

## 7.3 Fees

*Fee collection for waste disposal will provide a fund to pay for operations and maintenance of the landfill and waste collection program.*

In statewide surveys conducted by the Solid Waste Program in 2014 and 2019, 100% of the communities that charged a fee also had a paid landfill operator. If the community can't fund a landfill operator, implementing and collecting a waste disposal fee is consistently a winning strategy. A community landfill cannot be properly managed for free!

### **Funds collected can be used to:**

- Provide a salaried landfill operator.
- Help pay for a burn unit, fencing, heavy equipment, a collection shed, or anything else the community landfill needs.
- Conduct maintenance at the landfill such as placing cover material, doing dirt work to direct water away from waste, maintaining the heavy equipment used at the landfill, etc.
- Provide matching funds for grants or savings for a new landfill.
- Provide funds for closing the landfill.

### **What should be considered when calculating a landfill fee?**

- *Operator costs:* wages, training, PPE, etc.
- *Landfill equipment:* operation costs, maintenance, repair costs, equipment rental costs, and lime for the septage/honey bucket waste and carcass disposal pits. Ideally, the fees should be enough to allow saving up for equipment replacement as needed.
- *Facility maintenance:* fencing repairs, burn unit upkeep, obtaining cover material, spring cleanup activities, snow removal, etc.
- *Backhaul:* cost of the backhaul program
- *Administrative costs:* bookkeeping, time spent on sending out invoices and collecting the fees, annual permit fee, etc.
- The fee should be based on the average annual cost of the community's solid waste management program, including the items listed above. To help you do this, the ADEC Solid Waste Program has a fee worksheet, available on the solid waste program website, that can be used for calculating landfill fees.

### **How can people be encouraged to pay the fee?**

There are many creative ways to collect fees for a landfill. Some successful options include adding an extra cost per bingo card sold, combining the landfill fee with water and wastewater bills, allowing people to pay annually when dividends are available, or offering a free month if 6

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months are paid in advance. An ordinance can also be adopted that spells out how the fee structure will work within the community.

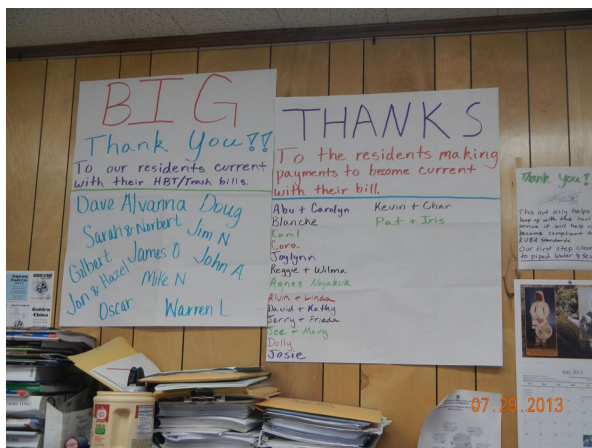
## Helpful Tips:

- Use the expected annual costs of the local solid waste management program to set an applicable solid waste disposal fee.
- Community buy-in is important when implementing a fee program. Let the community know how the fees will be used. If they don't understand or see where the money collected has been used at the landfill, they are less likely to pay.
- An easy way to start can be to charge a flat rate per bag of waste disposed. Even \$1.00 per bag can make a difference.
- Install a scale at the landfill and charge per pound of waste disposed. At most landfills, a fee of at least 14 cents per pound is needed to cover operational costs.



Flyer in King Cove to encourage people to pay their landfill fees.

## Examples:



Signs in the community office celebrating people who have paid or are working to pay their utility bills. This is one way to motivate people to pay their fees.