



Department of Public Works

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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### **City Urges Residents to Reduce Amount of Solid Waste Due to Increase in Landfill Taxes *City May Pay Extra \$2 Million in State Taxes for Garbage Disposal***

The 2009-2011 State of Wisconsin biennial budget increased state taxes on garbage disposal by over 120%. This raises City of Milwaukee tipping rates over 35% by October 1<sup>st</sup>. If the amount sent to the landfill is the same as last year this would mean an additional \$2 million per year in taxes paid to the State of Wisconsin by the City of Milwaukee.

In light of these increases, the Department of Public Works is urging City residents to reduce the amount of solid waste generated that ultimately ends up in the landfill. Residents are encouraged to:

- Recycle all recyclable items in your City recycling cart/bin including newspapers, junk mail, magazines, phone books, cardboard, metal food containers, glass jars and bottles and #1 and #2 plastic
- Donate used clothing, televisions, furniture and other items that still have a useful life to charities or second hand stores (visit [MilwaukeeRecycles.com](http://MilwaukeeRecycles.com) for a list of organizations)
- Get rid of unwanted household items before the October 1<sup>st</sup> rate hike takes effect
- Grind up your leftover food scraps in your garbage disposal
- Use a compost bin for coffee grounds, fruit and vegetable scraps, leaves and other yard waste (visit [www.mpw.net/Pages/compostbin.html](http://www.mpw.net/Pages/compostbin.html))

Now, more than ever, City residents need to take these suggestions seriously to help minimize disposal costs and contain fee increases.