



# Plan for Methuen's Solid Waste and Recycling

June 22, 2022

# The State of Massachusetts - Dwindling Trash Disposal Capacity

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4 Mass. landfills have closed in the last 3 years. The 6 remaining landfills will be at capacity and closed by 2030.

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There are 7 municipal waste combustors -- all operating at capacity now.

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No new in-state disposal capacity in the pipeline

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Trash exported to NH, NY and OH

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Price for trash disposal soaring for communities

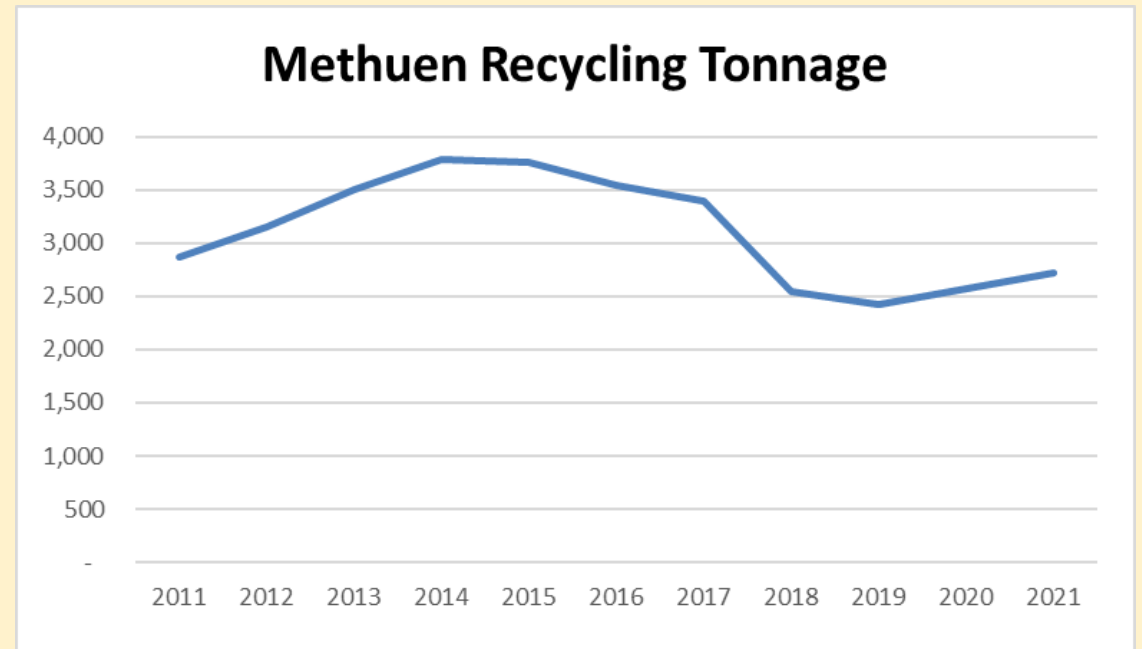
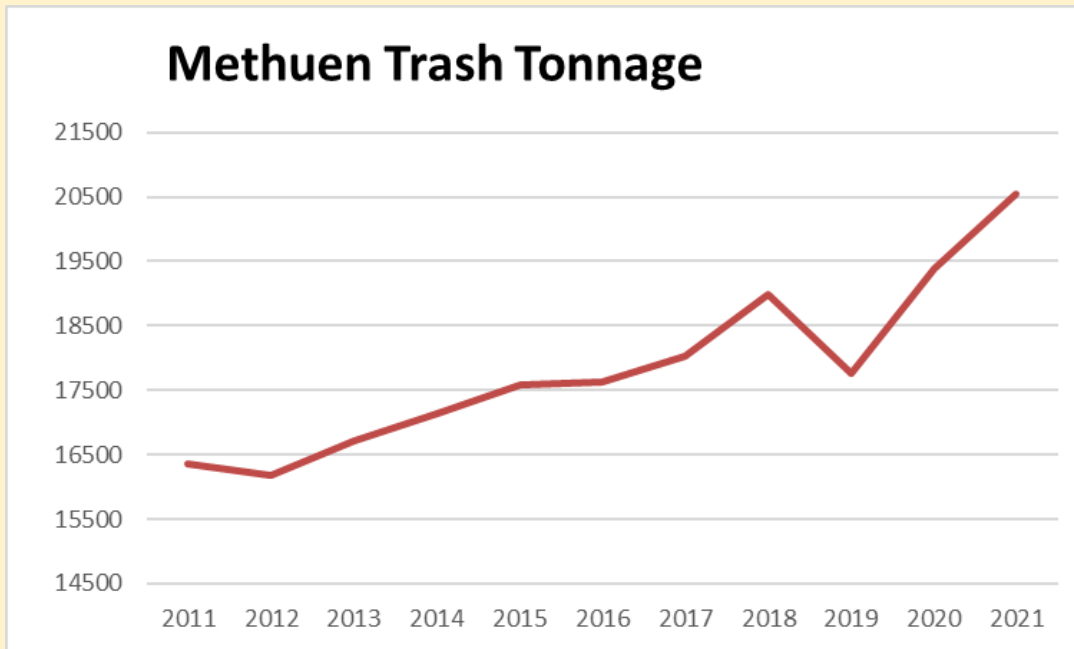
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# The State of Massachusetts Policy Prescriptions

