

**From:** karenahome@gmail.com <karenahome@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 4, 2022 2:44 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Proposed Charge for Recycling

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Karen Matteoni  
**Address:** 1710 Yahara Place, Madison, WI 53704  
**Email:** [karenahome@gmail.com](mailto:karenahome@gmail.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** No, do not contact me

**Message:**

I am very concerned that Madison is considering charging for recycling services for residences. I thought that Madison was concerned about the environment. Charging for recyclables will move our City in the wrong direction. We should be encouraging recycling rather than billing people who are doing the right thing.

Sincerely,  
Karen Matteoni  
1710 Yahara Pl, Madison, WI 53704

**From:** GREGGOLOPRY@CHARTER.NET <GREGGOLOPRY@CHARTER.NET>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 6, 2022 3:43 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Stop Resource Recovery Special Charge

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** GREGORY HUMPHREY  
**Address:** 902 SPAIGHT STR, MADISON, WI 53703  
**Email:** [GREGGOLOPRY@CHARTER.NET](mailto:GREGGOLOPRY@CHARTER.NET)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

It is a bad idea, even at a time when the city might be searching for more revenue. At first glance, it seems to me people will opt to place their recyclable material into the trash and that will undercut the environmental goals that our city government strives to implement. The mayor and alders should not need to be told that the basics of city government, be it trash, fire, police, and street maintenance, are considered to be covered by our tax payments. Not add-on fees for the basics! Before we build public markets and do things that are perhaps nice to have, we need to make sure that the basics of city living are financed and ready to operate. If the mayor needs to have more cash she needs to do like everyone else during the pandemic. Cut here and there and come up with the funds. But do not seek it from the city residents who already are knowing they have paid for the city services with their property taxes. I can see why the mayor and alders wanted to hide this nugget from the public.

**From:** rdiedrich@charter.net <rdiedrich@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 7, 2022 4:10 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Recycling tax opposition

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Robert and Valerie Diedrich  
**Address:** 4009 Naheda Trl, Madison, WI 53711  
**Phone:** 608-238-5260  
**Email:** [rdiedrich@charter.net](mailto:rdiedrich@charter.net)

**Would you like us to contact you?** No, do not contact me

**Message:**

We are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed Madison recycling tax. Madison property taxes are supposed to pay for the recycling program. Property taxes continue to increase as extra taxes keep getting added to generate additional revenue. City planners must learn to live within their means and stop increasing taxes to support runaway spending. We already pay excessive taxes. Do not approve the proposed recycling tax. Thank you.

**From:** shennie@aol.com <shennie@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 7, 2022 7:39 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Recycling fee

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Linda Sanders  
**Address:** 1509 Rutledge Street, , Madison, WI 53703  
**Email:** [shennie@aol.com](mailto:shennie@aol.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** No, do not contact me

**Message:**

Dear Madison Alders: I oppose the idea of collecting fees for recycling. Recycling is something that benefits everyone, even if not everyone uses it. It is the environmentally appropriate thing to do, even if it costs money to do so. Please find a way to continue to provide recycling for all residents and businesses as part of the city budget. Thank you.

**From:** pafeltsk@wisc.edu <pafeltsk@wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 8, 2022 11:41 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Extra recycling tax

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Pat Feltskog  
**Address:** 5305, Madison, WI 53705  
**Email:** [pafeltsk@wisc.edu](mailto:pafeltsk@wisc.edu)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

Mentioned in the paper yesterday, Thursday. Never heard of this before and why is it needed. Our taxes are to the point that Seniors are being forced out of their home. Please reply ASAP about this. I never seem to get an answer to the questions I submit.

**From:** Cynthia Poe <crpoe@uwalumni.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 9, 2022 11:01 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Resource Recovery Special Charge

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alder:

I am writing to oppose the adoption of the proposed Resource Recovery Special Charge. I understand why this charge has been proposed--recycling costs are increasing for a variety of reasons--but I'm concerned that singling out this one city service--recycling--for a user fee will result in a significant drop in people participating in the city's recycling efforts. Even if the fee is charged whether one puts out a green or not, I suspect that many will react to the charge by not making the effort to recycle.

