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OUR ENVIRONMENT NEEDS MORE LOCAL REPORTING

The Concord Monitor is launching its Environmental Reporting Lab, a long-term effort to better inform the community about the New Hampshire environment. To launch phase 1 of this effort, we need your help. The money raised will go toward hiring a full-time environmental reporter.

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Opinion (/Opinion/)

Trash options for Gilmanton voters

[For the Monitor](#)

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Taxpayers of Gilmanton, did you know that 47 percent of the transfer station budget is expended to dispose of solid waste and bagged trash? We can reduce this amount by adopting mandatory recycling, pay-as-you-throw or both at town meeting on March 17.

Mandatory recycling will not create a sizeable reduction of the 47 percent. According to RCAP Solutions Inc., 'Most towns that adopt mandatory recycling do not experience very large increases in recycling. Without adopting an additional program such as PAYT, the recycling rate shouldn't be expected to increase by more than 5-10 percent, which is a generous estimate. Some towns feel they'd like to give residents a friendly challenge and see how they do before switching to PAYT. While this is the politically safe thing to do, it is not the most effective way to increase recycling.'

If we implement pay-as-you-throw (for solid waste only), we maximize the opportunity to reduce the 47 percent while increasing recycling revenue. Revenue, generated from the cost of bags in the \$1-\$2 range, will offset the cost to run the facility. It's the most equitable way to distribute solid waste costs because households pay for the waste they generate. Currently we all pay approximately \$250 in taxes to run the facility whether we recycle or not. People who recycle do not want to pay for their neighbors who don't.

For more information on the analysis presented by RCAP Solutions Inc. to the town of Gilmanton, go to gilmantonnh.org/documents/rf/IMG_0006.pdf.

LORI BALDWIN

Gilmanton



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