

From: Sheila Martin <sheila0725@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Sunday, April 17, 2022 4:10 PM
To: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Vote No on Recycling Fee

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

Dear Mayor and Alders,

I am writing today urging you to please vote NO on the proposed recycling fee to be assessed to Madison home owners. Given the struggle many homeowners have making ends meet, I have significant concerns over adding yet another “fee”/“tax” on to already burdened home owners. This is especially true many marginalized populations, and the high property tax rate and add on “fees” contribute significantly, often making it unaffordable. For neighborhoods to thrive, we have to make home ownership attainable for all. Already we have the excessive “Wheel tax” and many who are struggling to make ends meet cannot pay \$153 to just register a car in this city. Adding another fee to these households is unconscionable.

How about instead we shift to alternating weeks for recycling and trash pick ups?

Or we reduce the recycling pick up to 1/mo?

I love that we have such an exceptional program and allow mixed recyclables at the curb. Undoubtedly this encourages people to participate more. I’ve watched the video of how this is all sorted and think more could be done to educate the masses on doing this better, but adding on another fee is not the answer.

Warm regards,
Sheila Martin

From: Joan Fudala <kirli6@me.com>

Sent: Sunday, April 17, 2022 4:54 PM

To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Council's meeting of April 19, 2022, agenda item No. 93, File No. 70344

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

RE: Agenda Item No.93. File No. 70344 Creating Section 4.097 of the Madison General Ordinances to Create a Resource Recovery Special Charge

Dear alderpersons of the City of Madison:

We live in the City of Madison in the Crosswinds neighborhood of Hawks Landing. This neighborhood is in District 1 (Barbara Harrington-McKinney is our alder person). We pay city of Madison property taxes and pay for other City of Madison services.

However, we in the Crosswinds neighborhood do not get a trash or recycling pickup from the City of Madison, though others in Hawks Landing do.

Instead, through an arrangement made by our Board of Directors of our Crosswinds neighborhood association with a private scavenger service, we are obligated to pay for trash and recycling pickup that is added to our monthly Crosswinds neighborhood assessment fee and get our trash/recycling pickup from this private scavenger. Because of this arrangement, we also do not get any benefits of special curbside recycling from the City of Madison.

To add a recycling charge to our water bill (or through any other means) is unconscionable under these circumstances.

If you were to implement this action, you must make sure that those of us who do not receive trash/recycling services from the City of Madison, will be exempt from this Resource Recovery Special Charge.

We would like your response on this matter.

Joan Fudala and Richard Dike

1822 Breezy Trl.

(Note, although we live in the city of Madison, our mailing address is Verona, WI 53593.)

From: cinnof@charter.net <cinnof@charter.net>
Sent: Sunday, April 17, 2022 9:57 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Recycling Fee on Water Bill

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

I am writing to urge you to vote **NO** on placing a recycling fee on our water bill, which will be voted on at the April 19th the Council meeting (Agenda Item No.93. File No. 70344 Creating Section 4.097 of the Madison General Ordinances to Create a Resource Recovery Special Charge. I am a long-time City of Madison resident and have had our property taxes, water bills, electric bills increase exponentially even with lower on the same usage. We are now subject to a wheel tax fees and other additional fees for registering our four vehicles for myself, husband and two dependent children. This is an extra cost that has been a burden for us. Are we now going to have another annual fee for recycling to pay? No time is a good time to place a recycling fee, but the time now is the worst time ever due to the huge increase of inflation on food, basic necessities and the high price for gasoline.