If the part of the problem is contamination of the recycling stream, the focus should be on reducing that problem rather than increasing user costs.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Cynthia Poe

\*\*\*\*\*  
Cynthia Poe  
1606 Farragut St.  
Madison, WI 53704  
(608) 243-9349  
\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** John Ganahl <jganahl@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 9, 2022 2:31 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** New recycling tax

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To whom it may concern:

I strongly encourage you to stop the implementation of this new tax for recycling and/or refuse pickup. And YES, it IS a tax, make no mistake. I am STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THIS EFFORT.

Our taxes are exorbitant in Madison but we pay them understanding we gain a great deal in the diversity of transportation options and quality of life. I know it's easy for me to say, but you need to be more creative than simply raising taxes.

John Ganahl and Rae Kaiser  
1509 Morrison St, Madison, WI 53703  
(608) 886-3970  
[Jganahl@gmail.com](mailto:jganahl@gmail.com)  
[Rae@outside-the-line.com](mailto:Rae@outside-the-line.com)

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John Ganahl  
(608) 886-3970 - Cell  
[jganahl@gmail.com](mailto:jganahl@gmail.com)

**From:** pafeltsk@wisc.edu <pafeltsk@wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 9, 2022 3:25 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Recycle tax mentioned in newspaper

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Pat Feltskog  
**Address:** 5305 Shawano Ter, Madison, WI 53705  
**Email:** [pafeltsk@wisc.edu](mailto:pafeltsk@wisc.edu)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

I WOULD APPRECIATE AN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION ABOUT THE RECYCLE TAX.  
CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS SHOULD HAVE A BETTER WORK ETHIC AND ANSWER  
QUESTIONS OF THEIR CONSTITUENTS. PLEASE REPLY  
I HAVE LIVED IN MY HOUSE IN MADISON FOR 45 YEARS AND WANT AN ANSWER  
NOW.



-----Original Message-----

From: Norman Sannes <norman.sannes@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2022 2:23 PM

To: Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Proposed recycling fee

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Several social media sites have posted information about Madison proposing a “recycling fee.” This would be a TAX, period. Similar to the city sticking a forestry fee on our Municipal Services Bill ( what use to be our WATER and SEWER bill).

You can put my down as opposed to ANY NEW FEES or TAXES.

Norman Sannes  
5345 Queensbridge Rd  
Madison, WI 53714

**From:** Dan Young <day6553@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2022 3:15 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** The New Tax!

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

As you did with the wheel tax, you are now set to try to quickly impose another regressive tax on Madison residents, or at least small property owners; i.e. your proposed "Resource Recovery Special Charge" in [City of Madison - File #: 70344 \(legistar.com\)](#) What an Orwellian name for a tax! And, very un-progressive!

Your argument for the tax, as stated in the proposal is that, *"Over time, the City's costs to operate its recycling program, including the costs of collecting, sorting and recycling waste, have increased. It is reasonable that all or a portion of the costs incurred to provide this service be recovered from those using the service, rather than all taxpayers in the City."* Yes, no doubt the costs have increased. As we know, the cost of everything has been increasing, including OUR PROPERTY TAXES. And, property tax payers expect and should get basic services for those increasing property taxes and not be charged an additional tax. Basic services serve the common good, as do our schools, when they are not otherwise failing.

The reasoning stated raises two important questions. The first, what will be next a separate tax, a.k.a. "recovery charge" for our garbage, brush and leaf pickup? Or, additional fees for police, fire and EMT services? Where does it stop? The second question is, if you truly believe the argument that *"It is reasonable that all or a portion of the costs incurred to provide this service be recovered from those using the service, rather than all taxpayers in the City,"* when will you start charging the users, instead of everyone for services they do not use? For example, not everyone uses the libraries, bike paths, or the homeless shelters. Yet, our property taxes help fund these services. So, are you going to charge the users a fee on these services, *"rather than all taxpayers in the City."*?

