costing SWH thousands in lost revenue. Businesses such as Southwest Food Mart directly sell their cardboard for profit thus keeping it out of the municipal waste stream.

### **5. SECURE DUMPSTERS**

Reduce the number of open dumpsters in Southwest Harbor. This has been successfully addressed in Northeast Harbor and offers immediate savings.

### **6. ESTABLISH A SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**

Establish a Sustainability Committee or Solid Waste Authority to guide policy and promote best practices would ensure ongoing attention and work.

### **7. CONSIDER “PAY AS YOU THROW”**

Changing how we pay for trash would save taxpayer money and reduce waste. “Pay per bag” account systems are simple and fair.

## **8. ELIMINATE THE SUBSIDY FOR COAST GUARD STATION TRASH**

The US Coast Guard Station is an example of tax-exempt property in SWH, and taxpayers currently pay the tonnage of waste disposal. It was found by freedom of information request that the station only pays Gott's disposal for the cost of pickup, and the landfill cost is charged to SWH, estimated at \$10,000 annually. SWH should recoup this service cost from the DHS and make a request for compensation for covering the cost since 1980. This amounts to a substantial sum (\$ 440,000 for 44 years plus interest!).

## **9. CONSIDER AMENDMENTS TO THE SOLID WASTE ORDINANCE**

As policies change the ordinance can reflect updated public values that require the support of law for enforcement. SWH has state statutory "flow control" authority to direct changes.

## **10. CONSIDER ESTABLISHING MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS**

SWH has the legal obligation to provide solutions for waste management and can ensure that waste management services are provided by facility ownership. Funding for establishing new municipal transfer stations is available through America's Rescue Plan and State waste diversion grants.

## **11. ADDRESS EMR FACILITY ACCESS QUESTIONS**

Currently any waste can be brought to the EMR facility by anyone and thrown into the SWH bin. Holiday facility access policies also need attention.

## **12. EXPLORE INTERLOCAL COOPERATION**

Coordinating with regional towns and facilities on hazardous waste, recycling, outreach and training to develop superior solutions free of restrictive contracts could bring advances and cost savings.

## **13. TOWN BUDGET**

Revise and promote the SWH budget categories for solid waste to reflect the actual solid waste cost centers to help leaders and townspeople understand the true cost of waste. The solid waste budget is not apparent because it is obscured within a budget category called "contract services."

**14. POLL THE COMMUNITY FOR SUPPORT OF CURBSIDE PICKUP**

Curbside pickup reduces the many individual trips to the transfer station and helps to control the flow of waste. It may be cost neutral or save money.

**15. TAX-EXEMPT WASTE PRODUCERS**

There should be an incentive for nonprofit organizations to reduce waste because SWH pays for all tonnage without limits.

**16. PROCUREMENT**

Introducing competitive procurement processes prior to selecting solid waste service providers will facilitate price competition and welcome new businesses.

**REFERENCE DOCUMENTS** [SWH-SWRTE](#)

At the link are documents resulting from the work of the task force.

The contents include all meeting records, state statutes and DEP regulations, monthly cost reports, summary of scale tickets, photos, MRC Joinder agreement, the EMR contract ending 6/30/24, proposed solid waste ordinance and sample ordinances from around the state, training materials for licensed facilities, corporation filings, freedom of information requests, news articles, and more. Below is the current folder structure (subject to change).

- 01-TASKFORCE-Members
- 02-Education and Outreach
- 02-TASKFORCE-DataRequests
- 02-TASKFORCE-PHASE1-PROCESS
- 02-TASKFORCE-PHASE2-PROCESS
- 02-TASKFORCE-public-input
- 03-Commercial Vendors
- 04-NonProfit Corporations
- 05-Government Entities
- 05-Grants & Funding
- 05-MAINE-STATE-LAW
- 05-Procurement Guides
- 05-SWH Contracts
- 05-SWH Cost Reports
- 06-TransferStationModels
- 06-Waste Management Ordinances
- 07-Relevant Select Board Meetings
- 07-Task Force Reports
- 08-Inventory of NON SWH Waste Sources
- 08-Inventory of SWH Waste Sources
- 08-Inventory of Transfer Stations
- 08-Inventory of Waste Transporters
- 09-Academic Research
- 09-Presentation-Resources
- 10-Articles & News
- 10-LINKS





**Draft for discussion 4/29/24 version 5 plus**

**2024 REPORT TO  
THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST HARBOR, MAINE  
BY THE SOLID WASTE REDUCTION TASK FORCE**

