



# Tip Fee Waiver Policy

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## TIME FRAME

Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (Resource Recovery) will award tip fee waivers for eligible cleanups taking place in honor of Earth Day, from April 1<sup>st</sup> through the third Saturday in May, and again for cleanups registered through Save The Bay for the International Coastal Cleanup each September.

## ELIGIBILITY

This program shall not benefit the cleanup of areas that normally fall under municipal or state responsibility (i.e. the municipality or state keep the area clean normally and/or regularly provide pick-up of the waste containers located in the cleanup area). Groups who are normally charged with the task of litter-cleanup and have the funding to do so will not be eligible for a tip fee waiver (if a group's mission or funding is in question, the group will be specifically asked to submit a one-time letter, on official letterhead, stating that the cleanup falls outside of their mission and funding ability). In addition to this, International Coastal Cleanup waivers will only be awarded to groups signed up through the Save The Bay, the state's major organizing body for this event.

The intention of this program is to aid groups in disposing of litter that was improperly disposed of in public area such as along roads, in neighborhoods, beaches, shorelines, parks, and other public areas of enjoyment. The tip fee waiver is also not to be used for any special waste collection of items from residents or businesses, nor will this program fund construction and demolition projects, deconstruction projects, or any other home or building construction or improvement project.

## TIP FEE WAIVER

Each municipality will be granted a single waiver for up to 10 tons for each of these two annual cleanup events. In addition, private groups will also be granted waiver for up to 5 tons for each. These are limits per municipality or per private group, and not per authorization form.

## DELIVERY OF MATERIALS

All cleanup loads must be delivered to Resource Recovery no later than one week from the date of the cleanup, or last cleanup listed. The driver must have a signed copy of a completed tip fee waiver authorization form in hand at the time of delivery.

## **MIXED LOADS**

If cleanup debris must be mixed with other trash for the purpose of collection efficiency, the organizer is responsible for providing Resource Recovery with an estimate of the cleanup debris' weight, attaching this to their authorization form, in the form of a weight slip or data sheet that shows how the estimate was calculated.

## **MUNICIPALLY ORGANIZED CLEANUPS**

Each municipality may choose to sponsor cleanups with eligible entities (see "Eligibility" above). If an area of the city/town that does not normally fall under municipal responsibility is chosen as a cleanup site, the municipality may agree to temporarily extend municipal classification to the waste from the cleanup. These cleanups will collectively be eligible for a tip fee waiver of 10 tons, and these 10 tons will not count against the municipality's Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) cap. The municipality will be charged at their current MSW tipping fee for any tons over 10 tons and the overage will be charged to their MSW cap.

## **PRIVATELY SPONSORED CLEANUPS**

Private groups without municipal sponsorship for cleanups will be eligible for a tip fee waiver of 5 tons. These groups will be charged the current commercial, non-contract gate rate for any tons over 5 tons.

## **REQUIRED CLEANUP INFORMATION**

A date, location, organization, on-the-ground contact name and on-the-ground contact email/phone are required information for each cleanup. This information must be listed on the authorization form. An "on-the-ground contact" is defined as any organizer/participant that is present at the cleanup site for the event. An on-the-ground contact should be able to confirm the completion of the cleanup.

## **FEES**

Bulky waste (e.g. appliances with CFCs, box springs, mattresses, tires, car batteries, etc.) items will still carry their normal charge for disposal, as listed in the Resource Recovery Fee Schedule for the current fiscal year. Bulky waste fees and overage tons will be charged directly to the municipality, for municipally organized cleanups. For privately organized cleanups, the group must provide on their authorization form, the information necessary to set up a free account with Resource Recovery. The account may be the group itself if incorporated or may be a member of the group. Fees may also be paid at the time of disposal; payment may be in the form of cash, check, money order, or credit/debit card. Per RI General Law § 23-24.10-5, there is a disposal ban on TVs, monitors, computer, laptops and tablets, and these items will not be accepted as part of Earth Day or ICC loads. For these items found during cleanups, municipally organized cleanup groups must follow the E-waste Disposal Protocol and privately organized groups must bring these items in a segregated load to be recycled or contact their city or town for options.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

All municipal recycling coordinators as well as the previous years' cleanup coordinators will be notified by March 1<sup>st</sup> for Earth Day Cleanups and by August 1<sup>st</sup> for ICC cleanups. An announcement will be posted on Resource Recovery's website, and all parties will receive a memo outlining the program. Municipal coordinators will receive an official authorization form for municipally organized cleanups. The previous years' private cleanup coordinators will receive an official authorization form for privately organized cleanups but will be reminded that they can also request their municipality organize their cleanup debris removal. Both parties will receive a copy of the Resource Recovery Fee Schedule for the current fiscal year.

## AUTHORIZATION

The appropriate official Resource Recovery authorization form, signed by both the organizer (municipal or private) and the driver, must be filled out completely and handed to staff at the scalehouse at the time of delivery. Copies of the original form are allowed, but the **text of the authorization form is not to be altered in any way**. Altering the text of the form or creating any other version of the form will result in loss of eligibility for the municipality or private group submitting it. Groups may submit a separate list of cleanups if needed in addition to the authorization form.

## APPROVAL

After processing the waiver, scalehouse staff will send the authorization form(s) to the Municipal Program Coordinator for review. Resource Recovery reserves the right to charge a private group's account or a municipality's account/MSW cap for an entire load if the text of the form has been altered, or if any of the listed cleanups from that load are found to be non-compliant with the statements on the form.

*Note: The Municipal Program Coordinator is responsible for administering Resource Recovery's tip fee waiver programs, in accordance with the guidelines and procedures outlined in this document. Any entity seeking an exception to these guidelines and procedures or any portion of them is required to bring a formal request before the Resource Recovery Board of Commissioners.*