



**City of Biddeford  
Policy Committee**

April 13, 2026 at 4:00 PM  
City Hall Council Chambers & Teams

[Join the Policy Committee Meeting on Microsoft Teams](#)

Meeting ID: 275 919 416 267 45

Passcode: Yu9DY7KW

Dial in by phone: 1-872-242-8054

Phone conference ID: 535 970 370#

1. Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Adjustment(s) to Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
5. Discussion/Review
  - 5.a Household Waste Definition and Two Bag Overflow Limit Per Week
6. Adjourn



## Policy Committee

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**Meeting Date:** April 13, 2026  
**Meeting Time:** 4:00 PM  
**Agenda Item No:** 5.a  
**Item Description:** Household Waste Definition and Two Bag Overflow Limit Per Week  
**Submitted By:**

### Key Terms:

### Executive Summary:

Public Works is looking for an ordinance clarification on acceptable residential offal, household trash and kitchen waste. Public Works is also requesting a 2-bag overflow limit per week, except during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

### Detailed Review:

Public Works is requesting clarification and revision to the City's current ordinance language regarding acceptable residential offal, household trash, and kitchen waste. The Policy Committee approved sending the ordinance change to the Council at their meeting held on February 23, 2026, with one additional amendment to reference the change in definition within Section 58-10. Enforcement, subsection 2.

Ordinance Clarification Request. The City Council adopted an additional language change at their meeting on March 17, 2026.

The current ordinance definition is overly broad and unintentionally allows materials to be placed curbside that do not meet the intent of standard household waste. This has resulted in the following: increased disposal tonnage, higher tipping fees, misuse of weekly curbside collection services.

The existing language permits interpretation that includes non-household materials such as clean-out debris, moving waste, and other bulk items. These materials significantly increase costs and are not typical week-to-week household trash.

Public Works is seeking clearer language that strictly defines acceptable curbside waste as routine residential household trash generated from normal daily living activities.

#### Overflow Bag Limitation

Additionally, Public Works is requesting the ordinance be amended to limit overflow bags to two (2) per week per residence.

Over the past several years, the number of overflow bags placed curbside has steadily increased. Many residents use weekly collection as an opportunity for:

- Basement and cellar clean-outs
- Moving-related disposal
- Disposal of accumulated bulk materials

This trend increases tipping costs and places additional strain on equipment and staffing. Residents currently have access to appropriate disposal options through the Biddeford Public Works Department for household goods and bulk items. That service is intended for larger disposal needs and helps control curbside collection costs.

#### Financial Impact

Clarifying acceptable materials and limiting overflow bags will:

- Reduce unnecessary tipping fees
- Maintain fairness among ratepayers
- Improve operational efficiency
- Preserve equipment longevity

Public Works is requesting Council approval to update and clarify the ordinance to better align with its original intent and ensure sustainable solid waste operations moving forward.

Attachment 1 contains the revisions made by the Policy Committee and by Council in red and blue tracked changes.

Attachement 2 is a clean version of the ordinance with adopted language changes for ease of reading.

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#### **Funding Source:**

N/A

#### **Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends Committee approval of the ordinance changes

#### **Next Steps:**

Ordinance language will go back to Council for approval and two readings

#### **Attachments:**

1. 2026.40 Public Waste Ordinance Change-Policy Committee 4.13.26
2. 2026.40 Public Waste Ordinance Change-Policy Committee 4.13.26 -Clean

## Sec 58-1 Definitions

HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE AND RUBBISH — Any acceptable waste originating and/or generated within the boundaries of the City, at the site of generation by a homeowner or occupant. For the purpose of this chapter, acceptable solid waste includes normal household refuse, including residential offal, household trash and kitchen waste ~~this and~~ does not include commercial garbage, rubbish, or waste except that waste generated from a grandfathered facility.

## Sec. 58-4. Regulated activity.

The accumulation, collection, transportation and disposal of the following materials generated within the City shall be regulated in the following manner:

- (1) All acceptable solid waste generated within the City from eligible residential customers and grandfathered facilities shall be placed in a designated solid waste container and collected by the City at curbside on a weekly basis. Acceptable solid waste includes normal household refuse, including residential offal, household trash and kitchen waste. Unacceptable waste shall not be collected and must be disposed of properly by residents at the city's transfer station. Unacceptable waste includes, but is not limited to: leaf and yard waste; dirt; sod; concrete; rock; large appliances; small appliances or furniture; televisions or other electronic equipment; computers; construction, remodeling or demolition debris; textiles; ~~hazardous waste; commercial or industrial waste; medical waste;~~ hazardous materials; mercury containing products such as fluorescent lamps, ballast, thermometers, and thermostats; and liquid and flammable waste such as non-latex paint, gasoline, diesel, oil, pesticides, herbicides, and hot ashes. Unacceptable items not collected by the public works' curbside program will be the responsibility of the resident for proper disposal. Unacceptable items must be removed from curbside within 24 hours by the resident. [Amended 3-3-2015 by Ord. No. 2015.10; 3-5-2019 by Ord. No. 2019.11]
- (2) Overflow shall not be collected unless contained within a designated bag made available to residents on a fee-per-bag basis. The overflow bag may be placed on or adjacent to the designated municipal waste container or in a container separate from the designated municipal solid waste container. There shall be a limit of 2 overflow bags per municipal container except during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.
- ~~(1)~~(3) If overflow is placed in a separate container, the container shall not be larger than 45 gallons or weigh in excess of 35 pounds and shall not consist of more than two overflow bags.
- ~~(2)~~(4) All acceptable recyclable materials from eligible residential customers, and grandfathered facilities if applicable, shall be placed in a designated recycling container and collected by a City authorized commercial hauler at curbside on a weekly basis. [Amended 3-3-2015 by Ord. No. 2015.10]

~~(3)~~~~(5)~~ All recyclable materials designated as acceptable for delivery to the Biddeford Recycling Center may be delivered to the facility by any entity.

~~(4)~~~~(6)~~ All unacceptable waste generated within the City shall be deposited in a manner prescribed elsewhere in this chapter and or as specified by the Director of Public Works.

~~(5)~~~~(7)~~ All commercial waste shall be regulated in accordance with the most recent version of the International Property Management Code adopted by the City of Biddeford.

**Sec. 58-10. Enforcement.**

(2) Upon observation of failure to place only acceptable municipal solid waste in the designated solid waste container [or the violation of the provisions of Section 58-4](#), the receptacle will not be collected and a warning notice shall be placed on the appropriate designated container by the Public Works Department or City-authorized commercial hauler.

Attest by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robin Patterson, City Clerk

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