

Good Afternoon Board Members

Currently, the town offers a “**one-size-fits-all**” **90 gallon tote**. As a senior, and as a person who lives alone, I've rarely filled my tote even halfway full.

The town is proposing a 35% increase in trash rates starting next July. My quarterly trash bill will increase by \$25.00 per quarter. Thirty percent of the residents in town are age 65 and older and their social security increase for next year is only 2.5%.

I'm proposing the town implement a **variable-rate pricing program** for residential customers. What I'm about to discuss comes from a public policy study published in 2002, by Reason Foundation.

**Benefits:**

- **Fairness:** customers who use more pay more.
- **Waste reduction:** Variable-rates rewards all behaviors including **recycling, composting, source reduction, and repurposing**. These behaviors result in less trash going to the landfill and thereby increasing the life-span of that landfill.
- **Efficiency:** **Variable-rate** programs are **efficient and inexpensive to implement** and there's no need for additional trucks. And, since the town will be purchasing new trucks, you can purchase trucks with newer technologies and capabilities, such as scales to weigh residential waste at the curb, or the ability to pick up multiple sizes of standardized totes.
- **Economic Incentive:** Variable-rates provide a **recurring economic incentive** to voluntarily recycle, and it allows small disposers to save money. Recycling is incentivized, not mandated.
- **Flexibility:** Variable-rate programs are **flexible** and can be implemented in a variety of ways to accommodate the size and type of any community.

**Results:**

- Towns that implement a variable-rate program can expect to see reductions of more than 15% in tons disposed and a corresponding increase in recycling and yard waste diversion.
- provide more efficient use of services
- and provide cost savings to residents

I ask the town board, take the time to seriously consider implementing this cost-saving and waste reducing program by next July. Or, at the very least, provide a smaller tote for seniors at a reduced rate. This has been done in the past with the “Minimal User” rate, which is now being phased out!

I support a variable-rate pricing program, as well as an expense audit of the enterprise fund.

Thank you,  
Alice Meyer  
alicebsly@yahoo.com