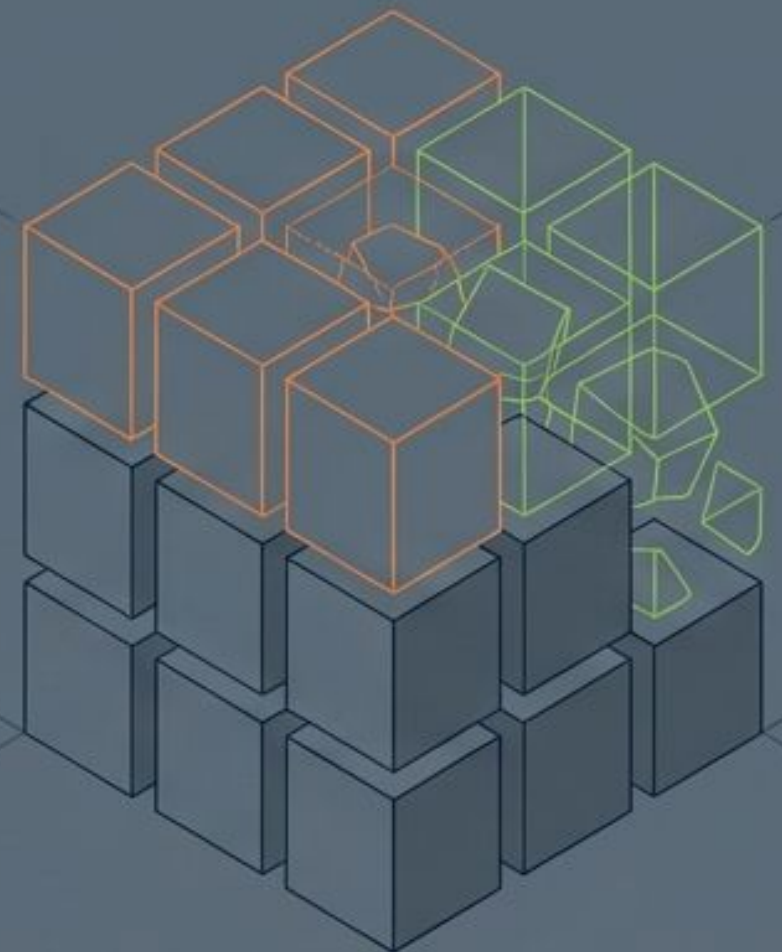


Shrinking the Pile: Brentwood's Solid Waste Mechanics & 2026 Financial Outlook

A **data-driven** look at the true costs of municipal waste and three strategic paths to reduce town expenditures.

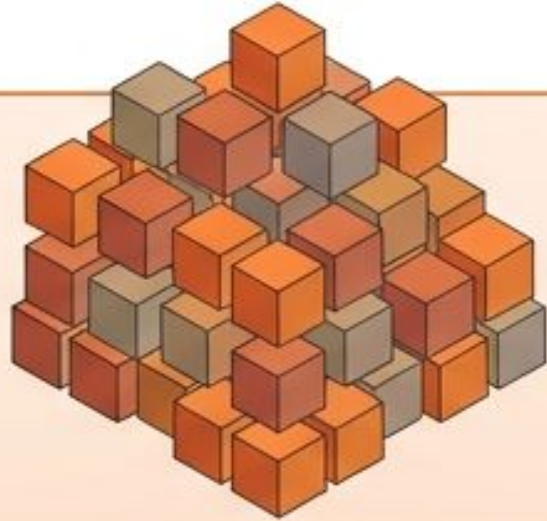
PRESENTED BY THE BRENTWOOD
SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

APRIL 2026



The \$700,000 Question: Brentwood's 2025 Baseline

Last year, trash and recycling quietly became one of Brentwood's largest municipal line items, accounting for approximately \$700,000 in town expenditures.

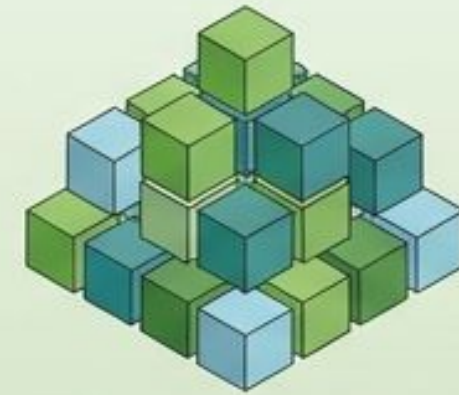


The MSW (Trash) Pile

1,480.66 Tons Landfilled



Cost: \$507,984



The Recycling Pile

347.76 Tons Processed



Cost: \$198,650

Key Insight: Tonnage equals dollars. As disposal fees rise across New Hampshire, the only reliable way to control our budget is to physically **shrink** the pile of material leaving our town.