- Commonwealth Goal: 30% Waste Reduction by 2030 (5.7 million tons to 4 million tons)
- Source Reduction (Bulky Wastes, Materials)
- Expansion of Waste Ban (effective 11/2022)
  - Textiles
  - Mattresses
  - Lowered threshold for commercial food waste at facilities generating more than ½ ton waste per week (Since 2014 threshold was 1 ton)
- Recycle Smarter— Increase Participation & Reduce Contamination.
- Reuse materials – Promote Shared markets & recyclables

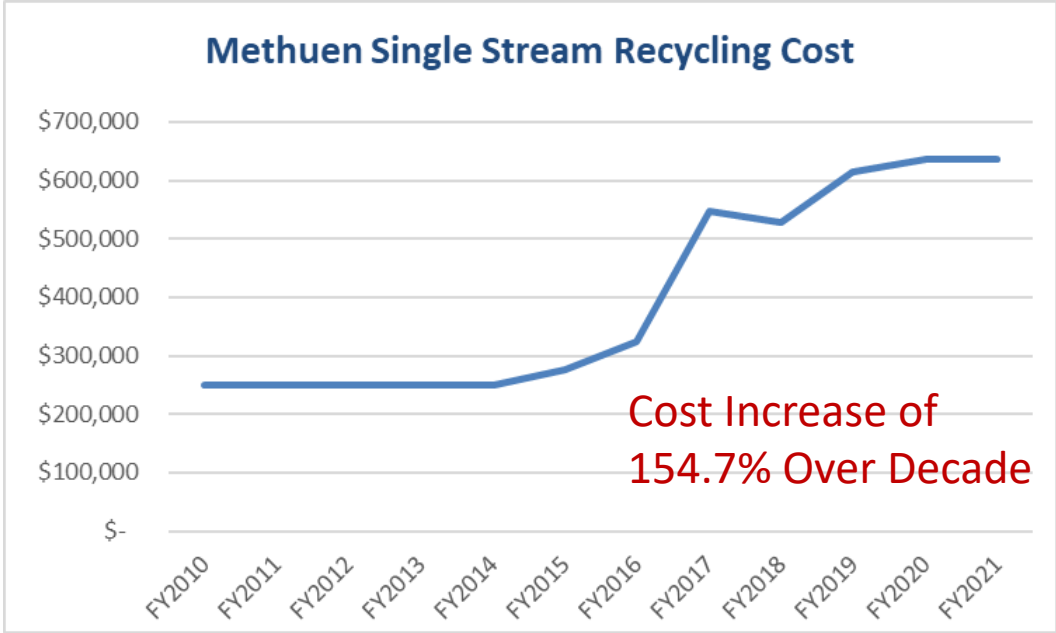
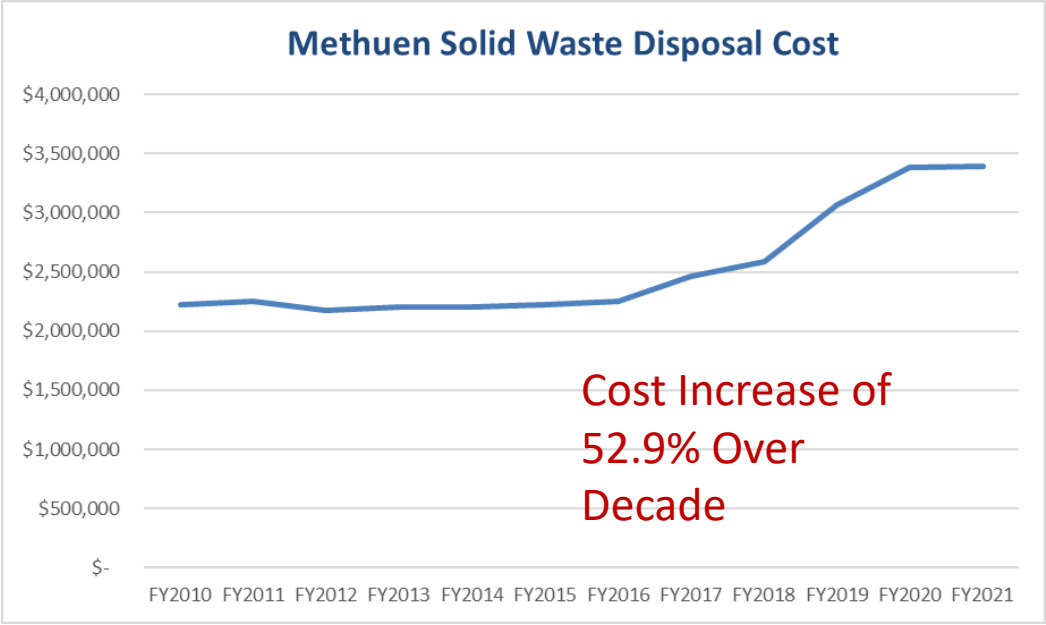