By continuing to raise taxes and impose fees on residents, you are making it hard for many people to continue to afford live in Madison. Especially, people that are on a fixed income or families that are already struggling financially. Many families are struggling financially or having to pay for care for an older adult and children or pay for their child's education or living pay check to pay check. My husband wants to move out of Madison due to the current nature of the high cost of living here. I love this city and want to stay, but fear that it will become no longer affordable for us to live here especially as we near retirement. **Please vote NO on the Recycling Fee on Water Bill/ Create a Resource Recovery Special Charge.**

Sincerely,

Cynthia Noffke
2856 Warner Lane
Madison, WI 53713

From: John Karrigan <johnkarrigan@c21affiliated.com>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 7:43 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: recycling fee

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

Dear Alder,

I want to go on record as opposing this new proposed recycling fee. Thank You, John Karrigan 6029
Lynbrook Lane Madison, Wi. 53719

From: Randi Huntsman <rhuntsman1@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 7:53 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Recycling fee

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

Hello,

I can understand that no one wants to go on record as raising property taxes, but I think that would have been a better way to collect this money. First, I'd prefer that my water bill reflect charges related only to water usage.

Next, a recycling fee sends the wrong message. The city worked for years to convince—and then eventually force—us to recycle. What's next? Inserting a fee for garbage collection into my water bill?

Have the courage to create a realistic budget. An old-time “theme park” approach where we think we're paying for everything up front in our property taxes only to find some rides cost extra is cowardly.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Randi Huntsman
6333 Inner Drive
Madison, WI 53705

From: m Haan <mhaan1@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 8:08 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: recycling fee

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

Hello—another fee / tax on homeowners to try to balance the inflated City of Madison budget. While millions are spent on feel-good projects like the “Public Market” and inconveniently located homeless shelters. We will remember this when voting for Mayor and Alders next election.

Marina Haan
608 274-6562
Madiuson, WI 53711

From: Jon Becker <jonbecker@aol.com>

Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 8:53 AM

To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: county_board_recipients@co.dane.wi.us; sparkman@countyofdane.com; Kumar, Kristy <KKumar@cityofmadison.com>; Saqqaf, Tariq <TSaqqaf@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: reject the anti-ecoprogressive Recycling Fee (Resource Recovery Special Charge); focus on fare-free transit

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

I oppose the proposed Resource Recovery Special Charge. This is an **anti-ecoprogressive measure**. It is akin to the WisGOP fee penalizing owners of hybrid and electric vehicles.

The city should instead make the Metro system and other public transit fare-free, to maximize opportunity, preferably working with the county of a regional approach.

Transportation costs USA households \$9-10,000 per year on average (and higher gasoline prices seem to be on the horizon). With Metro ridership down drastically due to the pandemic, it is likely that collection of fares—when considering all overhead, including enforcement— is now producing net neutral or even net negative municipal revenue. Fares, which penalize bus riders and other users of public transit, should be replaced by fairer sources of revenue (several viable alternatives are identified in Metro staff 2021 fare options study, flawed as it is in other regards). Fare free transit raises ridership dramatically.

City transportation planning staff has, for over a decade, pointed out that elimination of on-board fare collection, along with provision of all-door boarding, would allow Metro regular routes to be operated at BRT-equivalent speed. Metro staff leadership in 2021 has publicly stated that such an enhancement in speed potentially would allow as much as a 25% increase in capacity and service, using existing bus stock and personnel; this in turn would increase federal transit funds paid to Metro.

Experts assert that, for municipal climate action to be successful, there must be a significant transportation mode shift to public transit. **Fare-free or zero-fare transit would allow** households to reduce or eliminate Vehicles Per Household (and thus "embodied carbon" from extraction and manufacturing

emissions), as well as Vehicle Miles Traveled (eliminating the need for new road capacity and reducing congestion).

Along with Vehicle Demand Management, fare-free transit is crucial for climate action success, with an equitable transition.

Jon Becker
Madison 53704

From: dpilsner@sbcglobal.net <dpilsner@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 12:58 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: [All Alders] Recycle Fee

Recipient: All Alders

Name: David Pilsner
Address: 1902 Schlimgen Ave, Madison, WI 53704
Phone: 608-241-7102
Email: dpilsner@sbcglobal.net

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

Message:

I'm opposed to this fee based on the fact that the sponsors are either West Side or apartment dwellers. I'm retired and living on a fixed income. Fifty dollars to you folks may not seem much, but for some of us, it takes away from other expenses. And you wonder why folks have to move out of the City. This is just a start, refuse fees will be next. We need leadership that have the "guts" to control a reasonable budget so we don't need all these fees. You just can't keep "bleeding" us citizens dry. Please reject this fee and find another way to balance the budget. I've always said that you could go to any city department and eliminate at least one position. Every department has wasteful employees that are sitting around waiting for retirement or just sitting around. Take a serious look and you'll see I'm right. Maybe you could add an amendment to exempt retired citizens from this fee.

