



## VOLUNTARY TRANSFER STATION FOOD SCRAP COLLECTION AND UNIT-BASED PRICING (UBP) FOR TRASH PILOT

### QUICK FACTS

**Population:** 9,900

**Estimated Pilot Households:** 800

**Pilot Duration:** 52 Weeks, Feb 2023 - Jan 2024

**Permanent Program Launched:** Jul 2024

**DEEP Grant Funding:** \$181,600



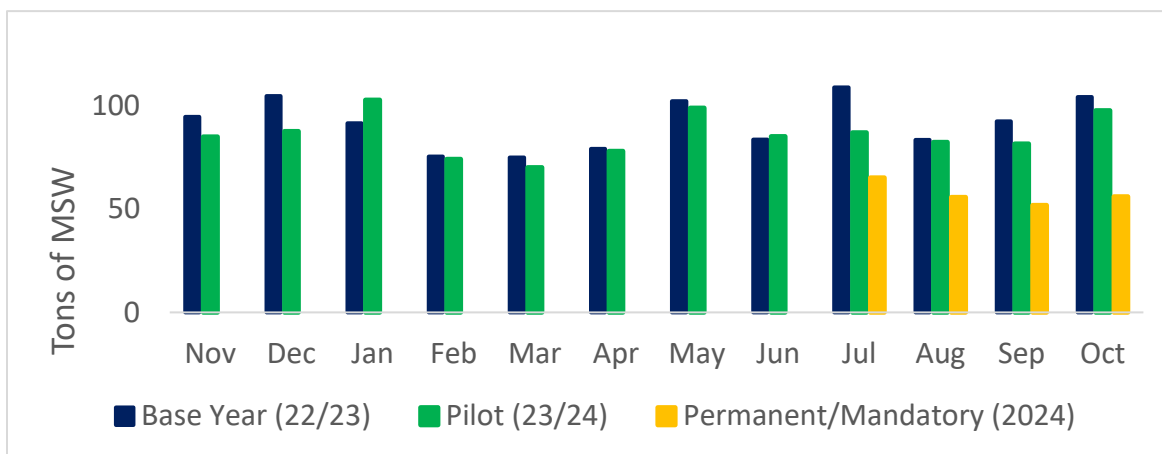
*Image:* Green food scrap bags

### PILOT RESULTS

- Trash tonnage dropped by 10% during pilot from previous year. Of that reduction, 41% was diverted as food scraps and 59% was diverted to recycling and other source reduction pathways.
- Food scrap capture rate was 20% of available food scraps<sup>1</sup>.
- 93,620 lbs. of food scraps were captured during the pilot (52 weeks) and diverted to Quantum Biopower, an anaerobic digester in Southington, CT.
- Food scrap contamination rate was nil, less than 1%.

### PERMANENT PROGRAM RESULTS

- 47% waste reduction in first 4 months (average) from baseline year 2023. Of that reduction, materials were diverted as food scraps and recycling as well as source reduction pathways.



**Source:** Data provided by Woodbury and Waste Zero, DEEP's SMM Grant Program Consultant

<sup>1</sup> Connecticut DEEP's 2015 Waste Characterization study estimated 22% of the municipal solid waste (MSW) stream is food scraps. Food scrap capture rate represents the percentage of that portion that is collected and diverted.

## PILOT OVERVIEW

- Pilot was implemented at the Woodbury Transfer Station, where residents can dispose of household trash, which is paid for by annual household permits and resident property taxes. Residents also have the option to contract with a private subscription hauler.
- Transfer Station users were instructed to place trash and separated food scraps in free Town-distributed orange and green bags, respectively.
- Residents were supplied with free orange trash bags and green food scrap bags with the message to limit trash to two bags per week. The program was a voluntary version of traditional UBP which would require residents to purchase the bags to cover disposal costs.
- The residential trash (orange bags) was either sent to a CT Waste-to-Energy Facility or out-of-state landfill, while the food scraps (green bags) were hauled to Quantum Biopower for digestion into renewable energy and soil amendments.

## PERMANENT PROGRAM EFFORTS

- Woodbury's existing Waste Advisory Committee met regularly during the pilot to review pilot results, research other municipal programs, and develop a permanent program design recommendation for the Board of Selectman. In January 2024, the Waste Advisory Committee made a formal recommendation with a detailed proposal to the Board of Selectman. The recommendation was to establish a mandatory UBP and food scrap program at the Transfer Station. The proposal included creating a two-tiered rate structure by introducing a UBP bag fee and free food scrap collection at the Transfer Station. The tax base would fund basic fixed costs to operate the transfer station and allow for the drop-off of recyclable items. The revenue from the UBP user fees would fund the disposal costs. This system created a fair and equitable policy where residents that use the transfer station would now be responsible for paying their share for disposal costs. Currently, residents that choose not to use the transfer station are subsidizing transfer station user disposal fees through their taxes.
- In January 2024, Woodbury's Board of Selectman voted to adopt the Waste Advisory Committee's recommendation to establish mandatory UBP and food scrap collection at the Transfer Station. Woodbury's form of government establishes that the Board of Selectman approves any changes to the Transfer Station.
- Woodbury residents are no longer charged a \$25 fee for the annual permit, instead they are required to obtain a free three-year pass.
- Fourteen-gallon kitchen sized garbage bags are \$1.00 each. Extra-large, 33-gallon bags and small 8-gallon bags are \$1.65 and \$0.75 respectively. Green composting bags are \$0.15 and \$0.25 each for a 4-gallon or 8-gallon.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:** [Deep.RecyclingProgram@ct.gov](mailto:Deep.RecyclingProgram@ct.gov)

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