**ATTACHMENT A  
REPORT REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

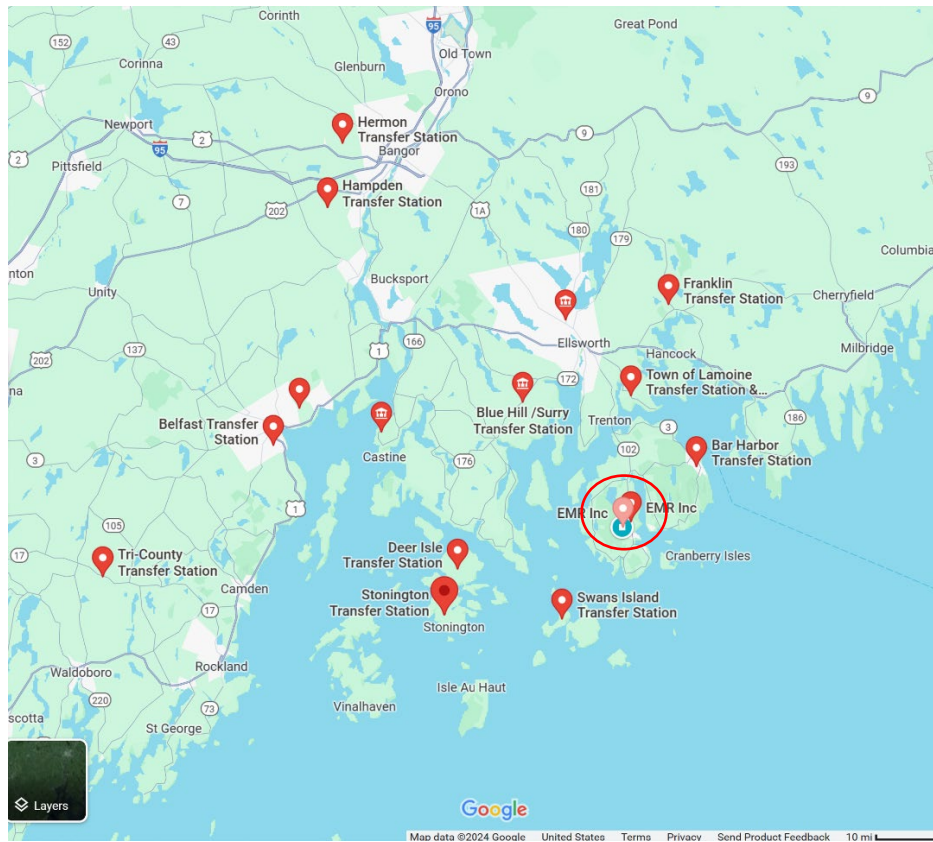
The reference documents that follow tell a story of a Town's high volume of waste — disproportionately high as compared to similar towns. This extraordinary volume is also subjected to high tonnage rates for disposal.

The combined effect is seen in costs for Southwest Harbor, which currently funds its waste management responsibilities through property taxes.

Please consider these data an integral part of this report.

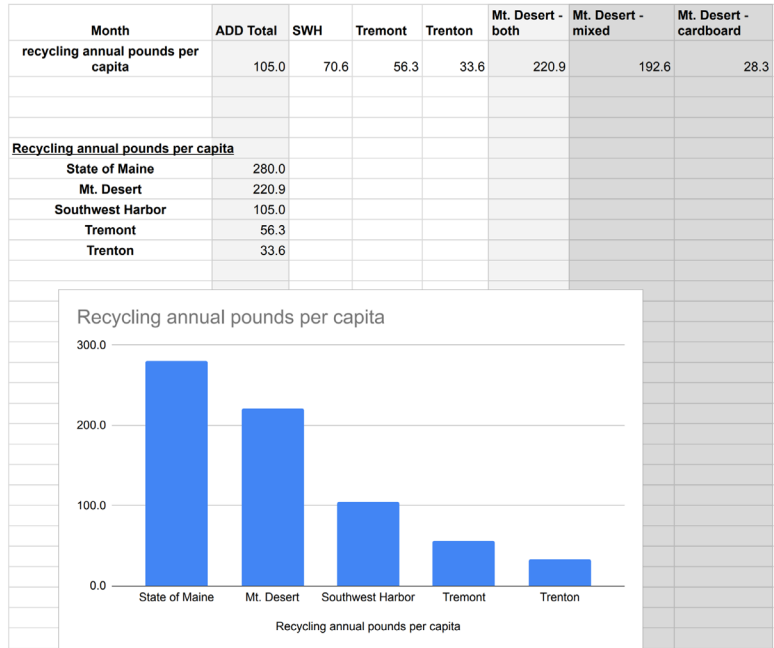
For a larger selection of reference documents, please go to the digital Task Force library: [SWH-SWRTE](#)

### MDI AREA TRANSFER STATIONS



## ANNUAL RECYCLING POUNDS PER CAPITA

SWH has high trash volumes per capita, and low recycling tonnage per capita.



# THE TWO GOALS OF THE TASK FORCE

## Solid Waste Reduction Task Force

**COST REDUCTION**

BECAUSE COSTS ARE GOING UP FAST and SWH has to pay more and more and more...

**WASTE REDUCTION**

BECAUSE WE VALUE ECOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT and reducing waste will also reduce costs

TONS OF WASTE PER RESIDENT	
SOUTHWEST HARBOR	1.12
BAR HARBOR	0.93
MOUT DESERT	0.91
TRENTON	0.87
TREMONT	0.6
CENSUS & MRC 3 YRS DATA	

4/23/2023
Southwest Harbor Solid Waste Reduction Task Force

**BREAKDOWN OF ALL TRASH DELIVERED TO MRC BY EMR TRUCKS FOR ONE MONTH**

**Municipal Waste Solutions** is part of MRC and is the final destination for disposal of trash waste by MRC member municipalities. SWH is a founding member of the 115 member organization.

