

12. Solid Waste

The City of Brewer provides a wide range of solid waste disposal services for its residents. On January 1, 2011, the City instituted two programs to help offset rising solid waste disposal costs: the PAYT program, and the Zero Sort recycling program, both of which are described in the paragraphs below. City officials estimate that PAYT and Zero Sort result in a net benefit of about \$200,000 to the City's budget. Brewer still spends about \$570,000 per year on its solid waste programs.

Based on information from Brewer's Environmental Services Department, Brewer recycled about 42% of its total solid wastes.

Curbside Trash Pickup

The City contracts with Pine Tree Waste to provide weekly trash pickup for single family dwellings and multi-family dwellings of four or fewer units. Under the PAYT (Pay as You Throw) program, households are charged for refuse collection based on the amount of trash they throw away. All trash must be in Brewer's official PAYT bags which are orange and imprinted with the City's logo. The PAYT bags come in two sizes (15 at \$1.25 ea. and 33 gallons at \$2.00 ea.) and can be purchased at a number of Brewer businesses. There is no limit on the number of PAYT bags that can be left at the curb for trash pickup.

In 2012, Pine Tree Waste collected 1,430 tons of trash from Brewer residents and delivered it to PERC for disposal. This amount represents a substantial reduction from 2,897 tons collected in 2010, prior to zero sort recycle and PAYT.

Zero Sort Recycling

This is a system in which a wide variety of recyclables are collected together without having to separate them including paper, cardboard, plastic, glass, aluminum, and tin cans. Residents can place a free "Recycling" sticker on any container, fill it with recyclables, and place it curbside every other week on the same days as regular trash pickup. Curbside recycling is available for single family dwellings and multi-family dwellings of four or fewer units. In 2012, residents recycled 743 tons of zero sort recyclable materials (curbside and drop-off area combined). This is a substantial increase from 281 tons recycled in 2010, prior to zero sort recycle and PAYT.

Construction/Demolition Debris (CDD) Landfill

The Brewer Landfill, located at 403 Elm Street, provides a place for the orderly disposal of construction demolition debris, bulky waste, and the recycling of brush, leaves and metal. The CDD is open to Brewer residents only.

- **Permit:** Brewer residents who use the landfill must have a vehicle permit card in their possession or purchase one at the landfill gate house.
- **Construction/demolition debris:** For construction or demolition debris, there is a fee that varies according to the size of the vehicle. In 2012, Brewer residents and the City used 14,890 cubic

yards of capacity in the City's CDD landfill. At current rates, the life expectancy of the landfill is about 10 years.

- **Other:** There are also fee schedules for the disposal of tires, white goods (additional fee for freon-containing appliances), propane tanks and mattresses.
- **Metal recycling:** Residents can dispose of metal at the metal storage portion of the landfill at no charge. A total of 167 tons of metal was removed from the landfill in 2012.
- **Recyclables:** Residents can leave their recyclables at a recycling drop off center at the entrance to the landfill 24 hours a day at no charge. The area is monitored by security cameras and is accessible 24 hours a day.
- **Leaf composting pile.** Brewer residents may dispose of their leaves, garden materials, vegetable food waste and grass clippings at the leaf composting area of the landfill during regular landfill hours free of charge. The City produces about 800 to 1,000 cubic yards of compost each year which is made available to Brewer residents. Twice per year, leaves and garden wastes are collected curbside by the Public Work Department and taken to the leaf composting pile.
- **Brush recycling.** Brewer residents may dispose of brush at the brush storage area of the landfill at no charge. Brush is stockpiled for a year and in October, a contractor is hired to grind, haul and dispose of the brush. In 2012, there was 364 tons of ground material removed from the landfill.

Universal Waste

Universal wastes are wastes that may contain hazardous amounts of toxic materials such as mercury, lead and PCBs. They include:

- Computers and almost all electronic equipment
- Computer monitors and TVs
- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Mercury-containing thermostats and thermometers
- Non-leaking PCB lighting ballasts
- Certain batteries

Residents can take their universal waste items to the universal waste building which is located at the Brewer Water Pollution Control Facility at the end of Oak Street in South Brewer.

In 2012 Brewer residents recycled 19 tons of CRT (TV's and monitors), 9 tons of computer components and electronics, 8400 LF of lamps, 400 pounds of ballast, and 200 pounds of rechargeable batteries.

Household Hazardous Waste Program

Each year, the City of Brewer participates in the Regional Household Hazardous Waste Program which is scheduled for the first Saturday in October. Waste that is accepted by the program includes paint, thinner, gasoline, used motor oil, pesticides and fertilizer. In 2011, 56 Brewer residents recycled 2,700 pounds of household hazard waste. In addition, the City of Brewer recycled 2,000 pounds of household hazard wastes.

Closed Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Leachate

In 2012, 2.641 million gallons of landfill leachate were pumped to the Brewer Water Pollution Control Facility for treatment.