

# Answers to Frequently Asked Questions – Springfield Transfer Station

August 23, 2019


## Punch Cards

- On September 4, 2019 household trash will no longer be weighed. Trash disposal will be paid for using a punch card rather than the green tickets formerly used. Those tickets in circulation will never expire, but will no longer be sold after September 3.
- Punch cards will be available for purchase at the Springfield & Chester town offices, and also at area merchants who choose to sell them. The merchants usually charge a slight premium.
- Following the introduction of punch cards, the green tickets will be honored at their nominal value, 54 cents each, under the new fee schedule.

**SPRINGFIELD TRANSFER STATION  
PUNCH CARD CONVERSION**

**ONE PUNCH = ONE 15-GAL. BAG/CONTAINER OR EQUIVALENT  
THREE PUNCHES = ONE 30-GAL. BAG/CONTAINER  
FIVE PUNCHES = ONE 50-GAL. BAG/CONTAINER**

PUNCHES	VOLUME	GREEN TICKETS
1	15-GAL	2
3	30 GAL.	6
5	50-GAL.	11



- The green tickets will no longer be sold following the introduction of punch cards, but will be honored until their supply is exhausted. They won't expire.
- The volume of loose or oddly shaped material will be estimated by the attendant, who will also assist users in lifting their bags/containers if needed.
- Trash can be brought in bags or containers of any manageable size, unlike some other towns where standard plastic bags are required.
- Electronics, scrap/metal, construction/demolition debris, and items specified in the Transfer Station information guide (such as refrigerators & microwave ovens) will be handled according to current practices.

## Recycling

- The Town earns little revenue from the sale of recycled material. Recycling is a social and environmental good which nonetheless comes at a cost. Recycling is neither free nor self-sustaining in the current economic climate.
- Recycling costs are the main contributor to the facility's financial loss. That has been known for some time. It's now clear that the recycling market will not rebound for the foreseeable future.
- There are no changes planned for the actual recycling process at this time.

## **Sticker Availability & Use**

- Since July 1, 2019 stickers need to be displayed in the lower corner of the driver's side windshields of vehicles entering the Transfer Station.
- Initially, attendants assisting users disposing of household trash will check for stickers. Transfer Station staff will also monitor sticker use in the recycling area.
- Following the planned redesign of traffic flow at the facility an attendant may be checking for stickers at the lower gate.
- Stickers can be purchased at the Springfield & Chester town offices. Sticker sales at area merchants will be considered for future years.
- Stickers cost \$25 each, payable by cash or check.
- Additional stickers in the same household are available for \$5 each at the time of purchase of the first sticker. For example, two stickers purchased together would cost \$30. Stickers in addition to the first two will cost \$25 each. This is to limit abuse of the discounted rate.
- Stickers are valid from July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020.
- Stickers can be obtained through the mail by sending a check for \$25 payable to "Town of Springfield," along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. The address is 96 Main Street, Springfield, VT 05156.
- The Town saved 25% on the cost of printing by purchasing exterior-mount stickers, which the printer assures us should be durable for at least a year. Persons who are nonetheless concerned that the stickers might be destroyed by the weather or other factors could tape them to the inside of the windshield.
- Persons who sell or trade their vehicles, or whose windshields are replaced, can carefully remove the sticker with a razor blade and bring the damaged sticker to the town offices for a replacement at no cost.
- Stickers are available to residents of Springfield & Chester, and also to nonresidents. In future years nonresidents may pay a premium, however.
- Users collecting sand or dropping off brush will need a sticker, as maintaining these services takes time & resources away from other Transfer Station operations.
- The introduction of the stickers is intended to raise revenue from the actual users of Springfield's waste disposal and recycling facilities, which currently operate at a deficit.
- Stickers are not required for periodic Household Hazardous Waste Collection days.
- Persons of limited mobility will receive assistance from the attendants.