The chart below discloses the source town for all trash delivered by EMR in August 2023.

<b>Municipal Waste Solutions</b>		
<i>Members Monthly Invoicing for August 2023</i>		
<b>Members</b>	<b>Billing Code</b>	<b>Total Tons</b>
Cranberry Isle (INV END of Month)	<b>MSWR</b>	21.44
Frenchboro (INV END of Month)	<b>MSWR</b>	3.36
(MDI) Mount Desert (INV END of Month)	<b>MSWR</b>	305.27
SW Harbor (INV END of Month)	<b>MSWR</b>	236.59
Tremont (INV END of Month)	<b>MSWR</b>	108.13
Trenton (INV END of Month)	<b>MSWR</b>	154.55
<b>*EMR INC (Acadia National Park=33 tons)</b>	<b>MSWR</b>	33.49
<i><b>Total Invoicing</b></i>		862.83

Note: All tonnage originating within a town boundary is identified as from that town regardless of whom delivers it. This tonnage is then credited to that town’s annual required annual tonnage commitment for MRC purposes. Licensed trucks must carry this information in a manifest for each load delivered to MRC facilities and for State DEP reporting purposes.

**THIS IS THE LIST OF THE SOURCE OF ALL SWH TRASH DELIVERED TO EMR AND PAID FOR BY SWH TAXPAYERS IN AUGUST 2023.**

TONNAGE IN AUGUST 2023		
Row Labels	Sum of TONS	PERCENT
Acadia Fuel	0.06	0.02%
Adler	0.12	0.05%
Alley	0.09	0.04%
Berzinis	0.12	0.05%
Bill Kelly	0.03	0.01%
Bob	2.27	0.91%
Booth	0.23	0.09%
Brandon Bucker	0.08	0.03%
Brody Robe	0.06	0.02%
Brody Robinson	0.57	0.23%
Burhardt	0.04	0.02%
Cameron	0.02	0.01%
Cannon	0.23	0.09%
CJ	0.47	0.19%
Claremont	0.35	0.14%
Connors	0.23	0.09%
David Smith	0.03	0.01%
Gary Adams	0.05	0.02%
Gotts	163.86	65.72%
Harbor House	0.03	0.01%
Hebron	0.05	0.02%
Hopkins	14.79	5.93%
Jenkins	0.06	0.02%
Larry Alley	0.14	0.06%
Leveque	0.18	0.07%
Linda McEnroe	0.07	0.03%
Lindenwood	0.71	0.28%
Llyd David	0.09	0.04%
Love of a Mother	0.15	0.06%
McKinnon	0.05	0.02%
Minier	0.03	0.01%
Murley	0.11	0.04%
Mussetti	0.13	0.05%
Paula Dunbar	0.09	0.04%
Peter Trouts	0.1	0.04%
Sawyer's Specialties	0.14	0.06%
Sid	1.97	0.79%
SMUG	0.45	0.18%
Smugglers	4.01	1.61%
Soucoup	0.07	0.03%
SWH	56.78	22.77%
unidentified	0.11	0.04%
Walsh	0.04	0.02%
Western Way	0.07	0.03%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>249.33</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

The trash that was dropped into the bins at the green building are seen below as “SWH” and represents 25% of the bill.

The rest was delivered to EMR using named SWH authorized accounts and weighed on the scale. These deliveries represents the bulk of the waste at 75% of the tonnage.

Trash pickup haulers perform private pickups in the area (like Gotts or Hopkins) and are delivering the larger tonnage. The next largest tonnage is from Smugglers Den at 4.5 tons.

For reference, a typical household generates up to 6 bags per week. Normally not weighing much but the weight could also be limited.

This approach to reduce town costs would be to limit the town’s liability for each source to, for example, .5 ton per month and the remainder is paid by the waste producer. This would remove a subsidy and provide a financial incentive to reduce waste.

## ANALYSIS OF MONTHLY PAYMENTS PAID BY SWH

The costs per ton for trash are high when compared to other municipalities.  
 The costs per ton for recycling are extremely high.  
 Construction debris makes up the larger portion of other waste costs.

SWH pays for all of this from taxpayer funds. The only limit enforced is the maximum of 2,000 lbs (1 ton) per calendar year for construction debris. Most residents and businesses never reach this limit.

The larger pdf and additional months are found in the task force library under “cost reports.”

**Town of Southwest Harbor, Maine**  
**Solid Waste Reduction Task Force**  
 by Ken Rozsahegyi, SWRTF  
 September 19, 2023 Version 3.0

Below are the itemized actual cash costs billed to SWH for disposal of solid waste.  
 For clarity, three categories of waste are represented: Basic trash, Recycling waste, and Other types of waste  
 Data Source: Invoice billing from MWS, MRC, EMR, Gotts for payment by Town of Southwest Harbor

**AUGUST 2023 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COSTS** \$53,078.54

CASH PAYOUTS FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT	BASIC	OTHER	RECYCLING	GRAND TOTALS
PAID TO EMR	23,474.12	5,989.66	3,160.25	\$32,624.03
PAID TO MWS	19,563.63	-	-	\$19,563.63
PAID TO MRC (billed quarterly)	354.89	-	-	\$354.89
PAID TO GOTTS	536.00	-	-	\$536.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$3,160.25</b>	<b>\$53,078.54</b>