We hear a lot about the need for affordable housing and it is important for our society, especially owner-occupied affordable housing where the owners actually pay property taxes. However, rising property taxes and fees can make housing

unaffordable. In under two years, I personally know four households who left Madison due to the escalating property costs, particularly the high taxes. This is not sustainable if we want people to be able to afford homes and have a solid property tax base.

I expect

THAT As she did with the wheel tax, I expect that the Mayor will say that we have to do this to fund her budget. **NO, YOU DO NOT. Go and find places to cut if necessary. Enough is Enough!**

I hope I hope that the Finance Committee will nip this regressive tax in the bud.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel A. Young  
3322 Quincy Avenue  
Madison, WI 53704

**From:** Brian Rieselman <brianrieselman@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2022 3:48 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Fwd: The New Tax!

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I agree with Dan's letter, below. A regressive tax of any kind hits Lower income people harder. It's not fair. Fair taxation is based on income and ability to pay. Our property taxes are so high already.

And if you're going to tie fees to "users,"  
Be careful. We all support budget items we don't use but support because we support all in Our city. Opening a pandora box of people who say "I don't use the Library"  
Or "I don't use a Homeless shelter"  
Or enjoy art and Museums etc. — a bad precedent that could harm our city in the long run. They Might ask "why should I pay?"  
Based on the mayor's faulty logic.

Try and keep  
Property taxes at a reasonable  
Level. We pay them gladly when they are fair. When they are unfair and Unaffordable they will  
Just drive people  
Away.

Thanks,

Brian  
4330  
Critchell terrace  
Madison 53711

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Dan Young <[day6553@hotmail.com](mailto:day6553@hotmail.com)>  
**Date:** April 10, 2022 at 3:15:07 PM CDT  
**To:** [allalders@cityofmadison.com](mailto:allalders@cityofmadison.com), Mayor <[Mayor@cityofmadison.com](mailto:Mayor@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Subject:** The New Tax!

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

As you did with the wheel tax, you are now set to try to quickly impose another regressive tax on Madison residents, or at least small property owners; i.e. your proposed "Resource Recovery Special Charge" in [City of Madison - File #: 70344 \(legistar.com\)](#) What an Orwellian name for a tax! And, very un-progressive!

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The reasoning stated raises two important questions. The first, what will be next a separate tax, a.k.a. "recovery charge" for our garbage, brush and leaf pickup? Or, additional fees for police, fire and EMT services? Where does it stop? The second question is, if you truly believe the argument that *"It is reasonable that all or a portion of the costs incurred to provide this service be recovered from those using the service, rather than all taxpayers in the City,"* when will you start charging the users, instead of everyone for services they do not use? For example, not everyone uses the libraries, bike paths, or the homeless shelters. Yet, our property taxes help fund these services. So, are you going to charge the users a fee on these services, *"rather than all taxpayers in the City."*?

We hear a lot about the need for affordable housing and it is important for our society, especially owner-occupied affordable housing where the owners actually pay property taxes. However, rising property taxes and fees can make housing unaffordable. In under two years, I personally know four households who left Madison due to the escalating property costs, particularly the high taxes. This is not sustainable if we want people to be able to afford homes and have a solid property tax base.

I expect

THAT As she did with the wheel tax, I expect that the Mayor will say that we have to do this to fund her budget. **NO, YOU DO NOT. Go and find places to cut if necessary. Enough is Enough!**

I hope I hope that the Finance Committee will nip this regressive tax in the bud.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel A. Young  
3322 Quincy Avenue  
Madison, WI 53704

From: Jeff Meyer <jeffmeyer11@gmail.com>  
Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2022 8:58 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Recycling

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

One of the basic uses of my tax dollars should be trash and recycling collection. If you don' have enough money for this, you need to cut some of the "elective" programs. As a taxpayer, I expect Police, Fire, and Trash to be fully funded before anything else.