The True Cost Ledger: Collection vs. Disposal

MSW / Trash



Collection (Trucks/Routing):
\$378,999.96



Disposal (Tipping Fees/Weight):
\$128,984.22

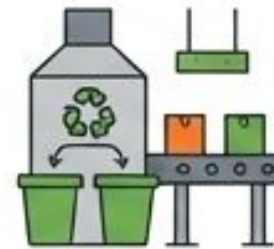
Total Trash: \$507,984.18

(Blended cost: \$343.08/ton)

Recycling



Collection (Trucks/Routing):
\$150,750.00



Processing (Sorting/Sales):
\$47,900.14

Total Recycling: \$198,650.14

(Blended cost: \$571.23/ton)



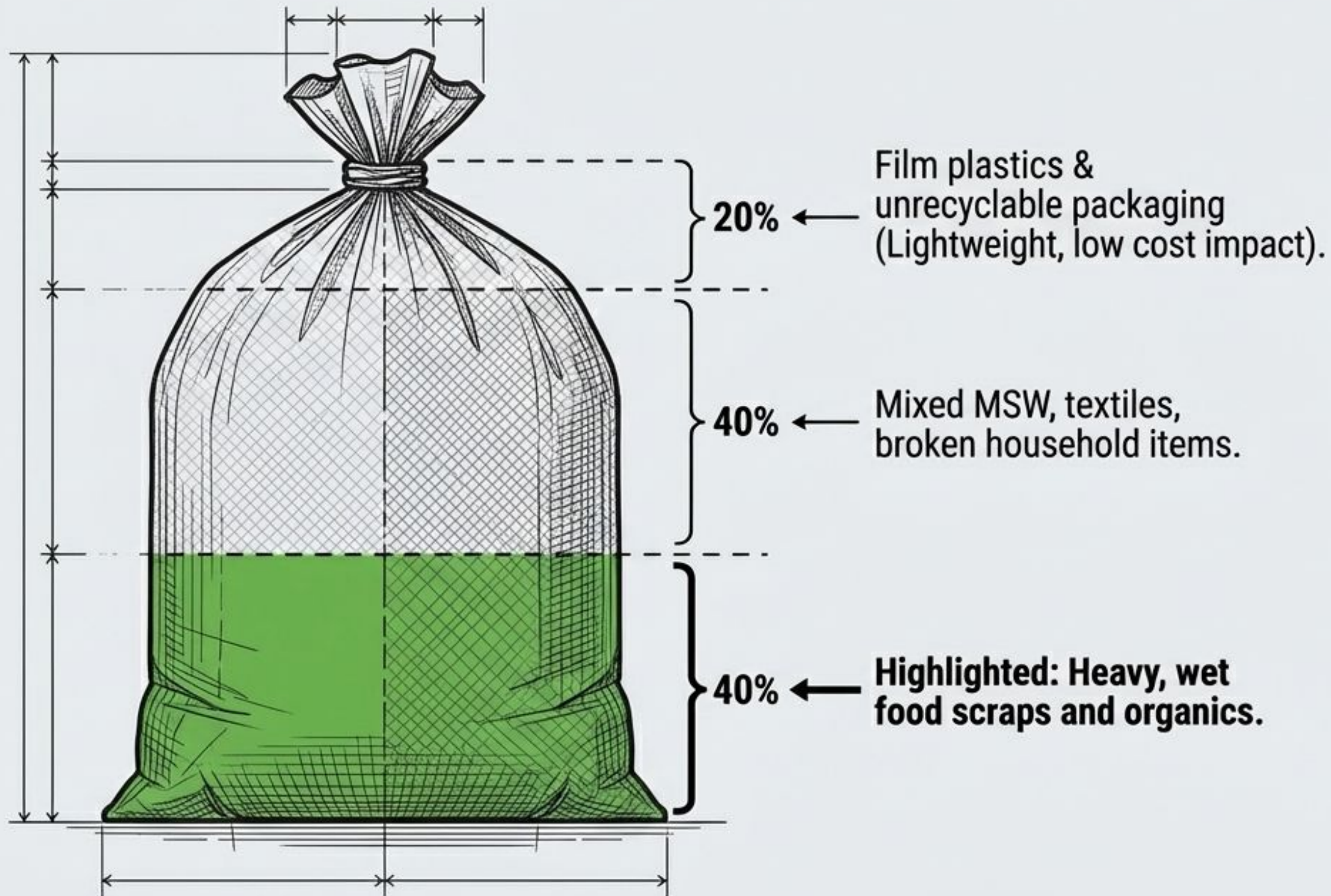
Takeaway: Collection is our fixed heavyweight cost. Disposal is our variable cost. Every ton we divert from the black bag shrinks the variable disposal line.