This Month: no inert fill, plus wood stumps, fuel increases, more dumpster pickups  
 ADDITIONAL EMR tonnage added to the SWH MRC Joinder total: 9.85

**VENDOR KEY**

EMR- Eastern Maine Recycling, Inc. (Licensed for MSW transfer, Transfers Station)  
 MWS- Municipal Waste Solutions, Inc (division of MRC, operator of Hampdon Facility)  
 MRC- Municipal Review Committee (Municipal Association Joinder Agreement fee)  
 GOTTS- Gott's Disposal - Licensed for local hauling  
 ADD- Acadia Disposal District (annual membership dues only)

**BASIC TRASH**      ACTUAL COST PER TON **\$185.67**      TOTAL: **\$43,928.63**

PURPOSE	PAY TO	SERVICE	TONS	QTY	RATE	\$ BILLED	
DUMP	MWS	DISPOSAL	236.59	236.59	\$ 82.69	19,563.63	
DUMP	MRC	DUES	-	-	\$ 1.50	354.89	
HAULERS-I	EMR	HAULING to MWS-Hampton	236.59	236.59	\$ 72.46	17,143.31	
HAULERS-I	EMR	HAULING Bypass to Old Town	-	236.59	\$ 5.44	1,287.05	
HAULERS-I	EMR	Hauling aggregate FUEL charge	-	1	\$ 876.65	876.65	
FACILITY	FEMR	ACCESS FEE to transfer station	-	1	\$ 4,167.11	4,167.11	
-							
		SERVICE	LOCATION	ITEM	QTY	RATE	
HAULERS-I	GOTT	DUMPSTER	FIRE DEPT	RENTAL	1	\$ 18.00	18.00
				PICKUPS	2	\$ 12.00	24.00
		DUMPSTER	TOWN GARAGE	RENTAL	1	\$ 22.00	22.00
				PICKUPS	5	\$ 15.00	75.00
		DUMPSTER	LOWER DOCK	RENTAL	1	\$ 18.00	18.00
				PICKUPS	13	\$ 12.00	156.00
		DUMPSTER	MANSET DOCK	RENTAL	1	\$ 22.00	22.00
				PICKUPS	5	\$ 15.00	75.00
		DUMPSTER	UPPER DOCK	RENTAL	1	\$ 18.00	18.00
				PICKUPS	9	\$ 12.00	108.00
<b>TOTAL COST TO SOUTHWEST HARBOR for MSW</b>						<b>\$43,928.63</b>	
<b>ACTUAL COST PER TON of BASIC TRASH(MSW):</b>			<b>\$185.67</b>				

**RECYCLING WASTE**      ACTUAL COST PER TON **\$ 551.53**      TOTAL: **\$ 3,160.25**

ITEM	TONS	RATE	BILL
EMR SINGLE SORT RECYCLEABLES (includes cardboard, plastics, glass, metal)	5.73	\$225.00	\$ 1,289.25
EMR SUBCONTRACTED TRUCKING sent to Cassella 3 TRIPS (pct)	-	\$	531.58
EMR FUEL CHARGE for subcontractor (pct)	-	\$	164.42
EMR Monthly Facility fee	-	\$	1,175.00
<b>TOTAL PAID FOR RECYCLING WASTE</b>			<b>\$ 3,160.25</b>

**OTHER TYPES OF WASTE**      ACTUAL COST PER TON **\$ 157.17**      TOTAL: **\$ 5,989.66**

ITEM	TONS	RATE	BILL
EMR CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS (2K Accounts)	23.82	177.63	\$ 4,231.15
EMR CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS FUEL CHARGE	-	\$	155.98
EMR GREEN WOOD DISPOSAL	8.62	78.3	674.95
EMR GREEN WOOD DISPOSAL FUEL CHARGE	-	\$	55.18
EMR METAL WASTE	0.9	113.36	102.02
EMR METAL WASTE FUEL CHARGE	-	\$	35.33
EMR FREON DISPOSAL	3	32.71	98.13
EMR TIRES DISPOSAL	1	204.5	204.50
EMR INERT FILL DISPOSAL	0	58.43	-
EMR UNIVERSAL WASTE FEE	-	\$	295.65
WOOD STUMPS	0.77	177.63	136.78
<b>TOTAL COST TO SOUTHWEST HARBOR for OTHER WASTE</b>			<b>38.11</b>
<b>PER TON (THIS IS FOR REFERENCE AS MIXED MATERIALS SKEW RESULTS)</b>			<b>\$ 157.17</b>

CASH PAYOUTS FOR BASIC TRASH	
PAID TO EMR	23,474.12
PAID TO MWS	19,563.63
PAID TO MRC (billed quarterly)	354.89
PAID TO GOTTS	536.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$43,928.63</b>

The Task Force realized the benefits of having a solid waste ordinance after researching State law and the ordinances of other Maine towns.

