

“Freemium” Sticker Curbside Pickup FAQ

Why is Erving switching to stickers?

The Town of Erving is transitioning to use stickers because of an increasing quantity of trash being picked up curbside. In July 2020, Erving’s trash collection increased from an average of approximately 7 tons per week to approximately 10 tons per week. Throughout the last year, the Select Board worked with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District to consider the issue and potential solutions. Other Towns also saw increases during the pandemic as more people were staying at home, however the percentage increase was much larger for Erving compared to other Towns. The increased tonnage of waste means an increased cost for Erving to pay for disposal. A modified sticker program will offer accountability for residents and will discourage those outside of Erving from dumping their trash in Town.

Erving Trash Disposal Over Time

Calendar Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total Weight (Tons)	353.82	369.25	231.47*	367.85	416.39**

* In 2018 the Town’s hauler was sold to a new company. During the sale and transition weight slips for October, November and December were not received. The rate of disposal was anticipated to be similar prior years.

**The actual tonnage is higher because the count for February 2020 could not be verified with the previous hauler and therefore were not included in this count.

How does Erving’s waste collection compare to other communities?

Erving uses the same waste collection hauler as the Town of Gill, which is of a comparable size. Erving and Gill both have curbside collection with almost identical household stops (Erving: 600 vs Gill: 588). However, Gill uses a sticker program as many of the surrounding communities do. Erving and Gill have vastly different quantities of trash being picked up, but the quantities of the amount recycled is similar, with Gill skewing slightly higher.

Comparison of Erving and Gill from the Period of August 2020 to June 2021:

- Erving generated 427.36 tons of trash/47 weeks equaling an average of 9.09 tons per week.
- Gill generated 144.06 tons of trash/47 weeks equaling an average of 3.07 tons per week.

Did the amount of waste Erving produce increase because more people were home during the pandemic?

This concern was considered and monitored throughout the County. Based on the data collected, it is unlikely that this was the sole cause of the increase. The more likely scenario is that people from out of Town are bringing their trash to be collected in Erving since it is free and unregulated, which is not the case in neighboring communities.

Did anyone research other reasons for the increase?

Yes, the Select Board requested weigh-in reports from the waste hauler regularly, oversaw the trash collection directly on their entire route on several occasions, and completed comparisons to other Towns.

Are my recyclables and household waste being co-mingled in the truck?

The new trucks are designed to have two (2) separate areas for recyclables and general waste, however the openings are in the same area of the truck, so it may appear that they are being co-mingled. There was one instance where the two were accidentally co-mingled by a new collection crew and it was identified when the truck arrived at the transfer station and was rectified by the hauling company.