The Economics of the Blue Bin

Recycling is not free—it cost the town roughly \$199K last year. However, it remains a critical tool for preserving landfill capacity and diverting weight from the MSW ledger.



The Anatomy of a Brentwood Trash Bag



The Weight Problem

Food waste accounts for up to 40% of municipal garbage by weight.

Because Brentwood pays for disposal by the ton, we are essentially paying premium tax dollars to transport and bury water-logged food waste.

The Opportunity

Removing this specific, heavy fraction is the fastest way to shrink the pile.

The Waste Reduction Menu: Three Levers for 2026

	Scenario 1: Food Scrap Diversion	Scenario 2: Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT)	Scenario 3: Structural Changes
Effort	Low/Voluntary	High/Mandatory	Very High/Long-Term
Est. MSW Reduction	20% 	40%+ 	Variable
Est. Savings	~\$27K	~\$54K	TBD
Contract Impact	None	Moderate	Major (RFP/Re-bid)

We are not choosing a single path tonight. This is a menu of options to test with the community.

Scenario 1: Voluntary Food Scrap & Reuse Diversion

The Strategy: Target the heaviest 20% of our waste stream through 100% voluntary, opt-in resident participation.



Backyard Support:
Bulk town purchase of discounted compost bins.



Transfer Station Drop-off:
Free community totes serviced by a regional hauler or local farm.



Reuse Culture:
Special "Everything is Free" town-wide swap days to keep heavy furniture/textiles out of MSW.

Projected Ledger:

The Financial Impact:

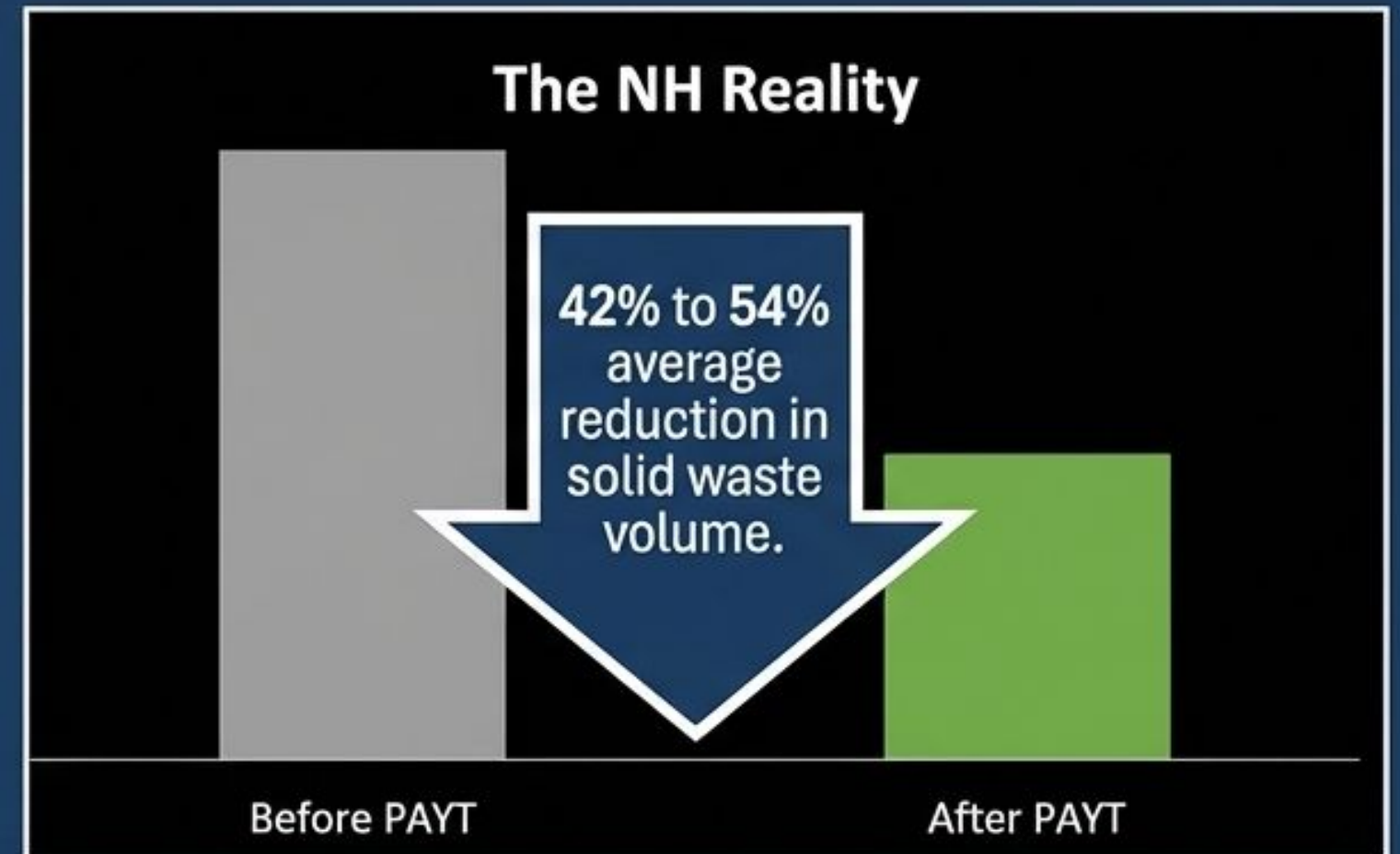
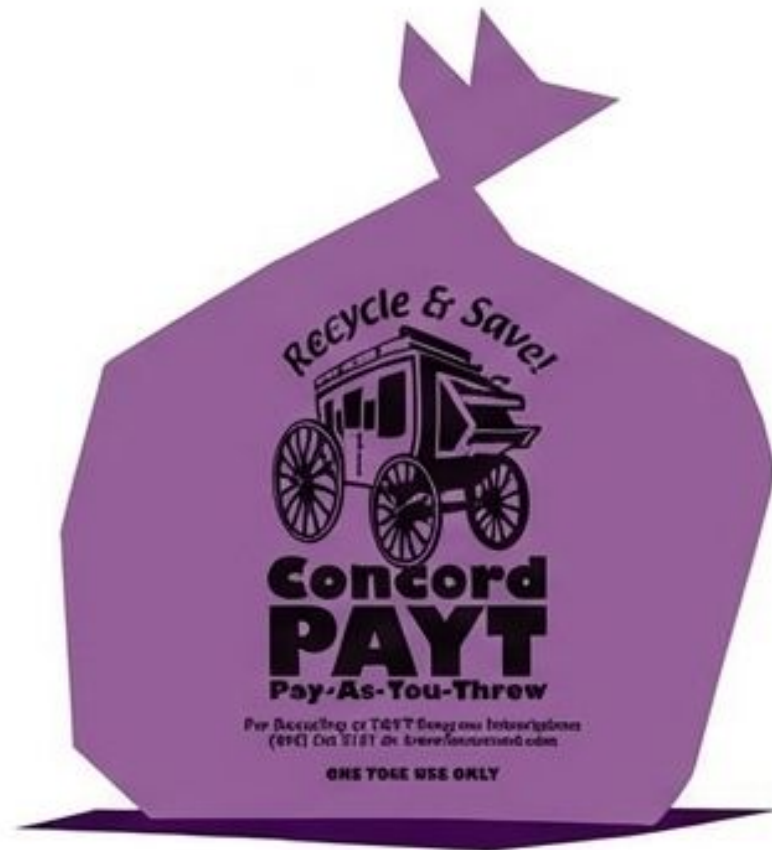
- Modeled 20% MSW reduction.
- Disposal costs drop from ~\$135K to ~\$108K.