## Benefits of a Solid Waste Ordinance

### **The ordinance gives Southwest Harbor Authority to:**

- Explore ways to reduce the amount of Waste
- Explore ways to reduce the costs of waste disposal
- Explore alternative recycling methods
- Protect our environment with laws
- Engage the public
- Collect waste flow data to inform understanding
- Improve waste contract practices
- Collaborate with area towns and county planners

**Below: The Task Force recognized early on that the existing contract had to be updated.**

**The resolution below was passed in July 2023.**

*Southwest Harbor Solid Waste Reduction Task Force Committee July 31, 2023*

**RESOLUTION ON NOTICE TO EMR:**

Ellen stated that regarding negotiations a notice has to be sent to EMR to inform them not to renew the existing waste management contract between EMR and Southwest Harbor. Jim asked if the task force is making that recommendation.

The following resolution was offered:

**“The Southwest Harbor Solid Waste Reduction Task Force makes a recommendation to the Southwest Harbor Select Board to send a certified letter to the contractor, EMR, to exercise the option not to renew the existing contract, in order to begin negotiation.”**

In discussion, Pat suggested waiting until being able to offer more detailed recommendations. Kate pointed out that this letter is only a procedural action to avoid the automatic renewal of the existing contract. Ellen stated that the letter must also be sent by certified mail (as required in the contract).

**The resolution was approved.**



SOLID WASTE BEING DRIVEN TO THE LANDFILL (stock photo)



Below: The current town budget does not facilitate tonnage cost monitoring. Budget categories should be based on distinct waste types rather than lumped together.

## SWH BUDGET: solid waste management is hiding in “Contract Services”

### GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Article 20: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Administration** for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

Requested: \$ 3,155,302

Department	Approved FY 22/23	Requested FY 23/24 Appropriation
Administration	474,022	488,508
CEO/LPI	45,089	90,848
Boards and Committees	3,475	3,475
Contracted Services	714,265	716,363
Insurance	43,917	45,147
Municipal Buildings	38,361	40,027
Highway	307,306	312,609
Police	651,640	740,907
Dispatch	328,778	363,459
Fire	122,262	232,815
Harbor	123,396	128,498
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,852,511</b>	<b>\$3,162,655</b>

Most of this is Waste management:

Select Board recommends passage.

Warrant Committee recommends an added \$3,000 to Contracted Services.

