



# Tip Fee Waiver Policy

---

## TIME FRAME

Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (Resource Recovery) will award tip fee waivers for eligible cleanups taking place during two time frames: 1) in honor of Earth Day from the last Saturday in March through the first Saturday in June, and 2) during the International Coastal Cleanup each September for groups registered through [Save The Bay](#), the state's major organizing body for this event.

## Announcement

Resource Recovery will notify all municipal recycling coordinators and the previous years' cleanup coordinators via email by March 1 for Earth Day Cleanups and by August 1 for the International Coastal Cleanup. Additionally, the memo and authorization forms will be posted on Resource Recovery's [website](#) and emailed to the above groups. Save The Bay will also remind registered International Coastal Cleanup groups of the tip fee waiver.

## CLEANUP ELIGIBILITY

The intention of this program is to aid municipalities and private groups in disposing of litter (solid waste) that was improperly disposed of in public areas such as along roads, in neighborhoods, beaches, shorelines, parks, and other public areas of enjoyment.

The tip fee waiver is not to be used for any special or bulky waste collection events from residents or businesses, or for disposal of waste generated from home or building construction and/or demolition projects or improvement projects.

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.

## GROUP ELIGIBILITY

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 asked to submit a one-time letter, on official letterhead, stating that the cleanup falls outside of their mission and funding ability.

## **Municipally organized cleanups**

Each municipality will be granted a waiver for up to 10 tons during both the Earth Day time frame and International Coastal Cleanup. The municipality may choose to work with eligible groups (see “Group 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 and may agree to collect and deliver litter on behalf of these groups. These cleanups will collectively be eligible for a tip fee waiver of 10 tons which will not count against the municipality’s Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) cap. Any tons over the 10-ton waiver will be charged to the MSW cap at the current and applicable municipal tipping fee (under or over cap rate).

## **Privately organized cleanups**

Private groups that are not able to work with their municipality will be eligible for a tip fee waiver of 5 tons during the Earth Day time frame and International Coastal Cleanup. These groups will be charged the current commercial, solid waste non-contract gate rate for any tons over 5 tons. These groups 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.

When the tip fee waivers are announced, privately organized cleanups will be reminded that they can also request their municipality organize their cleanup debris removal.

## **AUTHORIZATION AND LOAD DELIVERY**

Pre-authorization of cleanups is not required. In order to have tip fees waived, the official Resource Recovery authorization forms for either municipalities and privately organized cleanups must be submitted with each load at the time of disposal. Both pages of the appropriate authorization form must be filled out completely, signed by both the organizer (municipal or private) and the driver, and handed to scale house staff at the time of delivery. Form substitutions are not allowed.

All cleanup loads must be delivered to Resource Recovery no later than one week from the date of the cleanup, or last cleanup listed.

## **Required cleanup information**

A date, location, organization name, on-the-ground contact name and email or phone are required to be listed on the authorization form for each cleanup. An “on-the-ground contact” is any organizer or participant that is present at the cleanup site for the event and can confirm the completion of the cleanup. Groups may submit a separate list of cleanups attached to the authorization form.

## **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.

## **Fees for other items and materials**

Items or materials collected that are not litter/solid waste will still carry their normal charge for disposal such as leaf and yard waste and bulky waste (e.g. appliances with CFCs, box springs, mattresses, tires, car batteries, etc.), as listed in the current fiscal year's [Fee Schedule](#). Applicable fees will be charged directly to the municipality's account for municipally organized cleanups. For privately organized cleanups, the group will be invoiced to the address listed on their authorization form or fees may also be paid at the time of disposal via [accepted payment methods](#). Per RI General Law § 23-24.10-5, there is a disposal ban on TVs, monitors, computers, laptops and tablets, and these items will not be accepted as part of Earth Day 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.

## **FINAL APPROVAL**

After processing the waiver, scale house 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 official authorization form is not completed or submitted in its entirety, specific cleanup locations aren't listed on page 2 or attached as a separate list, 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.*