From: Dan Young <day6553@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 1:05 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Recycling Tax, aka "Recovery Fee"

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

Dear Council Members:

I am again writing to express my opposition to the proposed regressive recycling tax, (aka "recovery fee"), that the Mayor and some of you are proposing. After listening to the Finance Committee on April 12 and reading Alder Furman's comments in the Capital Times, I am even more convinced that this regressive tax needs to be defeated.

Your tax revenue is already increasing, largely due to escalating property values, but you still cannot live within your means, as we taxpayers have to do. You want unlimited sources of new revenue. And, you refuse to make hard choices and live within your means. It's your job! And, we pay you to do it!

As *The Capital Times* reported, Alder Furman said "This will only get worse," and that the 2023 budget will need to be even more clever with how it addresses budget gaps. YES, YOUR "CLEVER" REGRESSIVE TAXATION WILL GET WORSE IF YOU CONTINUE! Last time it was a regressive wheel tax; now a regressive recycling tax; what next?

During the finance committee debate, the supporters/city staff said that the new fee has to be a flat fee per property, not number of bins, and with no opt out; or, otherwise, we encourage people not to recycle. The City already does not follow that logic!! A sticker is required to pick up tossed appliances, rather than include that with our basic services. That encourages people to avoid the fee. Have most of you ever even been in downtown Madison during student moves with the large volume of trashed appliances that get picked up by the city crews, without anyone paying the required fees that other property owners have to pay for appliance disposal?

High taxes make housing less affordable and regressive taxes, (such as your wheel tax and proposed recycling tax), contribute to income inequality. I thought that you cared about people having affordable housing, apparently not owner-occupied housing.

There is nothing progressive about the proposed recycling tax. Not even with its Orwellian "recovery fee" sugar coating name.

Sincerely yours.

Daniel Young
Quincy Avenue
Madison WI

From: ARTS.brj@gmail.com <arts.brj@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 1:36 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Martin, Arvina <district11@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: NO on Recycling Tax, aka "Recovery Fee"

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

I agree with Dan. Please vote NO on the regressive tax called "recovery Fee," —

Thanks,

Brian Rieselman,
Arts Writer, Isthmus, et al

On Apr 18, 2022, at 1:05 PM, Dan Young <day6553@hotmail.com> wrote:

Dear Council Members:

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High taxes make housing less affordable and regressive taxes, (such as your wheel tax and proposed recycling tax), contribute to income inequality. I thought that you cared about people having affordable housing, apparently not owner-occupied housing.

There is nothing progressive about the proposed recycling tax. Not even with its Orwellian "recovery fee" sugar coating name.

Sincerely yours.

Daniel Young
Quincy Avenue
Madison WI

From: Ssenstrom2@charter.net <Ssenstrom2@charter.net>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 4:43 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: [All Alders] Recycling Fee

Recipient: All Alders

Name: Sondra Enstrom
Address: 6001 Danville Dr, Madison , Wi 53719
Phone: 609-274-4798
Email: Ssenstrom2@charter.net

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

Message:

Another fee placed on the backs of taxpayers in a time when people are struggling to make ends meet is unconscionable. People on a fixed incomes are being forced out their homes with the constant increasing fees and taxes. Are you going to build tiny homes for them too?