Estimated Annual Savings: \$27,047

(Requires zero changes to the Casella contract).

Scenario 2: Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT)

The Strategy: Shift trash costs from the general tax base to a unit-based utility model. Residents purchase municipal-branded bags (\$1-\$2 each), creating an immediate financial incentive to waste less and recycle more.



The Brentwood Model:

Modeled at a conservative 40% MSW reduction.

Estimated Annual Disposal Savings: \$54,094.

The Trade-off:

Maximum financial savings, but requires highest resident effort. Success demands rigorous public education, phased rollouts, and protections for low-income and senior households.

The Community Blueprint: Next Steps

We will not build these programs in a vacuum. The next 30 days are dedicated entirely to resident data collection.



Milestone 1: Brentwood Gathering (April 17)

- "Where Your Trash Dollars Go" visual display.
- Hands-on Compost & PAYT demonstration table.



Milestone 2: Earth Day Cleanup (April 25)

- "Weigh the Waste" physical demonstration.
- Contextualizing the 1,480-ton annual pile for residents.



Milestone 3: Town-Wide Survey (Launching April)

- Gathering hard data on resident appetite for drop-off composting, backyard bins, and feelings regarding fairness in a potential PAYT system.

Tonight's Request for the Selectboard

We are not asking you to vote on a specific waste scenario tonight. Instead, we request your support to:



Launch the Community Survey: Allow us to distribute the survey to capture accurate resident sentiment on these three scenarios.



Design a Voluntary Pilot: Greenlight the committee to draft a formal proposal for a zero-contract-change, voluntary food-scrap drop-off program for future review.



Continue Structural Research: Permit us to keep exploring PAYT logistics and alternative contract structures with Casella and Waste Management based on the incoming survey data.

By this time next year, we want to be actively shrinking our bills, not just paying them.