

From: [Anne & Don Mazer](#)
To: [iwmc](#)
Subject: Fwd: IRAC-IWMC
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Date: Thu, Jan 25, 2024 at 4:23 PM
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To: Anne & Don Mazer

Island Waste Watch Commission has recently indicated that they want price increases for their services. While I can appreciate the need for additional funding for the work that they do, my principal concern is that the mandate of IWMC has only been to collect, sort and recycle waste. The mandate has not included taking significant steps to reduce the amount of waste that is generated on PEI.

IWMC public education has been directed mainly at teaching us how to sort our waste, and not how to reduce it. There have been no programs to incentivize and reward Islanders for generating less waste. Regardless of how much waste one generates, everyone pays the same fee. If my cart is 1/4 full, I pay as much as the person whose cart is over brimming with garbage. People who use less should not be subsidizing people who waste more. We are a wasteful consumer society and our efforts should be directed toward minimizing consumption and waste. We need a change of attitude and IWMC should be at the center of a campaign for environmental sustainability. Net zero goals for waste can be as important as net zero goals for emissions in addressing climate change.

I propose that IWMC implement a rate schedule that reflects how much waste customers actually generate, and one that prioritizes waste reduction, keeping as much out of the waste stream as possible. We need to reward people for the pro environmental behaviors of reduction and conservation, and sanction those who waste more. The more you use IWMC services the more you should pay.

IWMC provides a valuable service for all Islanders and so all property owners should pay a modest base rate, as we do with Maritime Electric. After that, one should pay as they use/waste.

Different options could be available. For cart pickups, customers could opt to pay for smaller carts or less frequent pickups. Or they could arrange for additional carts if they felt they required them. For recycling we could purchase tags to affix to our blue bags; we could purchase as many or as few as needed. There are occasional stories of waste reduction heroes who put out only a few bags a year. Why should those people subsidize the collection of the multiple bags of heavy users of the service IWMC? IWMC has provided excellent leadership in effectively helping islanders to sort their waste and has therefore diverted many tonnes from landfills. Now it is time for them to embrace a new mandate...helping islanders to reduce waste and to keep tonnes from entering the waste stream in the first place. Our aim should be to minimize waste and even to achieve zero waste eventually. IWMC could also reduce its own operational costs by having less waste to manage.

The principle is simple, like the idea of polluter pays.

People need to have to have a real opportunity to reduce their costs and see their pro environmental behaviors rewarded especially in these inflationary times.

We all need to chart a new course, where we are stewards of the earth and consume less of its resources and combat climate change. IWMC can help lead us in that direction and help educate us more about living more lightly on the earth.

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