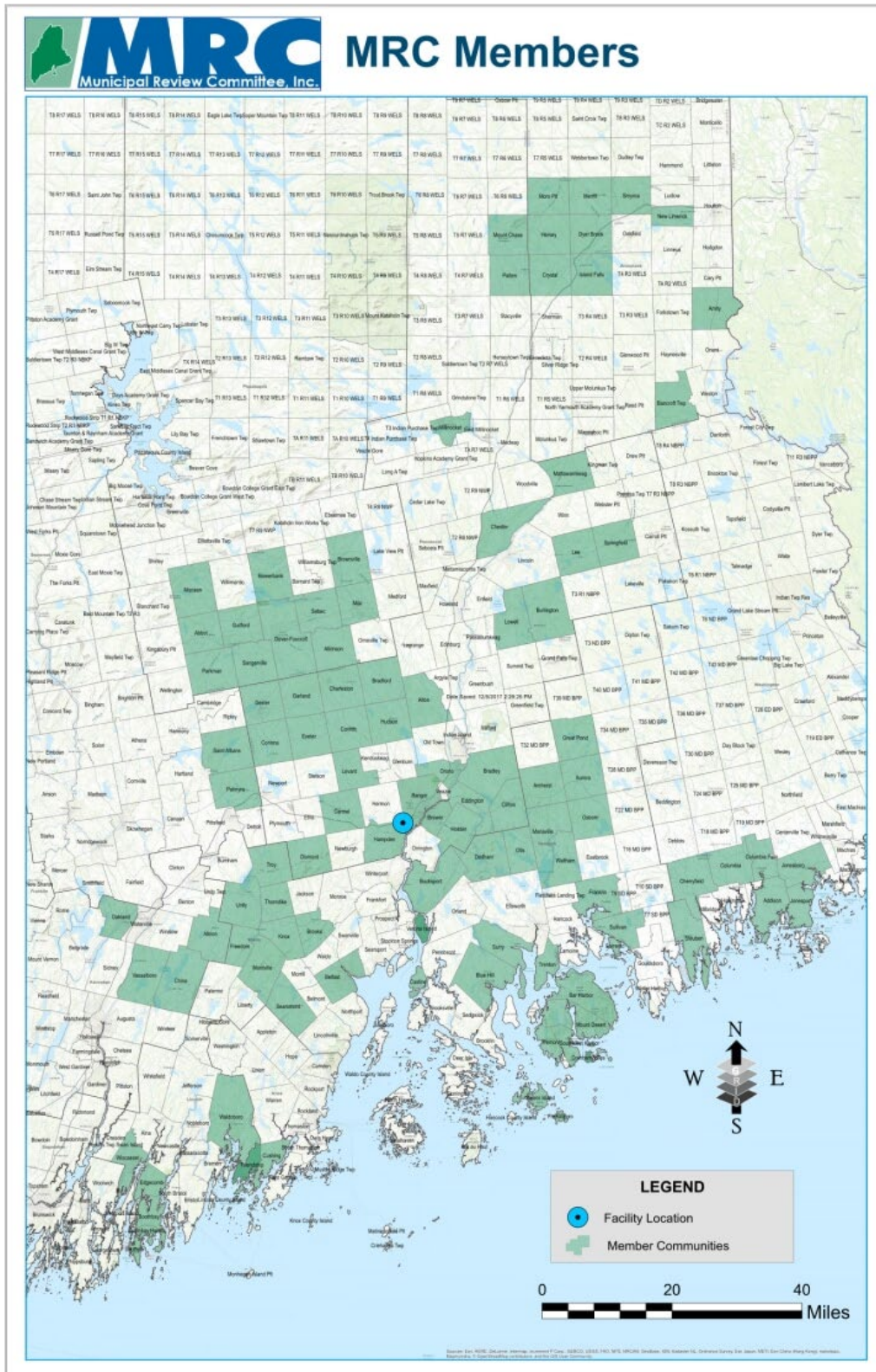
Note: 2022-23 Amount was \$2,852,511

EMR TRANSFER STATION LOCATION IN SOUTHWEST HARBOR

THE WATER SUPPLY AND NATIONAL PARK BORDER THE TRANSFER STATION PROPERTY.







THE AREAS IN GREEN REPRESENT MRC MUNICIPAL MEMBERS



SOUTHWEST HARBOR TRASH AND RECYCLING BINS AT THE EMR GREEN BUILDING

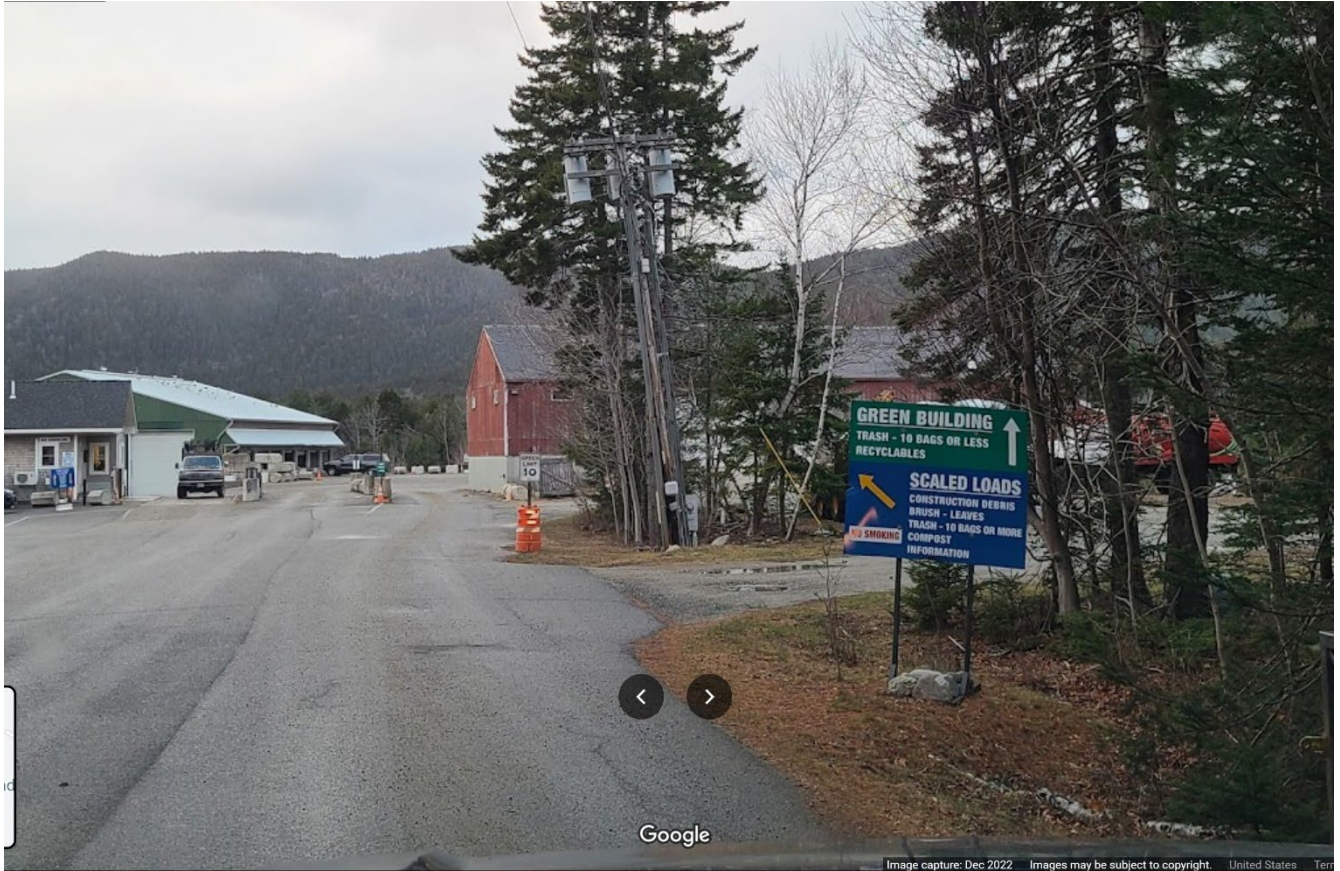


Below: Cardboard disposal at Sawyer's market.



ENTRANCE TO THE EMR TRANSFER STATION

The green building for drop-off of trash and recycling is ahead on the left.





