



Subject: *Tipping Fee Clarification - Enfield Earthkeepers*
To: Executive Committee
Date Prepared: August 7, 2026
Prepared by: Andrea Trask, Manager of Solid Waste
Approved by: Jesse Hulsman, Director of Infrastructure & Operations

Summary

The Enfield Earthkeepers sent an email to Council seeking clarification about tipping fees charged at the East Hants Waste Management Centre. Staff were directed to bring this report forward for discussion.

The Earthkeepers do not qualify for an exemption of fees through existing Council Policy. Coaching has been provided to the Earthkeepers on how homeowners can fully leverage curbside collection services, which would reduce the overall costs of work that the Earthkeepers operate under.

Financial Impact Statement

N/A

Recommendation

N/A

Recommendation Motion

N/A

Background

The solid waste management system in East Hants is funded through a combination of solid waste dwelling fees (charged to each residential dwelling) and tipping fees. All residents are provided the same level of service through curbside collection, access to the East Hants Waste Management Centre, or special events.

From 2007 - 2013 the organization received \$98,827 in grant funding and is currently leasing the old train station in Elmsdale from the municipality.

Council was contacted by Bob Bona and Enfield Earthkeepers on July 31, 2026 requesting an exemption or alternative arrangement for tipping fees for the organization, rather than the current tipping fee schedule. The Enfield Earthkeepers operates as a non-profit initiative focused on lawn care and provides seasonal youth employment. Projects are quoted, with no set rate identified.

Discussion

The Solid Waste Tipping Fee Policy outlines the purpose, scope, fees, and exemptions to fees charged at the East Hants Waste Management Centre. The Policy Statement specifically states, *"Fees are applied to all loads not covered under the municipal Solid Waste Residential Dwelling Unit fee."*

There are four (4) exemptions outlined in this policy:

- Construction & Demolition Exemption
- Extenuating Circumstance Exemption
- Dangerous or Unsightly Premises Exemption
- Special Event Exemption Protocol

The Enfield Earthkeepers do not fall within the scope of exemptions of this policy.

Operational Practice

There is a process available to dispute tipping fees, either proactively or to dispute as well. The evaluation of the request is completed by the Manager of Solid Waste and then forwarded to the Director of Infrastructure & Operations for review and approval of the recommendation.

Communication with Enfield Earthkeepers

The request by the organization had been made previously in 2025. Discussions on their services and recommended best practices related to solid waste, to reduce costs for their customers, has been ongoing since at least 2021. Staff have provided recommendations including:

- Scheduling projects to fully use the homeowners' curbside services, including information on how-to look-up a specific address' collection date on our website and app.
- Explaining how tipping fees work (price per tonne, not per load) to support best project quoting.

The organization setup a charge account for the Waste Management Centre in 2024.

Staff Evaluation of Request and Policy

The staff evaluation of the request against the fee policy does not provide a clause to allow waiving of fees. The organization charges a fee for service and therefore considered eligible for fees being charged.

For consideration, this organization is not limited to providing service to solely East Hants residents and are in direct competition with private business for this service. There is no way to validate material is coming from outside of East Hants which is something that is currently not allowed at the East Hants Waste Management Centre.

If council were interested in supporting the EarthKeepers, the recommended route to do so would be to explore grant options. To date this fiscal, the EarthKeepers account at the site has been charged \$178.78.

Attachments

1. Correspondence with Enfield Earthkeepers and Manager of Solid Waste (2026, 2025, 2021) PDF
2. Solid Waste Tipping Fee Policy