From: Swestley@mac.com <Swestley@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 5:21 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: [All Alders] Recycling fee

Recipient: All Alders

Name: Sandra Westley
Address: 3705 Susan Lane, Madison, WI 53704
Email: Swestley@mac.com

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

Message:

Hello city council, please do not approve the additional fee for recycling. Trash and recycling is a city service funded through taxes and 'special charges' are becoming common place within Madison's budgeting. Please do the courageous thing and look at the city budget and make the hard choices we have all had to make with our budgets. Look at each area within the city structure and determine where efficiencies can be made. Start your evaluation of the budget at the top of the cities structure. If recycling practices need to change, change them, do not keep dipping into taxpayers pockets when decisions get hard. In the past several years, a forestry tax and wheel tax have been added. This is not an occasional cup of coffee that we are not buying, this is now approaching cutting into the basics of shelter and food for us and many others. Make the hard decisions and stop being so cavalier with taxpayers money. Madison is quickly becoming an unaffordable place to live.

From: dust710 <dust710@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 6:45 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject:

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

I am against the recycling fee. We already have some of the highest property taxes in Dane county. The water bill had already doubled in the last 10 years.
trail

Dustin Pauls 3637 sabertooth

From: GeorgeBarb Perkins <geobarbperkins@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 9:00 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Vote “No” on Resource Recovery Special Charge

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

Dear Alders,

Please vote “No” on Resource Recovery Special Charge.

Why?

1. It is regressive — impacting high income, fixed income, and low income without regard for ability to pay.
2. It neither incentivizes recycling nor disincentivizes waste/refuse. In fact it may create a false disincentive for recycling because it adds a tax or fee on an otherwise good and helpful act of recycling. It gives recycling a “bad name” and further arms those who have political agendas against recycling.
3. It creates a fee where no fee should exist; either create a fee for ALL waste and recycling pickup and disposal/reclamation (with a corresponding reduction in property taxes) or continue to pay 100% of the service via property tax.
4. Find a better alternative. Raise funds by taxing at the waste source - non-returnable bottle fees, plastics fees and prohibition, recycled content requirements, variable (per gallon or pound) garbage collection fees, etc. (Just to name a few ideas!)

We refuse to allow Madison to retreat. The city has a history of creative solutions. This recycling fee is a step backwards.

George and Barb Perkins
442 Toepfer Ave
Madison WI 53711-1660
608-442-5558

From: Bbl2212@sbcglobal.net <Bbl2212@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 9:41 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: [All Alders] Recycle Fee

Recipient: All Alders

Name: William Lynch
Address: 3176 Ridgeway Ave, Madison, Wi 53704
Phone: 608-354-6415
Email: Bbl2212@sbcglobal.net

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

Message:

I am opposed to another "forever tax" being enacted and foisted on the citizens of Madison in the form of a sugar coated recycle fee remember the "Wheel Tax". In a recent vote Madison's Finance Committee endorsed the legislation, by a 4-1 vote. Fortunately Alder and Council President Syed Abbas saw that this was a regressive tax and voted against the endorsement. I hope now that you other council members see this for what it is, that this "Resource Recovery Special Charge" is nothing more nor less than another "Forever Tax" in sheep's clothing.

In a recent explanatory email in response to my email opposing the "Special Charge" the Mayor's office blames the need on the State of Wisconsin's imposed limits on what local governments can raise in local taxes and cuts in state funding during the Walker administration. The Mayor's office also states that the City's "2022 budget was approved to assume the adoption of this special charge." Is that how budgeting is done now-a-days, the wishful thinking budget process? An important part of the budgeting process should include cost cutting, not just searching for new revenue streams. What programs have been unproductive or have outlived their usefulness? Your job is to provide the basic needs of your constituency with the revenue stream available through property taxes, not to seek out additional revenue streams and squeeze the homeowner dry while doing it. You must realize that if this measure succeeds there will be others, just as regressive, in the future. It's the new revenue stream grab.

They may call this a fancy name, but it really is a forever tax, that if approved will never go away. This new forever tax is expected to siphon an additional 3 million from Madison home owners pockets per year, in addition to the 6 million currently siphoned from our pockets annually for the wheel tax! It's unfair, regressive and unnecessary. Open your eyes and look seriously at the waste and deadwood in city government and departments. Seriously, is there any reason a city the size of Madison needs four deputy mayors none of them elected of course?