Jeff Meyer

Madison, WI

**From:** Richard Soletski <dpenguinll@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2022 12:06 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Recycling tax - under consideration by the Finance Committee and City Council

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Honorable Mayor and City Council:

I am opposed to the proposed recycling tax and ask the Finance Committee and City Council to reject this tax. Yes, it's a TAX. To call it a user fee, or cost recovery mechanism or any other attempt to disguise this tax is an insult to the intelligence of Madison taxpayers.

If the recycling program is not a basic service, but a nicety, let us know. Release the mandatory requirement and let those willing to pay another tax keep their green bins and participate and be billed.

If it is a basic service and a requirement to recycle, then it should be covered by our already high property taxes. By the way, my household recycles religiously.

If you are looking for opportunities to tax people who use services but don't pay for them, the elephant in the room is the tens of thousands of bicyclists who pay nothing for the extra lanes, dedicated paths and use the streets which are maintained, marked for them and plowed (paths whisk-broomed before streets are touched).

Another opportunity would be an admission charge to go to the public market when it opens. If it is such an attraction, a good portion of the customers will be non-city residents and this will be a chance to recoup some of the costs. And city residents who chose to go can pay for the privilege. The same applies to the Garver Feed Mill complex.

Or how about a \$7 or \$8 fare for the rapid transit buses. That would be a bargain for a fast trip downtown, and the people from Sun Prairie or Verona would pay their share over city residents who do not use the service.

Do you see where balkanization of taxing gets you?

Finally, you know very well that this is a shell game. When you raise this tax, you won't lower our other taxes. It will backfill other city spending. Much like you did with the wheel tax when the council and mayor did not want to do the hard work to make revenues balance spending. Instead, raise a new tax dedicated to transportation, and take that money to spend on something else.

When I testified against the wheel tax when it was slammed through in weeks from introduction to approval, Mark Clear, the author of the "forestry tax" which was sold as a response to extra emerald ash borer expenses admitted it. It was a shell game, take money that was appropriated for the forestry program and replace it with the new tax money and have a new pot of money to evade levy limits.



And taking popular programs, like recycling and trees, are the cover for raising taxes and spending. A classic disrespectful ploy.

The mayor benefits from the media doing a miserable job of covering this issue at budget time, and since the introduction in March. The Airforce may be interested in her stealth expertise for their F35 program.

Rick Soletski

3322 Quincy Av

Madison

**From:** Tracy Doreen <myrealibrary@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2022 3:28 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Finance 24. 70344 - Create a Resource Recovery Special Charge.

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Finance Committee and Madison City Alders,

If I wasn't told by friends I would never have guessed that this proposed Special Charge is designed to be a fee for recycling collection. I'm very disappointed that this fee is being proposed without full **community** discussion first. Let's discuss why recycling is costing the city more than it can cover through taxes and also discover from the wealth of thoughtful sifting and winnowing of this great university town other possible solutions. Why instead have you chosen this top down approach? Has this fee already been deemed a done deal?

I have lived in Madison long enough to pay property taxes in total over the years an amount more than double the cost of what I paid for my house. I have told people for many years that while we have some of the highest taxes in the country, at least our leaders have had the wisdom to include basic services without added fees. Perhaps you are needing some counsel from citizens to not lose that wisdom.

Please consider that in adding fees without taking the opportunity to engage in rigorous discussion with community, you may well miss more effective alternatives to this proposal.

Consider the questions below you have on the masthead of each agenda and a few answers and additional questions I have in response to these questions:

**Who benefits?** - Well for now the city budget, but long term, perhaps not. Could there be an idea that in the long term will be a greater benefit?

**Who is burdened?**

People on fixed incomes struggling to remain in their beloved community, people who reuse, upcycle and do not buy single use plastics or who do not create waste. Will they pay the same as someone who clogs up recycling with wishcycling?

**Who does not have a voice at the table?**

When you are not transparent about charging a fee for recycling, many, many people will be caught unaware and not have a chance to voice concerns. It is worth asking everyone to have a seat at the table to be sure the smartest people to deal with the complexities of this issue really are in the room.

