

TOWN OF JAFFREY

Selectmen's Transfer Station/Recycling Center Study Committee

Surveys Undertaken

Three surveys have been associated with the study of Jaffrey's solid waste disposal situation.

The first was a **Traffic Count** undertaken during the first week of August by the Southwest Region Planning Commission at the request of our Committee. An automatic traffic counter was placed in the entrance road and volumes were collected on an hourly basis. The total vehicles visiting the facility were as follows:

Tuesday	268 (nearly the same as Friday)
Wednesday	195 (representing the slowest day)
Friday	262 (nearly the same as Tuesday)
Saturday	515 (representing the busiest day)

Mornings were in all cases busier than afternoons. The slowest hour was from 3 to 4pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, and between Noon and 1 on Saturday.

The second survey was a two-page **Questionnaire** devised by the Committee. It included 16 questions on a range of topics. Questionnaires were distributed beginning in late August at the Transfer Station, Town Offices, the Library and the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber included a questionnaire in one of its monthly mailings. The questionnaire also appeared on the Town's website. Completed questionnaires were received up to October 1st and were tabulated that evening by Committee members. A total of 264 completed questionnaires were received. Some of the responses are summarized below:

- Half of the respondents visited the Transfer Station at least once a week (52%).
- Saturday is the day respondents most often visit the Transfer Station (38%), followed by Friday (23%), Tuesday (21%) and Wednesday (18%). These results are very similar to the Traffic Count data.
- Although nearly half of the respondents indicated they thought the present open days were fine as they are, 54% preferred other days be considered: 21% preferred Sunday, followed by the day after a holiday (14%), Monday (12%) and Thursday (8%).
- Although two thirds of the respondents indicated they thought the present hours were fine as they are, 16% indicated they would prefer the facility close later and 12% indicated that the opening and closing times should be consistent throughout the week (i.e. Saturday hours being the same as the other three open days). Only 6% indicated they would prefer the facility to open earlier.

- What do people take to the Transfer Station? Household trash is brought on most every trip by 96% of the respondents. Metal surprisingly was the second most common thing brought, followed by construction/demolition debris. Batteries were the item most frequently not brought (78% of respondents never or almost never brought them). Recyclables were brought most every trip by a majority of respondents, ranging from a high for glass (82%) to a low of pressboard (58%).
- Recycling is done by most, 94% saying they do, only 1% admitting that they never do.
- The Swap Shop is popular amongst respondents, particularly leaving things off—done by 73% over the past year. Forty percent picked things up.
- Fewer people have made use of hazardous waste collection days than those who haven't, even when they were held in Jaffrey. Twenty percent have done so, 26% when they were held in Jaffrey but 30% have not taken items to them irrespective of location. Looking ahead, of those who have never participated, 24% said they would take items to a future collection day if it were to be held in Jaffrey.
- Faced with several options for supporting the operation of the Transfer Station/Recycling Center, just over one-third indicated that the costs should continue to be supported as they presently are (i.e. no fees). This was the most frequent response of the five options, but multiple answers were possible. The second most frequent answer was charging a fee for an annual sticker although no specific amount was suggested in the question (25% of the responses). A charge (not suggested) for specific items, generally large ones such as couches, was chosen by 22%. Twelve percent of the respondents chose the “Pay as you Throw” system whereby one purchases trash bags which would be the only acceptable way to dispose of household waste, all other items being handled as they are today. And only 4% chose a system whereby one is charged by weight for all non-recyclables.
- The respondents were lastly asked about the use of the facility by Jaffrey businesses and industry, which presently are only supposed to use it (and only with written permission) for disposal of recyclables. Over half (53%) of those answering indicated that the present system should continue. Twenty-one percent thought that Jaffrey businesses and industries should also be allowed to bring items incidental to production, for instance office trash. Twenty-six percent indicated that Jaffrey businesses and industries should be allowed to bring the same things residential users bring as long as it originates in Jaffrey. Not a single respondent chose the last answer, that businesses and industries should be allowed to bring the same things residential users bring even if it originates outside Jaffrey.
- The last question in the survey was for any comments or observations. Roughly one-third of the respondents included comments. These were reviewed and transcribed by Edith Grodin who arranged comments by subject matter. The most frequent subject had to do with “dump stickers,” generally in the context of their not being checked. Some expressed their strong views that non-residents of Jaffrey were using the facility. Strict enforcement was noted as being essential by some respondents.

The third and last survey was undertaken by Town staff at the Transfer Station between October 7th and November 1st. Sticker numbers were registered as was date, time of day and—for the construction/demolition dumpster—the estimated amount of material. Comments were also recorded that often included the type of material being disposed of. 510 separate entries were made. Of these, 59 vehicles (12%) had no dump sticker, although many, possibly all of these were of Jaffrey origin. Scanning the comments, shingles and treated wood appear very often and make up a sizable proportion of what gets disposed of in the Construction/Demolition dumpster.