



TOWN OF NATICK MASSACHUSETTS

TO: Selectmen
Melissa Malone, Town Administrator
William Chenard, Deputy Town Administrator – Operations

FROM: Jeremy Marsette, P.E.
Director of Public Works

DATE: June 7, 2018

SUBJECT: POLICY REGULATING CURBSIDE COLLECTION OF SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING

The Board of Selectmen received a request from Family Promise Metrowest for an “exception” from current policy to allow the Department of Public Works to collect trash and recycling at their new facility located at 6 Mulligan Street. A copy of the request is attached.

The Board of Selectmen’s current “Rubbish Collection Policy” was enacted on February 7, 2000. A copy of the current policy is attached for reference.

The Department of Public Works has reviewed the current policy and propose the policy be superseded by the attached updated Policy Regulating Curbside Collection of Solid Waste and Recycling. In developing the updated policy, the Department performed a survey of peer communities, incorporated current practice, included all types of curbside sanitation collections within the proposed policy (solid waste, single-stream recycling, bulky waste, and yard wastes), and updated the policy to meet current waste ban regulations promulgated through the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

The proposed policy also formalizes curbside collection of solid waste and recycling for small non-profit charitable entities via the same practices in place for residential sanitation collections (utilizing Town standard pay-as-you-through bags and recycling bins). The policy limits this collection to entities that produce similar amounts of waste and recycling as the largest residential properties currently collected (four dwelling units or less). Sample non-profit entities that this provision would include are the Natick Service Council, Metrowest Family Promise, and the smaller residential support properties run by Advocates.

The proposed policy retains the “grandfathering” provision included in the current policy, therefore would not exclude any properties currently receiving curbside collections. A review of current collection routes show the following “grandfathered” properties:

56 South Main Street – 7 Residential Dwelling Units
19 School Street – 9 Residential Dwelling Units
15 Church Street – 8 Residential Dwelling Units
118 North Avenue – 9 Residential Dwelling Units

Solid waste in pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) bags and recycling in standard Town bins are collected curbside from the above listed properties. Please also note that the Department collects, under separate agreement, solid waste and recycling for Natick Housing Authority (Cedar Gardens and Coolidge Gardens). An annual invoice for these services is provided to the Natick Housing Authority for payment.

As part of the research conducted for this policy update, the Department also obtained current PAYT retail bag pricing for Massachusetts communities. A full summary of the survey is attached. The average retail price charged for large (30 gallon) bags was found to be \$1.99 per bag and the average retail price charged for small (15 gallon) bags was found to be \$1.14 per bag. Natick currently charges \$1.75 for large bags and \$1.00 for small bags. The current bag prices were set in 2004 when the PAYT program began. A number of communities also charge an annual program fee averaging about \$130 per year (Natick does not charge a program fee).

The policies regulating the Town's Recycling Center on West Street are also in need of an update. We will provide a proposed policy update to the Board in the near future.