

# **Trash & Recycling: Bulky Items, White Goods & New Barrels**

**Update as of September 2021**



# Agenda

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# Background

Current contract with Waste Management due to expire by end of **December 2021**

- Transfer Station closed in June 2019

Trash & Recycling disposal costs continue to increase each year; including collection of bulky items and white goods

Town currently pays all collection fees for bulky items and white goods\*:

- 2019 = Town paid **\$178,169.46**
- 2020 = Town paid **\$219,894.86**
- 2021 projection = Town to pay est. **\$278,151.04**

Overall percent recycling contamination (amount of trash in recycling bins) increases each year:

- 2019 Contamination = **16.4% (\$31,697.70 in fees)**
- 2020 Contamination = **18.8% (\$54,576 in fees)**
- 2021 Contamination = **est. 16.2% (\$38,007 in fees) – from March 2021 audit**

Select Board created a Working Group in Spring 2021 to review the current trash & recycling contract, and to recommend improvements to our current resident services (See [March 4, 2020 presentation](#) to Select Board).

\*The Finance & Warrant Committee has not funded bulky item/white good collection beyond Dec. 31, 2021.

# Definitions

**Bulky Items:** Any large item that won't fit in your trash barrel (not including construction material or hazardous waste).

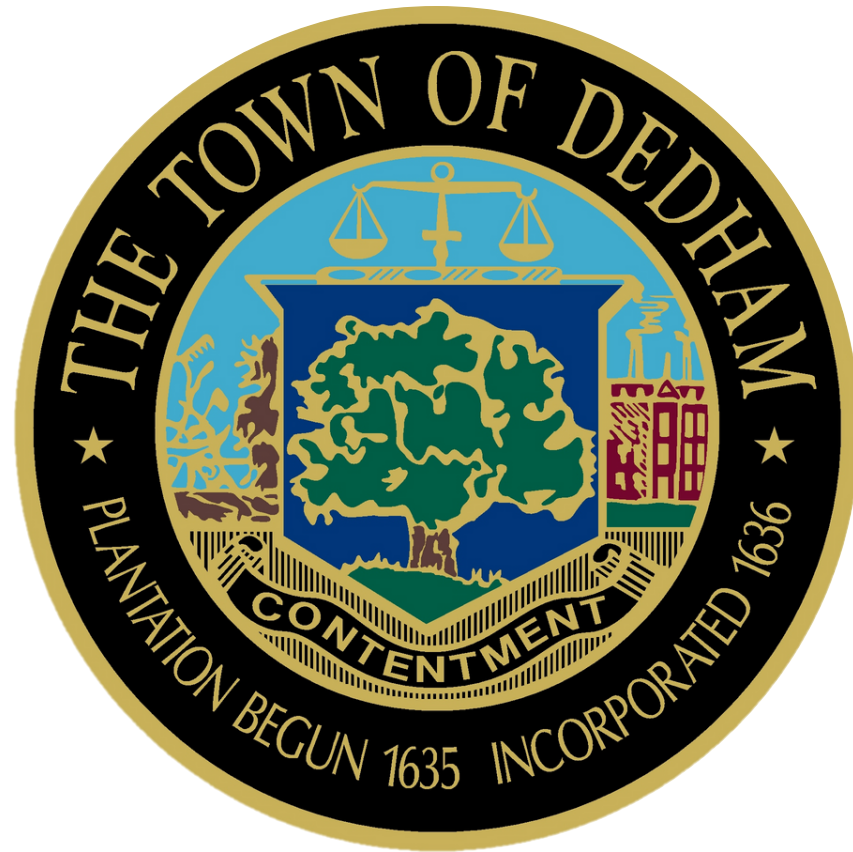
**White Goods:** An appliance or other metal bulk item, such as a dishwasher, dryer, furnace, hot water heater, stove, trash compactor, and washer.

**Yellow Bags:** Overflow bags, also known as "Yellow Bags", are 30-gallon capacity, yellow-colored bags with the Town seal. Only official overflow bags are collected and are used for excess household trash only. Yellow Bags are not collected if they contain recycling, construction debris, or yard waste.

**Recycling Contamination:** When trash is mixed in with or ruins recyclables. This can occur if food or liquids are placed in a recycling bin that saturate cardboard or paper, making the items no longer acceptable for recycling. This can also occur if trash items are placed inside recycling barrel as recyclables are not sorted and will not remove trash items.



