



FAQ

Tipping Fees

Q. Why is waste management a challenge in the Yukon?

- A.** Waste management is a social, environmental and economic challenge. Here's why:
- Canadians, including Yukoners, are some of the largest producers of waste in the world.
 - On average, Yukoners produce just under 1 tonne of waste per year (0.9 tonnes/person in 2022). That includes garbage, recycling and organic waste. Approximately 30% of waste was diverted (recycled or composted) in 2022.
 - In 2013, a person living in Whitehorse made 37% more waste than they would have in 2000. This is in the opposite direction of national trends, which show a slight decrease (2%) in the amount of waste generated.
 - If we use waste facilities that are not properly funded, we increase the risk of pollution caused by waste.
 - Garbage costs money! Yukon and Municipal governments spend \$12 million per year managing waste.
 - The faster we fill facilities, the more money we'll need to pay to expand or build new waste facilities.

Q. Why is waste management a challenge in Haines Junction?

- A.** There are several unique circumstances to managing solid waste in Haines Junction:
- We get a lot of waste from both Whitehorse and Alaska, particularly since tipping fees were introduced in those locations.
 - Village of Haines Junction property taxpayers subsidize the operation and management of the landfill as current revenues received from user fees and grants are not enough to cover costs.
 - Costs are projected to increase due to increased responsibilities associated with environmental and regulatory compliance. That additional cost, without regionalization, will be borne by the Village of Haines Junction property tax payer.
 - Much of the solid waste dropped off at the landfill isn't well sorted. This then becomes the Village's responsibility to sort the material. If we don't, we will fail inspections and be out of compliance with the requirements of our Solid Waste Management Permit. As an example, if grubbing is dropped off unsorted, we need to get out heavy equipment which is very expensive to operate.
 - We don't have composting facilities. We need revenue stream to fund this type of

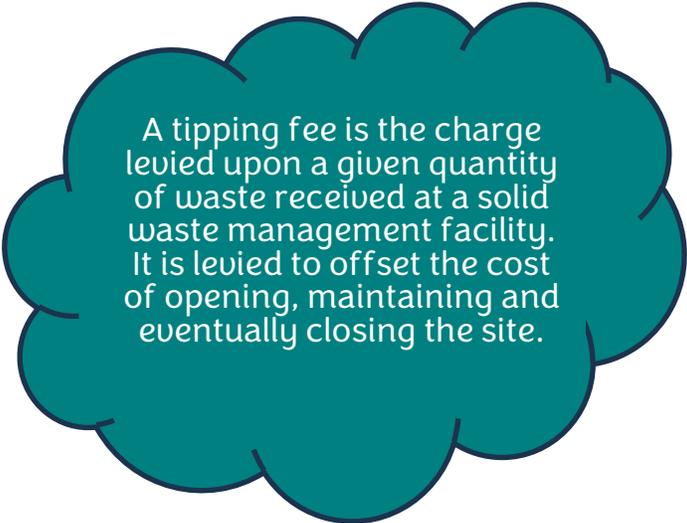
infrastructure improvement.

- Historically, records of what was disposed, and where, within the facility were inadequate creating the possibility of unknown environmental liabilities.
- With the growth of the community, and the trend towards an increased production of waste that is being seen here and across the Yukon, our recycling facilities are quickly becoming too small – we will soon need infrastructure improvements to create more space to process this material.

Q. Why are we being charged tipping fees?

A. Yukon government (YG) was encouraged by the Association of Yukon Communities to take steps to modernize Yukon’s waste management system in their 2016 report “Solid Waste Management: Vision for a Sustainable Model for Yukon’s Communities.” This led YG to form a Ministerial Committee on Solid Waste in 2017 which found:

- Across Canada, increasing awareness of environmental liabilities and life cycle costs are leading to the closure of many landfills.
- Regionalization would reduce the number of active landfills and their associated term environmental liabilities.
- Growing regulatory requirements, increasing volumes of waste and potentially toxic legacy waste has led to underfunded solid waste systems.
- Users, industry and governments must all pay a reasonable portion of the cost of the waste they generate if for a solid waste management system to be sustainable.