# Methuen's Trash & Recycling Curbside Tonnage 2011-2021



Methuen's Trash Tonnage **increased** 25% over the last decade; Meanwhile...Recycling Tonnage **decreased** 5.3% over the same period and is down 28% from 2014 peak.

# Methuen's Trash & Recycling Costs



Costs of Solid Waste Disposal & Recycling Are Growing at Significantly Higher Rate than General Government

# How Does Methuen compare with similar communities?

## Trash Tonnage Collected

- Reviewed MA cities/towns providing trash disposal service to between 10,000 and 20,000 households (2019 calendar survey from MassDEP)
- Methuen had highest trash tonnage generated per household served

Municipality Name	Households Served by Municipal Trash Program	Trash Disposal Tonnage	MSW lbs per HH
<b>Methuen</b>	14754	17766	2,408
Woburn	11240	13369	2,379
Peabody	14000	16608	2,373
Waltham	19170	21676	2,261
Framingham	18277	17473	1,912
Billerica	13567	12617	1,860
Beverly	12625	11668	1,848
Weymouth	17612	15722	1,785
Pittsfield	17522	15249	1,741
Chelmsford	12259	10489	1,711
Medford	19500	15471	1,587
Fitchburg	13500	10614	1,572
Taunton	16628	12087	1,454
Salem	15075	10935	1,451
Attleboro	14213	10186	1,433
Marlborough	12000	8231	1,372
Malden	17100	11676	1,366
Westfield	16096	10547	1,311
Brookline	13310	8353	1,255
Arlington	20311	12090	1,190
Chicopee	18869	10523	1,115
Gloucester	12850	6713	1,045

MSW = Municipal Solid Waste/Trash

# How Does Methuen compare with similar communities?

## Recycling Tonnage Collected

- Methuen has 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest tonnage of basic recyclables collected per household served

Municipality Name	Households Served by Municipal Trash Program	Basic Recyclables Tonnage	Recycled lbs per HH
Brookline	13310	4681	703
Framingham	18277	5533	605
Billerica	13567	4081	602
Attleboro	14213	4135	582
Beverly	12625	3582	567
Weymouth	17612	4951	562
Taunton	16628	4598	553
Medford	19500	5234	537
Waltham	19170	5062	528
Chelmsford	12259	3105	507
Marlborough	12000	2981	497
Gloucester	12850	3152	491
Arlington	20311	4964	489
Peabody	14000	3318	474
Chicopee	18869	4402	467
Salem	15075	3448	457
Fitchburg	13500	2811	416
Westfield	16096	3048	379
Woburn	11240	2072	369
<b>Methuen</b>	14754	2541	344
Pittsfield	17522	1920	219
Malden	17100	no report	NA

# Feedback from Mayor & Council Listening Sessions

- Complaints on missed routes and delays.
- Miscommunication/lack of information among City, households and haulers.
- Littering and dumping concerns; Street conditions on pickup days.
- Methuen getting other community's trash.
- Many residents don't know about transfer station service.
- Inconvenient transfer station hours & vehicle sticker policies.
- Local contractors should be able to use transfer station.
- Transfer station could be a community asset and revenue generator.
- Worker availability and safety.
- DPW capacity to enforce standards and manage haulers.