Yellow bags can be purchased at **local grocery or convenience stores** and can be put out alongside trash barrels on trash day.



### **Goal:**

Reduce recycling contamination and overall costs while improving service to residents

# Recommendations & Why

- 1. Six-month contract extension with Waste Management**
  - Align with Fiscal Calendar (July 1 to June 30)
  - Allow for larger pool of respondents and more time for selected hauler to develop/execute operations plan
- 2. Residents cover cost for bulky items and white goods (effective January 1, 2022)**
  - Reduce costs shared by all residents; only those scheduling a pickup with Waste Management will pay the fee
    - **Bulky Items = \$30**
    - **White Goods = \$38**
  - Align with neighboring communities (Norwood & Westwood)
    - In 2020, Norwood had 920 items collected, Westwood had 592 items collected, and **Dedham had over 8,000 items collected!**
- 3. Replace existing 64-gallon trash barrels with new, 96-gallon trash barrels**
  - Help to reduce recycling contamination and associated costs paid by the Town
  - Reduce costs paid by Town to replace broken barrels

# Article at Town Meeting

## Article Eight:

By the Town Manager at the request of the Public Works Director. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow for the purpose of acquiring new solid waste carts for the Town, or take any other action relative thereto. Referred to Finance and Warrant Committee for study and report.

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## Purpose

Authorize the Town to purchase **new, 96-gallon trash barrels** for residents to replace current 64-gallon barrels (one barrel per household)

## Benefits

**More capacity for residents** – larger barrels provide space for disposal of smaller "bulky" items, such as vacuum cleaner, leaf blower, and small appliances (i.e. microwave)

**Reduced costs to Town** – approximately **\$367,000\*** per year spent on barrels, collection fees, and contamination fees

**Reduced recycling contamination** – more capacity for trash disposal

**Reduce barrel repair/replacement costs** – save money paid by Town (Town paid approx. **\$93,000** in past 12 months to replace broken barrels)

## Overflow Program (Yellow Bags)

The Overflow Program will **remain unchanged** with the larger trash barrels



\*Estimation using 2020 values

# Recap & More Info

The Town of Dedham currently pays for the replacement of broken trash barrels and the collection of all bulky items and white goods as part of the total, annual budget\*. In addition, the Town of Dedham pays additional fees if the recycling contamination exceeds 10% as allowed.

\*The total annual budget for FY22 = \$2,930,150



## Current Trash & Recycling Contract

Current contract with Waste Management set to expire at the end of 2021. Contract includes collection of trash and recycling on a weekly and bi-weekly schedule, using barrels provided by the Town.



## Recycling Contamination Increases Each Year

Since 2018, the Town has paid a total of **\$124,280.70** in fees for recycling contamination that exceeds the allowable 10% limit. Some of this contamination is likely the result of smaller trash barrels than recycling barrels.



## Costs to Town Increase Each Year

Under the current contract and policy, the Town covers the cost of replacement barrels (**\$84 per barrel**), and the cost of all bulky item and white good disposal (**\$219,894.86 in 2020**) that come out of the annual budget for trash and recycling services.



# Next Steps

To address concerns raised by many residents and to take necessary steps to ensure the trash and recycling system is operating efficiently and consistently, the Town has proposed the following next steps:

- 01 Extend Current Contract**  
Extend contract with Waste Management to end June 2022 to align with Fiscal Calendar and allow more time to prepare RFP for trash and recycling hauler(s)
- 02 Fall Town Meeting Article**  
Article Eight in Fall Town Meeting Warrant requests allocation of funds to allow Dept. of Public Works to purchase new, 96-gallon trash barrels to replace current 64-gallon trash barrels (1 per household max.) A vote in favor of this article will allocate funds to purchase new barrels at no additional cost to residents.
- 03 Update Bulky Item/White Good Collection Policy**  
Pending Select Board approval, beginning January 1, 2022, residents will be responsible for paying the collection fee for bulky items and white goods by contacting Waste Management directly to schedule and coordinate.
- 04 Continuing Discussions & RFP**  
Continue discussions regarding other opportunities to enhance our trash and recycling services, and continue to research Town-wide composting opportunities. The Town plans to publish and RFP for trash & recycling by end of 2021/early 2022.



# Questions & Suggestions



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