Solid Waste Reduction Task Force of Southwest Harbor, Maine Final Report Spring 2024

**TOWN OF SOUTHWEST HARBOR, MAINE**  
**SOLID WASTE REDUCTION TASK FORCE** Version 1.0 September 25,2023  
**Waste Management Costs**

**FISCAL YEAR 22 (July 2021-June 2022)**

		TONS SW	EMR-ALL	MRC SW	MRC-DUES	GOTTS	TOTAL
JULY	2021	262.66	\$27,278.61	\$18,985.06		\$521.00	\$46,784.67
AUG	2021	299.1	\$29,103.70	\$21,618.95		\$545.00	\$51,267.65
SEPT	2021	222.8	\$23,671.05	\$16,103.98	\$682.55	\$503.00	\$40,960.58
OCT	2021	176.43	\$24,592.93	\$12,752.36		\$521.00	\$37,866.29
NOV	2021	149.63	\$22,022.73	\$10,815.26		\$506.00	\$33,343.99
DEC	2021	120.82	\$16,721.52	\$8,732.87	\$682.55	\$389.00	\$26,525.94
JAN	2022	85.2	\$14,422.61	\$6,577.44		\$341.00	\$21,341.05
FEB	2022	101.21	\$14,497.95	\$7,818.04		\$335.00	\$22,650.99
MAR	2022	117.98	\$16,106.85	\$9,108.06	\$782.54	\$386.00	\$26,383.45
APRIL	2022	125.84	\$22,146.04	\$9,714.85		\$416.00	\$32,276.89
MAY	2022	150.35	\$23,308.09	\$11,607.02		\$443.00	\$35,358.11
JUNE	2022	214.55	\$25,769.80	\$16,563.26	\$782.54	\$473.00	\$43,588.60
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>2,026.57</b>	<b>\$259,641.88</b>	<b>\$150,397.15</b>	<b>\$2,930.18</b>	<b>\$5,379.00</b>	<b>\$418,348.21</b>

Note      EMR tonnage rate            65.38  
              MRC tonnage rate 1            72.28  
              MRC tonnage rate 2            77.2

"EMR-ALL" is all inclusive of SW and recycling, construction debris, and other waste types

Actual monthly invoices were used for all numbers with exception for June invoices for Gotts- are likely missing and so estimated numbers were used.

**TOWN OF SOUTHWEST HARBOR, MAINE**  
**SOLID WASTE REDUCTION TASK FORCE** Version 1.0 September 25,2023  
**Waste Management Costs**

**FISCAL YEAR 23 (July 2022-June 2023)**

		TONS SW	EMR-ALL	TONS RECY	EMR-RECY	MRC SW	MRC-DUES	GOTTS	TOTAL
JULY	2022	217.3	\$25,641.89	not listed	\$2,267.49	\$16,775.56		\$521.00	\$45,205.94
AUG	2022	236.55	\$27,625.81	not listed	\$2,168.19	\$18,261.66		\$545.00	\$48,600.66
SEPT	2022	206.64	\$27,269.08	not listed	\$2,439.08	\$15,952.61	\$782.54	\$503.00	\$46,946.31
OCT	2022	169.67	\$24,208.95	4.93	\$2,590.53	\$13,098.52		\$521.00	\$40,423.93
NOV	2022	138.44	\$21,381.29	5.01	\$2,881.96	\$10,687.57		\$506.00	\$35,461.83
DEC	2022	109.37	\$17,896.75	3.94	\$1,883.03	\$8,443.36	\$782.54	\$389.00	\$29,398.62
JAN	2023	129.04	\$20,864.14	4.63	\$3,460.73	\$10,670.32		\$341.00	\$35,340.82
FEB	2023	86.56	\$15,033.78	2.58	\$2,040.85	\$7,157.65		\$335.00	\$24,569.86
MAR	2023	97.42	\$16,328.98	4.75	\$2,797.89	\$8,055.66	\$749.72	\$386.00	\$28,323.00
APRIL	2023	119.18	\$24,191.43	3.08	\$2,214.16	\$9,854.99		\$416.00	\$36,679.66
MAY	2023	174.92	\$27,975.16	6.82	\$3,551.47	\$14,464.13		\$443.00	\$46,440.58
JUNE	2023	220.76	\$27,660.20	5.27	\$2,970.94	\$18,254.64	\$749.72	\$473.00	\$50,113.77
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>1,905.85</b>	<b>\$276,077.46</b>	<b>41.01</b>	<b>\$31,266.32</b>	<b>\$151,676.67</b>	<b>\$3,064.52</b>	<b>\$5,379.00</b>	<b>\$467,463.97</b>

Note      EMR tonnage rate            70.28  
              MRC tonnage rate 1            77.2  
              MRC tonnage rate 2            82.69

"EMR-ALL" and "EMR-RECY" reflect two separate monthly invoices.

Actual monthly invoices were used for all numbers with exception for Gotts- which are estimated.