# Plan Elements

Curbside Trash Collection

Curbside Recycling & Processing

Transfer Station Operations

Bulky Waste Collection

Food Waste

Enforcement

Education & Outreach

Financing & Procurement

# AUTOMATED COLLECTION – TRASH & RECYCLING

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- Cleaner Streets
- More Recycling Participation
- Control Costs Through Waste Reduction
- Cart Distribution Plan
- Overflow Bags



# Implementation Schedule

Date	TASK
July 2022	Finalize Cart Distribution Plan with E.L. Harvey and Sierra Container
July-August 2022	Outreach and education campaign on trash/recycling and carts system – City website update, mailers, press release, social media, Trash & Recycling Committee events including public workshops
August –Sept. 2022	Delivery of Carts to Homes by Contractor (3 weeks)
Sept. – Oct. 2022	Start of Automated Collection (exact date TBD)

# SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Question:** What is automated collection and why is it coming to Methuen?

- Automated collection is the collection of trash and recycling by means of trash vehicles equipped with a forklift type mechanism that can pick up trash containers with no assistance from a human collector. The benefit of automated collection is that trash must be inside the trash container to be collected, which assists with implementing trash limits (see below). Automated collection is safer for workers, more efficient in facilitating timely completion of collection routes, and more cost effective.

**Question:** Why Are Trash Limits So Important?

- Reducing our solid waste disposal and increasing our recycling makes economic and environmental sense for all communities. In Massachusetts, solid waste disposal capacity is severely constrained, compelling communities to better manage waste collection by promoting materials reuse, recycling and composting of food waste. Methuen ranks worst in the state among similarly-sized communities for the amounts of solid waste we dispose per household, and near last in recycling. These trends are increasingly expensive for our city and terrible for our environment.

**Question:** Who Will Be Getting the Carts?

- Every Methuen residential home receiving curbside service (including those in multiple unit structures-duplexes, buildings with 1-4 dwelling units) will receive a 64-gallon trash cart and a 95-gallon cart for single stream recyclables.

**Question:** Do I have to put trash and recyclables in my new carts?

- Yes...The hauler will only collect trash placed in the designated trash receptacle. Recyclables collection will continue to be every other week but instead of using open bins or stickered receptacles, recyclables should be placed in the new 95-gallon wheeled cart with blue lid.

**Question:** What if I have a large event at my house and generate more trash than can fit in the cart?

- Overflow bags will be available. Each household will receive 2 bags upon the initial distribution of carts to ease the transition to automated pickup, and thereafter additional bags can be purchased for \$2/per bag at Methuen outlets by the time automated curbside collection begins. Also, additional trash carts will be available to large households or in hardship cases at an annual fee.

# SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Question:** What if I want a smaller cart than the 64-gallon trash cart or the 95-gallon recycle cart?

- Contact Methuen DPW. After initial distribution of carts this summer, the City will switch out large carts with 35-gallon carts if requested by residents.

**Question:** What materials can be placed in the Recycle Cart?

- All single-stream recyclables should go in your Recycle Cart – Plastic bottles, jugs & containers (rinsed & clean); Aluminum/steel/tin cans (rinsed & clean); Newspaper; Cardboard (flatten); Mixed office paper, junk mail etc.; Glass (rinsed & clean)

**Question:** Won't this cart system just generate even more illegal dumping?

- Mayor Perry and his administration are making clean streets and crackdown on dumping enforcement priorities. Every effort will be made to identify persons responsible for dumping and the City will rigorously enforce anti-dumping with fines and penalties. Monitoring cameras are being installed and persons seeing dumping occur are asked to report incidents to Methuen Police and DPW.

**Question:** What if my cart is stolen or damaged?

- Contact the City DPW or vendor E.L. Harvey which is putting in place a system for monitoring inventory of carts, maintaining carts and replacing irreparable or lost/stolen carts.

# SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Question:** What do I do with my large bulky items like old couches or furniture?

- Starting with the initiation of automated collection, these items will no longer be collected in the regular trash. Residents should consider donation to reuse programs of these items. Alternatively, residents can contact the vendor E.L. Harvey to schedule special curbside pickup of these bulk items per the City approved fee schedule or drop these items off at the Methuen Transfer Station on Huntington Avenue.

**Question:** How do I dispose of my old mattress?

- Starting this Fall, under MassDEP regulations, mattresses no longer will be allowed to be disposed of at incinerators or landfills. You can schedule curbside pickup of mattresses for a fee with the City's vendor E.L. Harvey who will transport mattresses to a recycling processing center. Alternatively, you can bring old mattresses to retail outlets where you purchased bedding supplies.

**Question:** What do I do with old clothing?

- Effective this Fall, textiles are subject to the Massachusetts waste ban and cannot be disposed in landfills or incinerators. Old clothes and shoes can be dropped off at donation boxes located at municipal locations including all schools, North End Fire Station and the Methuen Transfer Station. Do not put textile materials in the Trash cart or the Single Stream Recycle Cart.