

Solid Waste Facts for Manchester

Most of this material is a summary from "Solid Waste & Recycling Options for Hallowell" by Steven Sarno, dated July 2005. While researched for the City of Hallowell, this report's findings and recommendations are relevant to Manchester.

- **Hatch Hill Communities pay more than twice the statewide average for fees and charges for trash and recycling services.**
 - Manchester per person total cost for trash disposal is approximately **\$140-\$145/yr.**
 - Most of the cost is pickup/transportation/tipping fees
 - Hatch Hill tipping fees have been increased from \$58/ton to \$70/ton, and may go higher.
 - Among the highest tipping fees in the state
 - Hatch Hill charges each town a \$15/person fee, which may go higher
- **Manchester lacks self-determination when it comes to waste disposal; we have no say in the services we get or the costs we pay for waste disposal.**
- **Hatch Hill has the lowest recycling rate of any landfill in Maine.**
 - Recycling saves towns money by avoiding costs for disposal.
 - Towns have recouped costs by selling their recyclables.
 - Hatch Hill recycles only 1/5 as much per person as Lewiston or Portland, which are similar in size
- **Hatch Hill has limited capacity and life expectancy.**
 - Manchester will need other options at some point.
- **Several options are available, all of which are potentially less costly than Hatch Hill.**
 - At least four vendors provide less expensive service for tipping fees
 - Municipal-run waste collection systems generally have less total costs
 - "Pay-per-Bag" can more fairly apportion costs, and encourage recycling
 - Multi-community solid waste districts can provide economies of scale and provide more control over recycling
- **Manchester has an inefficient disposal system that relies almost entirely on a decentralized system of private haulers and encourages illegal dumping.**
- **Benefits/services we do not have but could have, at a lower total cost than today:**
 - A nearby place to dispose of trash and recyclables
 - A nearby place that will accept brushy waste, leaves, and grass clippings
 - A nearby place where we can take white goods
 - A nearby place where we can get compost
 - A nearby place where we can drop off used items for others to re-use
 - More options for recycling
 - As an additional benefit, a place where we can see and talk to neighbors and other community members

Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Costs – Manchester vs. other regional municipalities
by Municipality

Town	Pop.	MSW Contract	Recycling contract	Total cost	Tons/yr	cost/ton	Recycling Revenue	cost/person
Manchester	2,465	Hatch Hill	none	\$357,185	1,035	\$345.11	\$0.00	\$144.90
Hallowell	2,467	Hatch Hill	none	\$357,715	1,011	\$353.66	\$0.00	\$145.00
Farmingdale	2,750	Hatch Hill	none	\$398,750	1,155	\$345.24	\$0.00	\$145.00
Gardiner	6,291	Hatch Hill	none	\$912,195	2640	\$345.53	\$0.00	\$145.00
Winthrop	6,232	PERC	MRRA/FCR	\$577,000	3,050	\$189.18	significant	\$67.39
West Gardiner	2,902	PERC	LMRC	\$273,575	1,480	\$184.85	significant	\$61.99
Readfield/ Wayne	3,472	Norridgewock	MRRA/FCR	\$252,945	1,424	\$177.69	\$58,490.	\$56.00
source: "Solid Waste & Recycling Options for Hallowell", Steven Sarno, 2005								

Total cost above includes tipping fees, transportation/pickup, transfer station costs, and "head fees"
Tons/yr has been estimated in some cases based on statewide averages
Assumes an average of two persons per household

MSW = municipal solid waste

PERC = Penobscot Energy Recovery Company

MRRA/FCR = Maine Resource Recovery Association/FCR Goodman (a division of Casella Waste Systems)

LMRC = Lewiston Municipal Recycling Center

Table 2. Some cost comparisons between current situation and two theoretical transfer station options. Other options are also possible.

Situation	Entity taking trash	Town cost	Average Taxpayer household cost/yr	Amount average household pays to trash hauler/yr	Total Cost per household per year
Current (2006)	Hatch Hill	\$38,000	\$37	\$260	\$297
Expensive transfer station	Transfer station	\$150,000	\$145.50	(see note 1)	\$145.50
Less Expensive transfer station	Transfer station	\$100,000	\$97.00	(see note 2)	\$97.00

Note 1: trash haulers could provide services at \$2.90/week at no extra cost to households over what they currently pay in total, with significantly lower expenses per ton of waste collected.

Note 2: trash haulers could provide services at \$3.85/week at no extra cost to households over what they currently pay in total, with significantly lower expenses per ton of waste collected.