

Increased Landfill Rates Are Still A Bargain

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If you have taken a pick-up load of trash to the Bluff Road Landfill recently, you may have been surprised to find that rates have increased. If you have a trash hauling service, your rates may also have increased slightly.

Did you know that no tax dollars are used to support the landfill operations, transfer

station operation, composting or recycling programs? The landfill operates like a business and must maintain a positive cash balance just like any other privately owned business. Monies used to operate the landfill come from refuse haulers and citizens through gate fees collected at each facility. Monies are also generated from the sale of recyclables. It only makes sense for the people who use the waste disposal facilities to pay for it through user fees.

Why have rates increased? Rates have increased primarily because state regulations have

required the construction of environmental protection features at the Bluff Road landfill and closure and monitoring of the old landfill site. The fee increases are significant, but the new rates are still less than the average landfill fees in Nebraska.

Disposal fees are listed below. Additional fees also apply when disposing of asbestos, contaminated soils, and other special wastes. For more information call 441-7738 or visit the website at www.ci.lincoln.ne.us

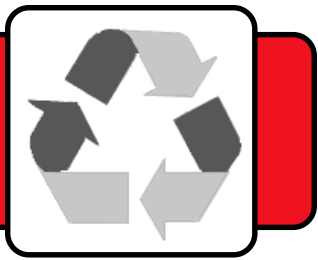
	1995	1996	Sept. 1999- present
Bluff Road			
Solid Waste at Bluff Road Landfill (\$/ton)	\$12.00	\$16.00	\$17.00
Yard Waste at Bluff Road (\$/ton)	\$10.75	\$14.75	\$15.75
Small Vehicle Transfer Station Fees			
Pickup trucks and vans (each)	\$4.00	\$7.00	\$10.00
Small trailers (each)	\$4.00	\$7.00	\$10.00
Cars (each)	\$1.50	\$2.50	no increase
Pickups with trailers (each)	\$7.50	\$12.00	\$16.00
Cars with trailers (each)	\$5.50	\$9.50	\$12.50
Additional Fees			
Uncovered loads at North 48th Street (each)	\$2.00	\$3.00	no increase
Passenger tires (each)	\$2.00	\$3.00	no increase
Truck tires (each)	\$6.50	\$6.50	no increase
Implement tires	\$11.25	\$11.50	no increase
Appliances	\$5.00	\$5.00	no increase

Where do you go with wastes in Lancaster County? How do you find recycling drop off sites? Check the blue pages in the Lincoln Telephone Book for additional information about waste disposal in Lincoln.

Where Wastes Should Go in Lancaster County Suggested Disposal Options

Waste Item	Businesses	City Facilities	Further Information Contact:
Tires	Entire Recycling Nebraska City (402) 873-3139	Transfer Station 5101 North 48th Street. Small vehicles only. Less than 10 tires.	City Recycling Office (441-8215) Call for other tire recycling businesses.
Appliances	Alter Scrap 525 N 8 th Lincoln (402) 476-3306 L & S Metals 4700 Douglas Circle Lincoln (465-0002)	Transfer Station: 5101 North 48 th Street	City Recycling Office (441-8215) Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (441-8040) Call for a listing of waste oil recyclers.
Waste Oil	Check neighborhood service stations and auto repair shops.	Transfer Station 5101 North 48th Street. Small vehicles only which are disposing of other waste items (441-8104)	Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (441-8040)
Lead Acid Batteries	Check blue pages in phone book	Transfer Station 5101 North 48th Street. Small vehicles only which are disposing of other waste items (441-8104)	City Recycling Office (441-8215). Call this number for information about municipal compost.
Yard Wastes	All refuse haulers offer collection of yard wastes	Transfer Station 5101 North 48th Street Small vehicles only Bluff Road Landfill: Commercial yard waste haulers only (441-7738)	
Paint, Button batteries, Pesticides, Household Hazardous Waste			Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (441-8040)

Environmental Focus



Are you Ready for Some Spring Invaders?

Boxelder bugs
 Boxelder bugs often overwinter in walls of homes, and warming by the sun during



the day causes some to crawl about. They are scentless and leave no stains on walls or furniture. Simply vacuum them up when observed. Do not attempt to spray them, as their dead bodies will later be attractive to dermestids or carpet beetles. Allow them to completely disperse in the spring. Next autumn is the time for employing preventive measures to curtail invasion.

Clover mites
 These very tiny, dark mites are often observed around windows. Last autumn they migrated from the lawn into the home to overwinter inside walls. They often become active on warm winter days and can be observed crawling on walls and counter tops. When smashed they leave a stain. It is best to vacuum them up when they are on curtains or wallpaper. Gently wipe them off painted surfaces and counters with a soft, soapy rag. Preventive measures to reduce invasion must occur in the early fall. For more information, contact the

extension office and ask for Clover Mites and Their Management, NebGuide G-1131.

Rabbits and other "plant munchers"

Exclusion! Exclusion! Exclusion! Plan now to protect your plants from hungry critters. Evaluate your landscape...can you add plants that are somewhat resistant to damage? Should you fence-off valuable

young sprouts and transplants? Time spent now will save



money and heartache. For more information, visit the extension office and pick up any of the following publications: Prevention and Control of Rabbit Damage, NebGuide G-1401; Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrels, NebGuide G-1110; Rabbit Resistant Perennials, NUFact 278.

For your convenience, the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County Web site offers instant access to information on many pests including the resources recommended above. Visit [http://lanaster.unl.edu/enviro\(SC\)](http://lanaster.unl.edu/enviro(SC))

Stunned by Fuel Bills? Reduce Energy Consumption

Are you still in shock by your last couple heating bills? The increase in fuel prices is due to increased demand for fuel worldwide. In some areas of the United States, natural gas prices are as much as 65 percent higher than they were one year ago. LP gas and fuel oil are up to 40 percent higher than they were in October 1999. Since Nebraska is experiencing a colder winter this year, we are using more fuel and natural gas to heat our houses which naturally also increases our bills.



The simplest way to save energy in the winter is to lower the thermostat setting. Energy is reduced about 2.5 percent for each degree you turn down the thermostat. Compensate for a cooler environment by dressing warmer or by adjusting to the new temperature. Another option is to turn down the thermostat at night or when nobody is home or install an automatic setback thermometer. Some models can be programmed to have different

temperature regimes on weekend days vs. week days.

A cooler environment will be more comfortable if drafts are eliminated. If windows rattle in the wind or curtains flutter, the weather stripping around the windows probably needs to be replaced. If weather stripping can't be done during cold weather, stuff rope caulk in the cracks, which can be removed in the spring without damaging the woodwork. Install plastic on the interior or exterior of windows to reduce draftiness. Closing blinds or drapes during the evening also increases comfort because it keeps heat from radiating to the outside, reduces convection currents and heat loss through conduction.

Hire a qualified heating professional to service the heating system so it operates as efficiently as possible. Between maintenance, be sure to check filters—dirty filters slow down the flow of heat as well as affect



Termite Workshop on May 22

A workshop for homeowners "Everything Homeowners Should Know About Termites and Termite Control" will be held at the Lancaster County Extension Office on May 22, 2001 from 6:30-9:30 a.m. These workshops are designed to help homeowners understand termites, termite control options, and become more informed consumers. This workshop will also be held in Columbus (May 10), Omaha (May 15), Auburn (May 17), and Hastings (May 24). Cost of these workshops is \$20 and includes reference materials. Call the Lancaster County Extension Office for more information (441-7180). (BPO)