



City Of Bristol
Department Of Public Works
Bristol, CT 06010

Press Release – 2011 Solid Waste Service and Fee changes

Changes to the City of Bristol Solid Waste Programs

The City of Bristol is implementing several changes to existing Solid Waste services for Bristol residents. In making these adjustments in service and fees, the Board of Public Works initiated a program of having individuals who actually use the additional services pay for their use instead of equalizing increasing operational costs over all the City taxpayers. The Department is actively working to manage and control its operations costs keeping them in balance with the expected service levels desired by residents.

Recycling:

Single Stream/Automated recycling – additional routes will be converted from standard recycling (using bins/buckets) to automated recycling using 95 gallon wheeled barrels by year end. Public Works will be deploying approximately 7,600 recycle barrels beginning the second week of November. Residents will be notified of the change as a barrel is left at their residence. Single Stream recycling will allow residents to mix all recyclables in one blue 95 gallon barrel. Typically, recycling rates in areas receiving single stream barrels increase 90-100%, reducing the amount of rubbish and saving taxpayer dollars. Each ton of material that the City removes from the solid waste stream (rubbish) going to the waste to energy plant to recycling saves the City \$34.50.

Additional Solid Waste barrels:

Each residence receives one city-issued solid waste barrel. Some residents have found the need for more than one barrel to accommodate their household rubbish. The goal of the City is to encourage individuals to reduce the volume of material they dispose of through both recycling and changes in purchasing practices to eliminate unnecessary packaging; each ton of material we remove from the waste stream through reduction saves the City \$64.50.

A new fee schedule has been set for additional barrel service beginning January 1, 2011. The new fee schedule is as follows:

The fee for additional solid waste barrels will be \$145 per year per barrel for those collections areas serviced with automated single-stream recycling and \$70 per year per barrel for all other areas of the City beginning with collections in January 2011. Additionally, waivers of fees based on the

2011 Solid Waste Service and Fee Changes

number of household residents will no longer be accepted. The new fee schedule more accurately reflects the cost of providing the service to residents. Residents with automated recycling have more capacity to recycle and should be producing less solid waste as a result. The list of acceptable recyclables has also been expanded – please see the Public Works web site at www.bristolct.gov/publicworks for more information.

Bulk Curbside Collections:

The policy for Bulk Curbside Collections has been revised to allow one free pick-up per year at each residence regardless of the number of apartments/living units at the address. A fee of \$25.00 will be charged for each additional bulk collection for the second (or more) collection at each address during the calendar year. This is a clarification of the existing ordinance regarding Bulk Curbside Collections.

2011 Paid Service Stickers (Yard Waste and additional Solid Waste barrels):

Both Yard Waste Service subscribers and homes that have additional Solid Waste barrels receive a sticker each year to show that the service fee has been paid for the calendar year. A fee of \$25.00 will now be charged for lost stickers. Stolen stickers will be replaced at a fee of \$5.00 once a Police Report has been filed and a case number provided to Public Works. Barrels will not be emptied that do not have a 2011 sticker applied to them.

A sticker replacement fee is meant to encourage the careful handling and minimize potential misuse of paid stickers. To avoid these fees, subscribers may wish to renew their service in person at City Hall (Public Works).

Yard Waste Disposal Tickets (for Landscaping Businesses bringing yard waste to the Transfer Station):

Yard Waste Disposal Tickets fees are changing. The same fee will be charged for wood chips (\$5.00 per ton). The fees for brush, grass, or leaves are increasing from \$5.00 per 1,000 lbs to \$5.00 per 500 lbs. Wood chips require minimal handling and therefore its fees remain unchanged. Brush, grass and leaves require grinding and/or composting and screening at substantially higher cost to the City. Contractors can avoid the higher fees by grinding brush into chips as it is generated.

Pay-As-You-Dispose is coming to the Transfer Station!

The City is in the process of installing two new scales and an access management system at the Transfer Station. By creating a pay as you dispose system, the cost of operating the Transfer Station will be paid by the users of the facility. The fee charged users will be based on the weight of material brought in.

2011 Solid Waste Service and Fee Changes

Once this work is complete we will be implementing a pay as you dispose program during the 2011 calendar year. This change is being made to have those who use the Station the most pay for this service. With the installation of two scales, the City will have the ability to track the weight of material disposed of at the transfer station with much more accuracy.

Those residents that make infrequent small trips to the station will pay less than their current \$20 annual permit fee. Once the system goes operational the permit fee, \$25 for 2011, will continue to be good for 5 years of transfer station access. Household electronics, leaves, waste oil, batteries, light bulbs and antifreeze will continue to be accepted free of charge at the station. However, a permit is necessary to enter the transfer station. Other materials will be accepted on a weight based fee structure.

As we implement this new system, transfer station permit holders will be asked to set up debit accounts with the City. Disposal cost of each load will be deducted from their account automatically, only as needed. More detailed information on the access management system will be published as we get closer to its implementation.

Transfer Station:

The fee for Residential Transfer Station Permits will increase to \$25.00 beginning with 2011 permits. 2011 permits will be available for sale at City Hall (Public Works – Ground Floor) beginning December 1st, 2010. With upcoming changes at the transfer station, the 2011 permit fee will automatically transition into a 5-year access permit when the City transitions to a pay-as-you-dispose weight based fee structure for residential users of the station.