In 2019, YG endorsed the Ministerial Committee’s recommendations to regionalize solid waste management and implement a user pay model.

Q. Do other Yukon communities have tipping fees?

A. The City of Whitehorse has had tipping fees in effect for over 25 years. Rural landfills in the areas around Whitehorse (Marsh Lake, Mount Lorne, Tagish, Carcross and Deep Creek) introduced tipping fees on August 1, 2020. Dawson City, Carmacks, Watson Lake, Mayo, Teslin and Faro also have tipping fee schedules.

Q. Why do regional users -- those living outside the municipal boundary who don't pay property tax to the Village -- pay the same tipping fees as Haines Junction residents?

A. The Village of Haines Junction signed an Interim Regionalization Agreement with YG. This agreement provides funding to Village to offset the costs associated with providing waste disposal services to residents outside the municipal boundary. Through this agreement, YG is also committed to:

- arranging and paying for the pick-up, transport, processing and disposal of any designated materials (tires, e-waste and small electrical appliances) and non-commercial special waste;
- cost-sharing closure and post-closure costs;
- assisting with environmental issues that may arise from the operation of the facility; and
- reimbursing for the costs of testing monitoring wells installed in and around the landfill site.

By signing the agreement, the Village agreed to develop a waste management bylaw that established sorting requirements and tipping fees and agree to charging all residential users the same tipping fees.

Q. What would happen if Haines Junction opts out of regionalization?

A. If Haines Junction becomes the only landfill to not have tipping fees, we would expect that residents from outside the region would bring their waste here, costing Haines Junction taxpayers more in the long run. In addition, the Village will not be able to get support from YG funding to: offset costs associated with regional users of the landfill; cover costs associated with the disposal of designated materials and non-commercial special waste; address closure and post-closure costs; nor will there be any assistance with environmental issues that may arise from operating the facility.

Q. What public engagements took place?

A. YG lead the public consultations on landfill regionalization. YG's most recent engagements in our region were with residents of Silver City in August, September and November of 2023 regarding the planned closure of the Silver City Transfer Station. YG also held targeted engagements with the Champagne and Aishihik First Nation Government in 2023 and 2024.

The Village of Haines Junction held a public information session on September 18, 2024 to explain how regionalization impacts residents in Haines Junction, where the proposed tipping fee schedule was presented for input.

Q. Is it fair that costs for waste disposal be shifted to users? Shouldn't the producers of products and packaging be involved in finding solutions to reduce waste?

A. YG, along with most provinces and territories across Canada, recently passed Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation which requires the producers of products and packaging to make sure products and packaging are properly managed when they reach the end of their life cycle. The three high priority categories of materials to be managed under EPR in the Yukon are:

- paper products and packaging, such as common blue box type items (not including beverage containers);
- household hazardous waste, including household cleaners, batteries, waste paints, bear spray, camping fuels and solvents; and
- automotive wastes such as waste oil, waste antifreeze and their containers.

The EPR program will be in place by the end of 2025 and will reduce costs of waste management for municipalities and taxpayers, provide financial stability for recycling and keep more waste out of landfills.

Q. Is the Village profiting from these new fees?

A. In September 2024, Council adopted Bylaw #415-24, the Waste Management Cost Recovery and Sorting Requirements Bylaw. This bylaw requires tipping fees to be based on the principle of cost-recovery and outlines the process for calculating tipping fees.

Operating costs of the landfill include the costs associated with the collection, processing, treatment, monitoring, diversion and/or disposal of solid waste. In 2024, these costs are estimated to be \$384,754. In 2024, the Village recovered \$208,500 of these costs through institutional user fee agreements, grant funding, beverage container refunds and the 2024 Interim Regionalization Agreement with YG.