**How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?**

Educate, Listen and Consider what alternatives there might be that will **REDUCE** the cost of recycling and the amount of recycling and trash we produce as a community? What other options

are there? Have you looked at the research UW is doing in plastic upcycling? <https://engineering.wisc.edu/news/huber-to-lead-new-multi-university-plastic-recycling-research-center/>

Will the proposed fees be used at least in part to help fund a facility that will be at the forefront in plastic up cycling? Have you considered partnering with the university and surrounding communities to help make this happen? Have you considered helping fund recycling more than just the few things Waste Management can make a profit with? Such as in this article about mask recycling [https://www.wkow.com/news/researchers-at-uw-madison-work-to-recycle-masks/article\\_fac6ed6-98f5-11ec-aecf-2b24e9243674.html](https://www.wkow.com/news/researchers-at-uw-madison-work-to-recycle-masks/article_fac6ed6-98f5-11ec-aecf-2b24e9243674.html)

Have you considered that if people just pay a fee for recycling they may generate more trash and recycling mix and mess, that which costs the city more and takes up more space in the landfill? If the fee is to be used to do what is already being done in the same old way, many may be angry.

I trust you have thought a lot about how you can raise finances to cover the cost of recycling. But in the long run this does not deal with the true scope of the problem - which is more than financial. Please consider investigating deeper and engage with the entire community so we can “sort” out truly efficient and cost conscious solutions.

I urge you NOT to ask for a fee at this time. Step back, get the community involved in the solution.

Respectfully,  
Tracy Doreen Dietzel  
Madison

From: Susan Pastor <skpastor@uwalumni.com>  
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 11:03 AM  
To: Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>  
Cc: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Oppose Item 24 Resource Recovery Special Charge

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Finance Committee Members,

Thank you for your work in service to city residents. I'm writing about item 24, the resolution creating a resource recovery special fee for recycling.

When I heard about this proposal over the weekend, I searched local media to see if there had been any coverage. I could not find any. The city has already imposed a wheel tax, and while some have argued that the tax is not regressive, I am not convinced by those arguments. When people have less disposable income, any increased tax/fee takes a bigger bite than for higher income folks.

This seems another such regressive measure, having a stronger impact on lower income residents, especially at a time when people are concerned about the rising costs of food and fuel.

It's difficult to tell from the text whether the city believes there is any reasonable limit to what the fee could be. The text states that it is reasonable that all or a portion of the costs be recovered — however, the city exists to provide services. This proposal creates the impression that people are here to serve the city, rather than the other way around. I do not believe it is reasonable for the city to “recover” all the costs of a service they are supposed to be providing directly from the people receiving that service, who are already paying property taxes.

Small scale landlords will pass this cost on to renters, further driving up housing costs - and people have already signed leases for the coming year beginning August 15, and those small scale landlords have had no opportunity to figure this in. This seems especially detrimental to small scale landlords who are providing naturally occurring affordable housing. Will property owners be able to opt out and contract for their own services?

Whether a fee is warranted deserves vigorous debate, and if a fee is warranted, there must be clear limits on what it could be - not a blank check.

Thank you for reading this,  
Sue

Susan K. Pastor  
2502 Green Ridge Dr.

**From:** Richard Soletski <dpenguinII@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2022 4:10 PM  
**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Recycling tax - under consideration by the Finance Committee and City Council  
**Importance:** High

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Mayor,

Thank you for your response. This is the first time in your tenure that I have received one after writing you.

I take issue with the argument that the fee is only \$4.10. Times 12 = \$49 per year. On top of the highest wheel tax in the state and a \$73 per year forestry tax = \$162. The same for someone driving a 20 year old Chevy as a new Mercedes. The same as someone living in a modest ranch house on the east side, as I do, as a McMansion on the fashionable west side. So much for providing affordable housing. My city tax bill is more than the principal payment on my house was.

