



TOWN OF DIGHTON

Board of Health

1111 Somerset Avenue
Dighton, MA 02715
(774) 872-0943

RE: Pay-As-You-Throw Program

December 11, 2024

Dear Dighton Residents,

As you are aware, the cost of services, supply and demand have increased over the last few years. Unfortunately, the cost for trash disposal has been on the same trend. The price of trash bags has not increased since 2020. However, in that same time, the cost of disposal has increased over 54%: \$388,407.00 in 2019 to \$599,800.00 in 2024.

Landfills are closing and the disposing of trash has become more challenging for all municipalities. The Dighton Solid Waste Committee and the Dighton Board of Health have made a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to increase the bag prices from \$20.00 per roll to \$28.00 per roll for large bags (\$2.80 per bag) and from \$10.00 per roll to \$14.00 per roll for small bags (\$1.40 per bag). This represents a 40% increase. The Board of Selectman approved this increase on December 11, 2024, with a start date of February 1, 2025. Even with this cost increase, the program is still in a deficit. The Board of Health along with the Solid Waste Committee will continue to look for ways to reduce cost by supplementing the program and applying for pertinent grants.

Residents can help by reducing bulk and composting food waste. Reducing waste means reducing weight. Be aware of your purchases: can you re-use the package you bought? The Solid Waste Committee is working with Mass DEP on implementing a swap shed where residents can leave used items that are in good condition for others to take - more to come on this soon. Residents also have the option to take advantage of privatized trash. This option was researched and the cost of a 'Pay-As-You-Throw Program' is indisputably the best option.

Going forward, the Board of Health, along with the Solid Waste Committee, will be analyzing costs annually in order to be better prepared for future price increases in disposal.

Visit www.dighton-ma.gov/255/Health-Department for continued updates.

Thank you,