



Subject: *Solid Waste Tipping Fee Policy - 2024 to 2026 Schedule*
To: Executive Committee of Council
Date Prepared: February 14, 2024
Related Motions:
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Approved by: Jesse Hulsman, Director of I&O

Summary

The current tipping fee schedule is set to expire March 31, 2024. This is a Council Policy and therefore requires review and discussion to set the rates.

Financial Impact Statement

Tipping fees are designed to cover the costs of waste generated from the industrial, commercial, and institutional sector, whereas residents are charged a dwelling unit fee for their waste generation.

Recommendation

Staff recommend Executive Committee recommend to Council that the 2-year (2024-2026) solid waste tipping fee schedule is approved. Tipping fees for 2023-2024 are projected at \$600,000.

Recommended Motion

Move that the Infrastructure & Operations Committee recommend that Council approve the 2-year Solid Waste Tipping Fee Policy pricing schedule effective April 1, 2024, expiring March 31, 2026.

Move that the Infrastructure & Operations Committee recommend that Council give notice of intent to adopt the proposed amended Solid Waste Tipping Fee Policy, with pricing schedule effective April 1, 2024, expiring March 31, 2026.

Background

Waste management facilities across Nova Scotia charge tipping fees to recover costs related to the management of materials they receive. The Municipality of East Hants charges tipping fees to all customers, with the exception of residents that opt to direct haul materials to the facility. The policy traditionally was 5-year terms, however with the limited contract terms for processing, such as recycling (while municipalities waited for Extended Producer Responsibility) and cost increases in recent years, the last schedule was a 2-year term and the same term is being recommended again for 2024 - 2026.

Discussion

Costs for processing and transportation of various materials, as well as cost increases for our own municipal operations require an extensive evaluation of the tipping fee schedule. In preparation for the recommended fee schedule Staff considered the following:

- Actual costs for processing and transportation of various materials
- Contract terms for processing and transportation
- Fee structures of other facilities in Nova Scotia (public/private) in our geographic area

Staff also reviewed the overall policy language, adjusted definitions to align with new regulation requirements (treated wood), and updated any outdated components to the policy. Changes include:

- Addition of terms: treated wood, mixed recyclables, municipal residential dwelling unit fee
- Updated definitions
- Removal of terms: gate fees, account fees, provincial & federal customers, and other
- external

Key Changes

- Fee structure aligns with actual costs (vs. a percentage increase overall)
- Combined 'Gate Fees' and 'Account Fees' to streamline fee structure
- Added fees for Treated Wood - these materials will now require landfilling offsite vs. the C&D cell at the facility. Fees align with regular waste rates; however, we do need to track separately, therefore we need a specific fee name to code.
- Added fees for Mixed Recyclables - these materials would be deemed too mixed or contaminated to send for recycling processing and therefore sent to landfill. Similar to Treated Wood we would need to track separately and therefore need a specific fee name.
- Simplified the fee schedule on the following principal: material that is generated within East Hants and not captured under the Residential Dwelling Unit fee structure would be charged the corresponding tipping fee. This reduces complexity of the

schedule, provides fair and equitable fees, and reduces potential errors. Material will be charged based on type and if mixed, at the higher rate for that material type.

Additional Notes

The following is the rounded tonnage managed at the Waste Management Centre for the calendar year 2023 from our commercial (paying) customers:

Mixed C&D	2500 tonnes
Sorted C&D	450 tonnes
Mixed Waste	80 tonnes
Waste	2200 tonnes
Recycling	20 tonnes
Organics	80 tonnes

The Solid Waste Resource & Collection Bylaw (I&O) does require all waste generated within East Hants that is to be disposed (garbage & construction waste) to be processed through the Waste Management Centre. Currently there is no requirement for divertible materials, such as recycling and organics to remain within our system. Therefore, our commercial recycling and organics tonnages reflect that.

Current Tipping Fee Schedules - Comparable Facilities

The following table outlines comparable facility fees, either those geographically nearby or similar in operations (shipping material for processing). The rates for East Hants are based on current 2023/24 fees.

Waste	Ships Garbage + Recyclables offsite	Processes everything onsite	Ships garbage, recyclables, organics offsite	Processes Garbage Onsite only	Processes C&D Onsite only	Processes Garbage & C&D Onsite Only	2024-2025		2025-2026	
	Pictou County	Colchester Balefill Facility	East Hants	Halifax (Otter Lake)	Halifax C&D	West Hants (GFL)		Increase from 2023/24		Increase from 2024/25
Residual Solid Waste	\$132	\$113	\$139	\$139		\$111	\$ 143	↑ 4	\$ 147	↑ 4
Residual Solid Waste - Residential	Tipping fees if over 40kg	\$113		\$14		\$63				
Unsorted C&D	\$75	\$113	\$100		\$124	\$121	\$ 115	↑ 15	\$ 118	↑ 3
Unsorted C&D - Residential	\$75	\$113			\$124					
Sorted C&D	\$75	\$35	\$70		Different Rates	\$95	\$ 75	↑ 5	\$ 78	↑ 3
Sorted C&D - Residential	\$75	\$35				\$63				
Treated Wood					\$105	\$201	\$ 143	NEW	\$ 147	↑ 4
Recyclables	\$188	\$155	\$105				\$ 190	***	\$ 195	↑ 5
Recyclables - Residential		\$155								
Organics	\$81	\$51	\$105				\$ 120	↑ 15	\$ 126	↑ 6
Organics - Residential	\$81	\$51								
Wood	\$75	\$35	\$70		\$80		\$ 75	↑ 5	\$ 78	↑ 3
Metal	\$75	\$35	\$47				\$ 50	↑ 3	\$ 52	↑ 2
Shingles	\$75	\$35	\$70		\$80		\$ 75	↑ 5	\$ 78	↑ 3
Drywall	\$75	\$35	\$70		\$105		\$ 75	↑ 5	\$ 78	↑ 3
Leaf and Yard Waste	\$81	\$51	\$105		\$80		\$ 120	↑ 15	\$ 126	↑ 6
Minimum Charge Garbage	\$5			\$5		\$8				
Minimum Charge Recyclables	\$10									
Minimum Site C&D Charge					\$10	\$8				
Mixed / Non-Compliant Residual Solid Waste	\$265	\$113	\$278			\$144	\$ 286	↑ 8	\$ 294	↑ 8
Mixed / Non-Compliant Recyclables							\$ 286	NEW	\$ 294	↑ 8

Notes:

- Colchester Facility residential rates only apply to residents of the Towns of Truro & Stewiacke (with the exception of C&D).
- Otter Lake only charges residents over 100kgs of material
- GFL charges \$7/load for residential materials under 400kg; loads over 400kg are charged tipping fees

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

This work aligns with the Municipality’s strategic goal of sustainable infrastructure and corporate excellence ensuring the solid waste management system is accurately funded.

Alternatives

Executive Committee direct Staff to make changes to the fee schedule based on feedback.