



Memorandum

To: Natick Board of Selectmen

CC: Melissa A. Malone, Town Administrator
William Chenard, Deputy Town Administrator, Operations
Jeremy Marsette, Director, Public Works

From: Jillian Wilson Martin, Sustainability Coordinator

Date: April 10, 2019

Subject: Price of Compostable Bags at Pay-As-You-Throw Vendors

Background

In September 2018, the Board of Selectmen was presented with the Town of Natick's Compost Pilot 2.0 plans, which focus on increasing composting by incentivizing curbside, drop-off and backyard composting options.

Pilot 2.0 launched in November 2018 with the transition of Natick's in-house curbside compost collection program to a private model, in which residents self-select a private hauler of their choice at their own cost. To incentivize participation, the Town provides residents with a free starter kit, which includes a green curbside bin, kitchen container and 30 three-gallon, compostable bags (green bags). Since switching to this model, nearly 650 residents have chosen to procure curbside composting services.

The DPW and Tilly's Bacon Street Farm currently sell compostable bags, manufactured by Eco-Safe, at cost to residents who participate in curbside composting. This provides a discount to residents versus what they would pay for the same bag online or at a typical retail store. However, participants have expressed an interest in purchasing compostable bags at other Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) vendors, and the Town has been working with WasteZero, our PAYT supplier, to make this a possibility. We received pricing from WasteZero this week that they can purchase, manage inventory, and process store orders for the same EcoSafe compostable bags through their system for a net price of approximately 10 cents per bag.

As part of this program, PAYT vendors would not be required to sell the compostable bags, but we have had several conversations with Wegmans, Stop & Shop and Roche Brothers, in addition to Tilly's, and each has indicated they will participate.

Request of the Board

By statute, the Board sets the price for fees that aren't defined by other Boards or Committees. As such, we respectfully request your approval to begin selling the three-gallon, compostable green bags in rolls of 30 for \$3.00 at PAYT stores effective immediately.