It may not be much on the mayor's salary, or a former UW administrator, but for people who are working or on social security it is onerous. Already on our short dead-end block of Quincy Av two families have moved in the last year and have given high taxes and ineffective and tone-deaf city government as reasons.

You complain about lack of funds. My assessment, due to the "irrational exuberance" of the real estate market jumped \$20,000 last year. This year I expect it to jump another \$40,000. You don't tax on that higher value?

These regressive taxes are, gasp, republican-like, not progressive.

Tommy Thompson tried to tax sewer charges in one of his budget proposals until the legislature wisely denied it. Let's hope the Council has the back-bone to do the same.

As I said in my email, if you are looking for a target for equitable taxing for services rendered, let's register and tax AND ENFORCE bicycles in Madison.

Rick Soletski

---

**From:** Mayor <[Mayor@cityofmadison.com](mailto:Mayor@cityofmadison.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2022 3:24 PM

**To:** 'Richard Soletski' <[dpenguin11@hotmail.com](mailto:dpenguin11@hotmail.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Recycling tax - under consideration by the Finance Committee and City Council

Dear Rick,

*Thank you for sharing your thoughts about the proposed Resource Recovery Special Charge. Madison has had an incredible recycling program for decades, and as we continue to face environmental concerns, our programs and policies regarding sustainability are a priority.*

*The Resource Recovery Special Charge will be a flat fee of about \$4.10 per month per household. It is not based on the volume of recycling collected, and so it will not disincentive recycling.*

*Recycling markets have been volatile over the years and costs have gone up. We also face other rising costs, including in compensation, fuel, supplies, and vehicles needed to provide the outstanding service to which Madisonians have become accustomed.*

*While many City services are covered by property tax revenues, state mandates in Wisconsin make it difficult for local governments to cover all City services this way. The state imposed strict limits on what local governments can raise in property taxes and made dramatic cuts in state funding to cities during the Walker administration. The result for Madison and many cities across the state is that each year our costs increase more than our revenues, and we work to find efficiencies and cut costs to balance the budget each year. After years of the combination of the property tax cap, reduced state aid, and rising costs, the City must seek out this special charge in order to maintain current city services.*

*The City's 2022 budget was approved to assume the adoption of this special charge, and legislation to implement the Charge is currently being considered by the Common Council. More information can be found [here](#).*

*Be Well,*

*Mayor Satya*

**From:** Richard Soletski <[dpenguin11@hotmail.com](mailto:dpenguin11@hotmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2022 12:06 AM

**To:** All Alders <[allalders@cityofmadison.com](mailto:allalders@cityofmadison.com)>; Mayor <[Mayor@cityofmadison.com](mailto:Mayor@cityofmadison.com)>

**Subject:** Recycling tax - under consideration by the Finance Committee and City Council

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Honorable Mayor and City Council:

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If the recycling program is not a basic service, but a nicety, let us know. Release the mandatory requirement and let those willing to pay another tax keep their green bins and participate and be billed.

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Or how about a \$7 or \$8 fare for the rapid transit buses. That would be a bargain for a fast trip downtown, and the people from Sun Prairie or Verona would pay their share over city residents who do not use the service.

Do you see where balkanization of taxing gets you?

Finally, you know very well that this is a shell game. When you raise this tax, you won't lower our other taxes. It will backfill other city spending. Much like you did with the wheel tax when the council and mayor did not want to do the hard work to make revenues balance spending. Instead, raise a new tax dedicated to transportation, and take that money to spend on something else.

When I testified against the wheel tax when it was slammed through in weeks from introduction to approval, Mark Clear, the author of the "forestry tax" which was sold as a response to extra emerald ash borer expenses admitted it. It was a shell game, take money that was appropriated for the forestry program and replace it with the new tax money and have a new pot of money to evade levy limits.

And taking popular programs, like recycling and trees, are the cover for raising taxes and spending. A classic disrespectful ploy.

The mayor benefits from the media doing a miserable job of covering this issue at budget time, and since the introduction in March. The Airforce may be interested in her stealth expertise for their F35 program.

