

# PAY-BY-BAG OVERVIEW

**Program Effective  
September 1, 2010**



## **PAY-BY-BAG OVERVIEW**

### **Warrant Article to Implement a PbB Program:**

At the 2010 Hopkinton Town Meeting, voters approved the following warrant article:

“To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to establish and implement a mandatory „pay by bag” program and further to adopt the provision of RSA 31:95-c for the purpose of accounting for the sale of designated solid waste bags (and/or coupons and other receipts) as budgeted annually, to be used to offset the cost of collection and disposal of residential solid waste and such other direct costs as budgeted annually. Such revenues and expenditures shall be accounted for in a special revenue fund to be known as the Pay by Bag fund, separate from the general fund. Any surplus in said fund shall not be deemed part of the general fund accumulated surplus and shall be expended only after a vote by the legislative body to appropriate a specific amount from said fund for a specific purpose related to the purpose of the fund or source of revenue. Any pay by bag program adopted by the town under the authority of this article shall contain a requirement that the initial cost for designated bags (and/or coupons or other receipts), any tipping fees for residential trash and any subsequent increases in the above, must be approved by majority of the legislative body before becoming effective. For 2010 only, the Board of Selectmen shall be authorized to set the above prices. The pay by bag price is not to exceed \$1.25 for the 33-gallon bags and \$0.75 for the 13-gallon bags for the year 2010.”

### **Details of PbB Program:**

Hopkinton residents who directly dispose of their household trash at the Hopkinton/Webster Transfer Station (“Transfer Station”) will be required to purchase specially marked bags designed for refuse collection and disposal. These bags will be sold to residents through various retail outlets in the area. Bags will be sold at a price reflecting the cost of transportation and tipping fees the town pays for trash disposal, as well as the town’s operating costs of the transfer station, excluding any bond costs. The income will be placed in a Special Revenue Fund known as the Pay-by-Bag Fund to offset Hopkinton’s share of the transfer station operating costs.

### **The following guidelines shall apply to residential users of the system**

1. Trash and recyclables will be accepted only during scheduled facility hours.
2. All regular household trash shall be in designated Hopkinton bags. No trash will be accepted if it is not in the designated bags. The following rules apply:
  - a. Any trash contained in unauthorized bags will not be allowed to be disposed of in the hopper at the transfer station.
  - b. Open bags: All bags are to be closed before they are brought to the transfer station.
  - c. Construction and demolition debris, metals, brush and bulk items such as appliances, computers, televisions, tires, mattresses, etc. will be handled according to rules and subject to fees established by the Boards of Selectmen.

- d. Recyclables currently accepted without charge at the transfer station (paper, cardboard, aluminum and steel cans, glass bottles and plastics) should not be bagged in PbB bags.
3. All residents will be required to display, on the lower-right portion of their vehicle's windshield, a valid transfer station sticker that will be made available to town residents at the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office.

**The following guidelines shall apply to private haulers who deposit trash at the transfer station.**

Hopkinton household and commercial trash shall be brought to the transfer station in separate loads subject to the following rules:

**Household Trash:**

1. All haulers' loads shall be weighed before progressing to the tipping area.
2. A transfer station attendant shall supervise the tipping of the hauler's load.
3. If the attendant certifies that all trash has been collected in the designated bags, there will be no charge.
4. If on visual inspection by the attendant there is no significant loose trash and no significant trash in unauthorized bags, the load shall be designated as meeting the bag requirement and there shall be no tipping fee charges.
5. Recyclables (paper, cardboard, cans and bottles) delivered to the recycling center at the transfer station do not need to be bagged in PbB bags and can be recycled at no charge.
6. Violations of this ordinance by a hauler may lead to the hauler's being denied access to the transfer station.

**Commercial Trash:**

1. Those wishing to dispose of waste from commercial or industrial facilities within the Town shall be required to receive a permit to do so from the Select Board. Applications are available at the Town Hall.
2. All loads will be weighed before progressing to the tipping area.
3. The haulers shall be charged the cost of transportation and tipping fees in effect at the time of disposal.
4. Recyclables (paper, cardboard, cans and bottles) delivered to the recycling center at the transfer station do not need to be bagged in PbB bags and may be recycled at no charge.

### **PbB Bag Information**

Plastic bags, both 13 gallon and 33 gallon, with the town name and seal are being purchased from WasteZero. The bag manufacturer will deliver bags to local stores for sale to residents. The retailers receive no mark-up on the bags and sell them for the benefit of their customers. The bags, sold in rolls of 5, are available at the following retailers.

- Colonial Village, 54 Park Avenue, Contoocook
- Aubachon Hardware, Route 103, Warner
- Hannaford's Supermarkets, 73 Fort Eddy Road, Concord
- Shaw's Supermarket, 20 Fort Eddy Road, Concord
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The price of the bags will be \$1.25 per bag for the 33 gallon size and \$ .75 per bag for the 13 gallon size. A supply of bags will be kept at the Human Services Department for distribution to residents as described below in the special populations section of this document. For the convenience of residents, bags are available at the Town Hall and Town Clerk's office. All funds generated by these sales will be deposited into the "Pay by Bag" fund as referenced in the warrant article section above.

## **Additional Considerations**

### **Financial Assistance**

If purchasing bags would create a significant financial hardship, residents will be able to obtain them at either a reduced rate or free of charge from the town's Human Services Department. These residents will be accommodated based on the assistance eligibility formula used by the Human Services Department. They would receive assistance for the average number of bags that would be used by a family of comparable size that recycles.

### **Litter Removal**

Special bags will be made available at no cost to local service organizations and residents who volunteer their time to remove trash from roadsides. These bags are available from the Town Administrator at the Town Hall. Unused bags shall be returned to the Town Hall.

### **Mutual Respect at the Transfer Station**

Hopkinton residents and commercial haulers are reminded that Town employees are being instructed to administer the PbB program at the transfer station at the direction of the Town of Hopkinton. As such, they are due the respect of any other Town employee. Any significant abuse directed at these employees, during the performance of their duties, from residents of the Town of Hopkinton or Webster will be reported to the Chief of Police of the Town of Hopkinton. If a Hopkinton or Webster resident has a complaint regarding the implementation of the program or their treatment at the transfer station, they are encouraged to report that complaint to the Hopkinton Select Board via the Hopkinton Town Administrator.