

WEST HARTFORD— IT'S TIME TO TALK TRASH!

WE HAVE A TRASH PROBLEM

Historically, our relationship with trash is “out of sight, out of mind”—it’s someone else’s problem. However...

- With no active landfills, and incinerators only able to take 60% of our trash, CT is rapidly losing places to put it
- 40% is now shipped out of state, with rising transportation and environmental costs
- “Away” (in CT or other states) is always someone’s home—often that of marginalized communities, who suffer the health impacts

With this in mind, the Sustainable West Hartford Commission has reviewed trash disposal options that:

1. Improve the town’s **economics** by addressing the rising costs of waste management
2. Reduce the **environmental impact** by diverting much of our trash to renewable uses
3. Are more **equitable** for residents, who don’t pay for others’ trash

WE CAN CUT OUR TRASH IN HALF

By adopting unit-based pricing (UBP) and food scrap diversion:

- UBP means we pay for trash like we would water or electricity or any other utility. Residents use specific orange bags as a means of “metering” their usage.
- Food scrap diversion is accomplished with a free pail, and smaller green bags that are picked up on the weekly trash route.

UBP with food scrap diversion has been proven effective in West Hartford:

- Households who participated in a pilot project in the Morley neighborhood last year cut their trash in **half!**

Based on these results, by adopting UBP with food scrap diversion, projections show a cost savings of **\$11 million dollars over the next ten years!** This will have a positive impact on the town’s budget, which means:

- The potential to reduce future tax increases on residents, and/or
- Fund much-needed educational programs whose federal funding is drying up.



In June, Town Council will consider expanding the Morley neighborhood pilot to all of West Hartford for one year, starting in the fall of 2024. If you support this—for economic, environmental, or equity reasons (or all three)—please share your feedback.

Email: TownCouncil@westhartfordct.gov and
cc: katherine.bruns@westhartfordct.gov