In 2025, the operating costs of the landfill are projected to increase to \$504,860. This increase is attributed to creating a landfill capital projects reserve which we intend to contribute to annually for future capital projects at the landfill, and the staffing of a gate attendant (a requirement of regionalization). We are projecting \$505,160 in revenues, the increase attributed to an expected increase in revenues in from the 2025 Interim Regionalization Agreement compared to what we received in the 2024 agreement, and the institution of tipping fees.

A detailed accounting of projected revenues and expenses for the landfill for 2024 and 2025 is included within the new Waste Management Bylaw.



Q. What will it cost an average homeowner a year to dispose of household waste?

A. In the City of Whitehorse, households are limited to generating one ~225 liter garbage bin of waste every two weeks. If we assume that the average Haines Junction household generates about the same amount of waste, the cost will be \$5 every two weeks or \$130/year. Note: this does not include costs to dispose of large items such as large appliances or furniture (\$20/item).

Q. How can I save money on tipping fees?

A. Here are some easy ways to save money:

- Reduce the amount of waste you generate by repairing, refurbishing, remanufacturing, repurposing, recycling or composting.
- Pre-purchase bag tags for household waste at the Village office.
- Sort your waste – There are additional fees for unsorted loads.
- Cover your load – There are additional fees for uncovered loads.

The tipping fee for a 90L garbage bag is \$2.50 (or \$2 with a pre-paid bag tag) and a 45 L kitchen catcher size bag will cost \$1.25 (or \$1 with a pre-paid bag tag)

Q. Why is it so expensive to drop off a vehicle?

A. The Village received a quote from Urban Auto Recycling in Whitehorse who depollution, bale and ship End of Life Vehicles (ELV's) out of the Yukon. We were quoted \$900/vehicle to remove the approximately 200 vehicles currently at the landfill. The Village has been actively working through the Association of Yukon Communities to advocate for support from YG for the disposal of ELVs.

Q. Why do I have to pay to drop off items at the Free Store?

A. Dropping off reusable items (items that are clean and in good working order) at the Free Store is the right thing to do, as it will help to prolong the life of the landfill. Certain items will continue to be free, including books, small appliances and clothing. Books and clothing are free because they can be recycled if they are not taken, and small appliances are a designated material that YG has agreed to cover the costs for in our Interim Regionalization Agreement.

Staff and volunteers struggle to maintain order, cleanliness and a high quality of

materials at the free store due to the volume of non-reusable items that are dropped off; currently, approximately 50% of items dropped off at the Free Store wind up in the landfill. If the material entering the store continued to be free, this problem would likely intensify. Staff are working on signage to increase awareness of what can be dropped at the Free Store. The Village is also looking to increase ease and opportunities for salvage; future plans include a covered laydown space for a Building Supply ReStore at the landfill.

Q. Won't this lead to more garbage being dumped in the bush?

A. Experience in other communities shows that most municipal taxpayers value the environment and continue to dispose of their waste at the landfill. There is a possibility that landfill users will choose to dump their garbage in the bush instead of paying a tipping fee to drop their garbage off at the landfill. Illegal dumping is not "free" -- remediation of illegal dump sites can be very costly. Recognizing this possibility, YG has increased fines for illegal dumping and the Village has included fines within the new Waste Management Bylaw.

Learn more! The following sources were consulted to prepare this FAQ:

hainesjunction.ca/p/waste-management

yukon.ca/en/ministerial-committee-solid-waste-report-2018

yukon.ca/en/find-out-about-garbage-and-recycling-problem-yukon

canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-indicators/solid-waste-diversion-disposal.html

yukon.ca/en/learn-about-extended-producer-responsibility

yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/env/env-recycling-report-2022.pdf

How to report illegal dumping:

- Outside the Municipal Boundary: Phone the TIPP line at 1-800-661-0525 or file a report online at yukon.ca/en/turn-poachers-and-polluters
- Inside the Municipal Boundary: Contact the Village Office at 634-7100