



In May 2020, the Town of Nags Head made the difficult decision to temporarily suspend its curbside recycling program due to a lack of affordable options to recycle materials. Currently, recyclables collected by the Town's recycling vendor at Nags Head's town hall and public works facilities are transported to a company where the materials are incinerated and used to generate renewable electricity.

The Town has been contracting with a vendor to collect recyclables from oceanfront residences during the summer months; the service suspension decision was made prior to this annual contract initiation, largely because alternatives to incineration could not be secured. Options continue to be explored, including subscription-based services and incineration alternatives. For more information and updates, visit nagsheadnc.gov/recycling. Below is a timeline of Nags Head's recycling services.

APRIL 2011

Town initiates a franchise agreement for recycling subscription services.

MAY 2014

Town initiates a pilot program that provides curbside recycling collection services to all residences along NC 12 and SR 1243.

JANUARY 2016

Town initiates townwide curbside recycling service at an initial cost of \$88,480 for collection with the Town paying \$0/ton for material processing. Cost does not include internal hauling cost or cost of recycling carts.



JANUARY 2017

Town modifies schedule to Friday only, cost decreases to \$77,980. Cost does not include internal hauling cost or cost of recycling carts.

RECYCLING COST = \$297/TON

TRASH COST = \$143/TON

JANUARY 2019

Town modifies schedule to Monday and Friday, cost increases to \$195,000. Cost includes tonnage collected by hauler. Cost for tonnage collected by Town increases to \$70/ton. With 522 tons collected by Town, cost increases to \$231,540 (\$195,000+\$36,540). Increased tonnage is a result of failing recycling market conditions.

RECYCLING COST = \$439/TON

TRASH COST = \$157/TON

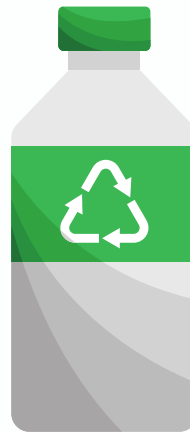


DECEMBER 2019

Hauler notifies Town that materials are being incinerated rather than recycled due to market conditions. Hauler offers to continue recycling at \$130/ton or incinerate at \$70/ton. Town amends contract to allow for temporary incineration rather than paying increased processing cost.

SPRING 2020

Town and NCDEQ continue search for vendor to process, rather than incinerate, recyclables. Town learns that new vendor, RDS, can process recycling at \$70/ton. Town would now need two agreements: one for hauling and one for processing. Processing would require an additional \$121/ton for contaminated loads, with up to 18% possible contamination. Town's hauler and RDS continue negotiations to allow for hauler to contract directly with the Town for hauling and processing at a fixed price. As of May 2020, negotiations were ongoing and Town is unable to secure favorable terms that would provide a predictable fixed rate for service.



MAY 2020

Town temporarily suspends its curbside recycling program and is working to offer a subscription service, while continuing to explore its options for post-summer service.