Rick Soletski

3322 Quincy Av

Madison



**From:** darindd1@hotmail.com <darindd1@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2022 4:50 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] New recycling fee

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Dwight Darin  
**Address:** 2009 S Whitney Way, Madison, WI 53711  
**Email:** [darindd1@hotmail.com](mailto:darindd1@hotmail.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

Please vote against the new fee. If necessary streets and recycling should reduce pickup frequency or drop off site hours, etc.

**From:** mgrahn@nutrisci.wisc.edu <mgrahn@nutrisci.wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2022 6:40 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Recycling change

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Mike Grahn  
**Address:** 1022 Painted Post Dr, Madison, Wi 53716  
**Phone:** 608-772-4702  
**Email:** [mgrahn@nutrisci.wisc.edu](mailto:mgrahn@nutrisci.wisc.edu)

**Would you like us to contact you?** No, do not contact me

**Message:**

Hello,  
With inflation through the roof including gas prices you want to stick it to us even more with this recycling tax. Raising property taxes isn't enough? The wheel tax isn't enough? The forestry tax isn't enough? What's next? A toll both if you want to pass through the isthmus? Whoops, I shouldn't of gave you folks another idea.

Lifelong resident,

Mike

**From:** blakerohrer@gmail.com <blakerohrer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2022 9:16 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Recycling Fee

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Blake Rohrer  
**Address:** 4118 Council Crest, Madison, WI 53711  
**Email:** [blakerohrer@gmail.com](mailto:blakerohrer@gmail.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

I am extremely disappointed in the regressive tax for recycling that was included in the budget and now being proposed as an ordinance. This is a greater burden on those with less ability to pay and is inherently unfair. Also, to put it forth as a fee for those who use the service is disingenuous at best. Does this ordinance allow residents to select not to recycle, and instead put all of what would have been recycled in the trash, and save the 50 fee? Recycling and trash, snow plowing, etc. are simply basic services that all residents should receive for their taxes. Will you next propose an ordinance that will make a resident pay if they want the street plowed in front of their home? Please find another way to balance the budget and do not impose the regressive tax that will discourage recycling and simply cause anger from residents at being nickel and dime to death. Thank you.

**From:** wikiann13@gmail.com <wikiann13@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2022 10:41 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Recycling Charge

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Vicki Alexander  
**Address:** 4325 Milford Rd, Madison, WI 53711  
**Email:** [wikiann13@gmail.com](mailto:wikiann13@gmail.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

Please vote against the pending charge. Taxes are getting out of hand. Property tax on my little home in questionable area is 4,300. Car registration jumped from 75 to 153. That's already 371/month. My health insurance was formerly covered by my employment. I now pay for Medicare B, a Medigap supplement, prescription, and dental. Now this? Single retired senior on fixed income getting priced out of Madison. I use the small container...perhaps make that one free or reduced rate? Base the new charge on income? Or just vote NO!!!

**From:** Colin Gleason <colingl1194@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2022 11:41 AM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Lemmer, Lindsay <district3@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Recycling fee

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Alders,

Please do not support the regressive recycling fee that the mayor is proposing. Madison is supposed to be a progressive city, and adding an additional fee for recycling is the exact opposite of progressive.

Instead, please support a comprehensive audit of where tax dollars are currently being wasted, and can be reallocated to cover what this bogus "recycling fee" would cover.

Regards,

Colin Gleason

From: Glori Sabin <kdietzman@sbcglobal.net>  
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 2:46 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Resource Recovery Special Charge

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Attention Alders,

Please STOP this nonsense! The absurd wheel tax wasn't enough hogwash that you unloaded on us? We tax payers have had enough of your overspending and voting on non-essential projects. You didn't plan accordingly and hid the information and now we're supposed to just accept another bail out for your whims? Our taxes continue to increase but you can't live or budget within your means? WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR PRICE INCREASES AND INESSENTIAL SPENDING! I hope all residents of the city of Madison turn out at election time and replace all officials and alders who make just and sound decisions.

Glori Sabin