# Solid Waste Reduction Task Force of Southwest Harbor, Maine Final Report Spring 2024

Select Board Reference Material - February 2024 - Solid Waste Reduction Task Force version 2.01

## Solid Waste Management in Southwest Harbor, Maine

Select Board Action or Inaction Is The Key; Unlock Change - Or Keep Doing The Same

### BACKGROUND

Alerted to the ever-increasing costs paid by SWH taxpayers for disposing of solid waste and the high volumes of waste generated per population as compared to other towns, the Solid Waste Reduction Task Force has been asked to investigate why this is.

After months of work, the recommendation of the Task Force is to *MAKE CHANGES*.

To ensure that SWH can make changes, the contract with EMR must not be allowed to automatically renew. This is because the contract is restrictive and constrains the solid waste oversight authority provided to Southwest Harbor by Maine law.

If the Select Board chooses not to intervene, or does nothing, this contract *will* automatically renew. If that happens, the current approach will not change, and an opportunity is lost.

This moment is an opportunity to begin to pursue changes that respond to the public interest to save money, reduce waste, and safeguard people and the environment.

### CURRENT COST SNAPSHOT: WASTE DISPOSAL COSTS AND SYSTEM

Solid Waste is measured in tons.

The invoices sent to SWH are paid based on a rate per ton.

Southwest Harbor pays among the highest rates.

Southwest Harbor has the highest volume of waste per population.

SWH pays about \$50,000 monthly for all categories of solid waste, with household trash being the largest category at \$43,000 . The annual payout is projected to be between \$500,000 and \$600,000 this coming fiscal year. Inflation clauses have already increased 2024 tonnage rates charged to SWH by MRC and EMR, adding another \$14,000.

Below are the cash expenditures from August 2023: (A more detailed report is available as well as invoices.)

AUGUST 2023: paid \$ 53,078.54			
TYPE OF SOLID WASTE	COST PER TON	TONS	INVOICED and paid
HOUSEHOLD TRASH *	\$ 185.67	236.59	\$43,928.63
RECYCLING	\$ 551.53	5.73	\$ 3,160.25
CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS	\$ 184.18	23.82	\$ 4,387.13
OTHER(wood,metal,freon,tires,etc)	\$ 112.14	14.29	\$ 1,602.53

\* The transfer station bins account for less than 25 percent of the tonnage, with the rest being trucked in.





GATE RATES VS CONTRACT RATES

This chart compares the difference between a simple gate rate and the complex itemizations applied to SWH trash costs under the current contract. Actual numbers based on verified SWH and ANP invoices were used.

Note that because of the SWH municipal membership in MRC, a lower landfill facility rate per ton (\$82.69) was charged by MWS<sup>1</sup> to any truck delivering waste from SWH, even if the waste is non-municipal (private or commercial).

AUGUST 2023	ANP PAID 175 PER TON	SWH PAID 185.67 PER TON
Rate EMR charges	\$ 92.31	\$ 102.98 (adjust for quarterly MRC dues=101.48)
fixed gate fee	\$175 per ton (\$169 for half of the month)	itemized below
monthly fixed facility fee	-	4,167.11 fixed monthly fee
Hampden destination	-	72.46 per ton
Bypass destination	-	5.44 per ton
Fuel charge	-	variable by market
MWS fee \$82.69 per ton	is included in the EMR price to ANP because EMR pays MWS directly	\$82.69 per ton paid by SWH directly to MWS

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<sup>1</sup> MWS is Municipal Waste Solutions, a private corporation created to accept waste and manage billing. It is partly owned by MRC.

## LINKS TO RESOURCES

CLICK FOR INFO ON

STATE LAW, DEP REGULATIONS, FEDERAL GUIDELINES

[Title 38, §1304-B: Delivery of solid wastes to specific waste facilities \(maine.gov\)](#)  
[Waste Management, Maine Department of Environmental Protection](#)  
[Rule Chapters for the Maine Department of Environmental Protection](#)  
[Hazardous Waste/Universal Waste, Maine Department of Environmental Protection](#)  
[Title 1, Chapter 13: PUBLIC RECORDS AND PROCEEDINGS \(mainelegislature.org\)](#)

[Managing and Transforming Waste Streams: A Tool for Communities | US EPA](#)

MUNICIPALITIES

[Municipal Review Committee \(mrcmaine.org\)](#)

[Transfer Station, Trash Collection & Recycling - City of Ellsworth, Maine \(ellsworthmaine.gov\)](#)  
[Welcome to the City of Bangor, Maine - Curbside Trash Collection \(bangormaine.gov\)](#)  
[Solid Waste and Recycling | Bar Harbor, ME - Official Website \(barharbormaine.gov\)](#)  
[Let's Talk Trash and Recycling | Mount Desert ME \(mtdesert.org\)](#)  
[Recycling & Waste Management - Trenton ME](#)

[Riverside Recycling - Homepage \(riversiderecycles.com\)](#)  
[Pleasant River SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL TRANSFER STATION](#)  
[ecomaine - Maine's Leader in Sustainable Waste Management](#)  
[Links - Maine Resource Recovery Association \(mrra.net\)](#)  
[Waste360 / informa global news](#)

[Acadia Disposal District](#) (nonprofit for paying member municipalities)

EMR / Eastern Maine Recycling, inc, Transfer Station (commercial /corporate website not found).

SWH SOLID WASTE REDUCTION TASK FORCE LIBRARY: [SWH-SWRTF](#)