



TOWN OF BROOKLINE
Massachusetts
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Erin Chute Gallentine
Commissioner

December 18, 2020

Dear Brookline Resident & Hybrid-Pay-As-You-Throw Customer,

I hope that this letter finds you safe and well during these challenging times. I am the newly appointed Commissioner of Public Works (DPW) in Brookline. At DPW we hold a high standard for customer service, quality programs, regulatory compliance and environmental responsibility, and we know that you do too. I am writing with an update on the Town's refuse and recycling program and an increase in fees effective January 2021.

The Brookline Department of Public Works manages a comprehensive hybrid Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) refuse and recycling program. The program serves nearly 13,000 customers each week and provides a suite of options for residents to manage household recycling and refuse in a manner that is efficient, convenient, environmentally sound, and prioritizes public health and safety.

The PAYT program relies on revenue generated by the refuse fee to offset a portion of the total cost of solid waste collection and disposal, recycling collection and processing, special waste management, and yard waste collection and disposal. Fees for the program were redistributed based upon cart sizes in 2017, with nearly half of the Town's customers realizing an annual rate reduction. Overall program fees have not increased in over 10 years. The target cost share is 75% resident fee and 25% Town tax subsidy. Largely due to changes in the refuse and recycling market, Town costs have increased significantly. The current cost share for the program is 61% covered by the refuse fee and 39% Town subsidy. In order, to balance the budget and reduce the Town subsidy for the sanitation program, annual program rates have been increased and will take effect January 2021. Change in the quarterly invoice will be reflected on your next bill. For example, those with a 35-gallon waste cart will be charged \$57.50 for their 3rd Quarter bill.

Comparative Brookline Sanitation Annual Program Fees		
Cart Size	2017 Rate	New 2021 Rate
35-Gallon	\$190/Year	\$230/Year
65-Gallon	\$252/Year	\$310/Year
95-Gallon	\$312/Year	\$392/Year
PAYT Overflow Bags		\$18.50/Roll of 5 Bags
Cart Swap	Disinfection/Repair/Delivery	\$40/Swap

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) and Town staff continue to implement operational efficiencies and new ways to minimize waste in order to control costs and reduce our collective impact on the environment. Cart Swaps are available once per year for a \$40 charge and can be coordinated through the main office. The Town has increased its efforts to promote recycling, expanded special materials management, and established a partnership with blackearthcompost.com for residents to sign-up for the curb side compost pick-up program. For more information about program services please visit www.brookline.gov/DPW or download the new **We Recycle Brookline** App. You are also welcome to call the main office at 617-730-2156. I look forward to working with the community on all Public Works programs, services and initiatives to help build a strong, engaged, sustainable, inclusive and vibrant Brookline.

Sincerely,

Erin Gallentine
Commissioner of Public Works