

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 waste trenches 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

