

Article 22
Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT)

Warrant Committee
Majority Opinion
To NOT Recommend Passage of
Article 22



DWC Majority Opinion

Do We Need it?

- **Dover can do better in its recycling and waste reduction efforts but it isn't evident Pay-As-You-Throw is needed to accomplish it.**
- Garbage/Solid Waste disposal is *not* a “utility” like cable TV or electricity
 - It is a municipal health, safety and sanitation function of the government, regulated by the town/state and conducted either by private haulers, as a contracted service by the town or by town employees as are police, fire and the highway/road services.

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Do We Need it? *(continued)*

- For a “free” waste system (i.e., no TS sticker cost and no cost of special PAYT bag) Dover’s rate of recycling and sorting and cleanliness of the recyclables seems respectable as a starting point.
- Before considering PAYT, further assess the decrease in tonnage associated with the new regulations banning commercial waste haulers from tipping at the Transfer Station. Let's give that policy time and then re-assess.

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Will It Work?

- The economic benefit or cost of moving to P-A-Y-T for Dover's budget is uncertain and dependent on significant reductions in solid waste disposal - even above expected increased recycling amounts. It is not clear how those additional reductions will be achieved.
- Solid Waste Disposal is approximately 1% of the Town budget.

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Will It Work? *(continued)*

- Implementing PAYT adds an unnecessary complexity and costs – without *directly* addressing changing the recycling behavior of some.
- “User fees” for the transfer station are not necessary as most of the town households use it (approximately, 70%) rather than other means (private haulers). Those who are paying for it are largely the ones using it.

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Will It Work? *(continued)*

- Other towns cited as examples have actually had issues with abuse/overuse of their transfer stations – that is not been the case in Dover.
- Most other towns also charge more for their PAYT bags than the amount being suggested for Dover. Are the “economic incentives” truly comparable?
- Most also charge for the annual sticker which creates a whole different set of dynamics.

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Will It Work? *(continued)*

- If PAYT doesn't work as projected, will the per bag prices be raised?
- There is a lack of data or surveys about attitudes toward and compliance with recycling *in Dover*.

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Will It Work? *(continued)*

- Will the cost of special bags *by itself* significantly change recycling behavior?
- PAYT penalizes all for the non-compliance of a small minority.

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How Can We Improve?

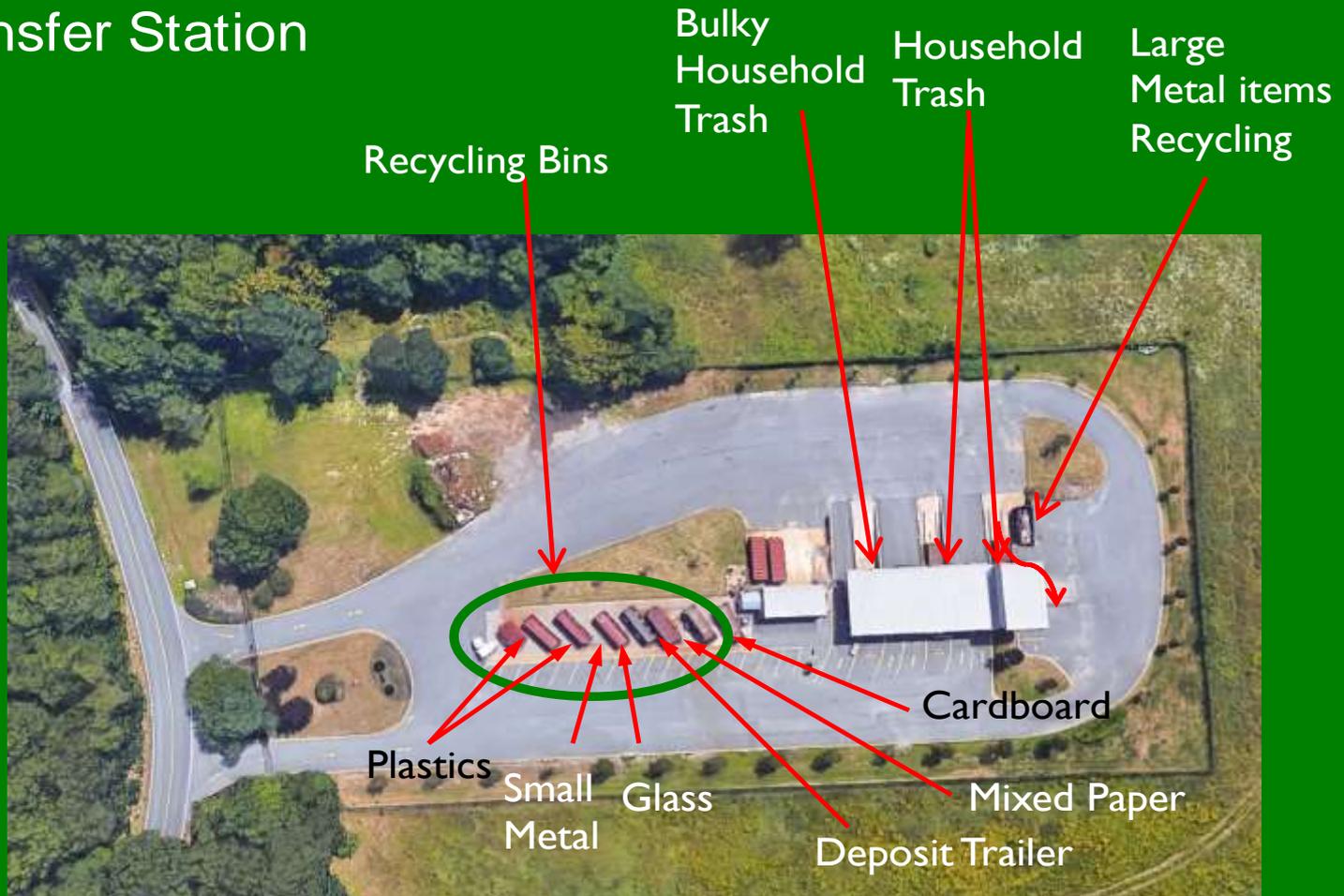
- Redouble efforts at recycling and composting:
 - A concerted Education and Encouragement program;
 - Practical and authoritative on-site guidance and instruction at the TS, likely, could be very effective in fostering adherence to town recycling guidelines;
 - Pro-Active Involvement
 - Volunteers
 - Increased Signage

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How Can We Improve? *(continued)*

- Redouble efforts at recycling and composting: *(continued)*
 - Consider periodic (without fee) resident sticker changes to discourage former resident and non-resident transfer station use.
- We questioned whether or not PAYT is the best *initial* step to foster increased recycling and conservation for Dover, and we don't think so.

DWC Majority Opinion Transfer Station



DWC Majority Opinion

Thank You