I definitely will not vote for any representative currently in office if this forever tax is enacted. Why is the City desperate for low cost housing, but still trying to tax the homeowner into destitution? I live on a fixed income, as do many others of the city homeowners. We have to live within that income and these moves just cut into our revenue streams. As alders you must develop the same discipline, living within the limits of the legitimate revenue provided by property taxes. My property taxes have gone up every single year I have owned my house 46 years, and yet you folks can't budget with that steady revenue increase. You're not trying hard enough, and you are driving people out of the city. Open your eyes.

William J. Lynch

From: Michael Zenz <michael.zenz@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 11:21 PM

To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Against "Resource Recovery Special Charge" (File # 70344, April 19 Common Council)

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

I am writing in opposition to the "Resource Recovery Special Charge" being considered at the April 19th Common Council meeting. Recycling and trash collection are the sort of basic services that property taxes are intended to pay for. The property tax assessment is particularly well suited for this because it is progressive, affecting residents based upon the amount of property they own in the city. The proposed fee, on the other hand, is regressive and affects lower and fixed income residents more.

I take it that the reason why the Common Council is resorting to a recycling fee is that they routinely tax (and spend) up to the statutory limits allowed by state law. These limits exist to limit the tax burden on residents in the state; the council is attempting to increase this burden in order to pay for various programs. I think this is the wrong way for the council to go about this.

You should first make sure that all basic services (like recycling and trash collection) are paid for and then add program funding (in order of importance) up to (or ideally less than) the statutory assessment limit. This guarantees that any programs not funded because of lack of funds are your lowest priority. On the other hand by imposing additional fees there is essentially no limit to the tax burden that you might impose on residents.

Sincerely,

Michael Zenz

2609 Dahle St

Aldermanic District 12

From: Jesse Wickizer <jessewickizer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 6:31 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: vote "No" on Resource Recovery Special Charge

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

Please vote "No" on Resource Recovery Special Charge.

Tax general refuse instead but don't single out recycling of waste handling costs more than budgeted.

Thanks,

Jesse Wickizer

Madison, WI

From: Mary <mdegroot57@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 7:45 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Recycling add on fee

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

Please with all consideration do not approve an additional fee for recycling bins. At this time we cannot afford more fees/taxes. The time is not right. Do what is in the best interest of the tax payers and vote NO. Stop the spending.

From: jhirsch@chorus.net <jhirsch@chorus.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 7:49 AM
To: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: SpecialCharge <SpecialCharge@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: No on Item #93 Resource Recovery Fee

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

Mayor and Alders:

OPPOSE Item #93 Creating a Resource Recovery Fee on the April 19, 2022 CC Agenda.

Let's not nickel-and-dime Madison residents with individual fees. We are now paying fees for urban forestry, wheel tax, landfill remediation, etc. The estimated \$60/year for the Resource Recovery Fee would increase my annual fees to an estimated \$300/year.

At the same time these fees increase, services from the City continue to decline. This includes a HUGE reduction in hours at the Recycling Drop-Off Sites which include the complete elimination of Sunday and Wednesday hours.

I ask that you reject this fee.

Janet Hirsch

District 9

From: Pat Sammataro <spaniels@charter.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 8:08 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Agenda Item 70344, Resource Recovery Charge

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

I respectfully ask that you reject the proposal for a Resource Recovery Charge. It is regressive in nature and creates a strong disincentive to recycle.

If the Common Council is looking for ways to fund the operating costs of the recycling program, I suggest you look at reducing the number of staff in the Mayor's Office. There are 11 staff members, including a Chief of Staff, an Executive Assistant ,4 Deputy Mayors, and a host of other administrative positions.

Please stop trying to balance your budget on the backs of the taxpayers. Exercise some fiscal responsibility and cut the number of administrative positions in the Mayor's Office and other City departments. That would result in saving money without cutting services to residents or raising fees on already overburdened taxpayers.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Pat Sammataro
3 Birch Circle
Madison, WI 53711

From: C Debevec <cdebevec@rocketmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 9:01 AM

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

Subject: Vote NO on recycling charge

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

Please vote no on adding an extra charge to what is an essential service: recycling.

We are ALL faced with needing to tighten our budget in this time of high inflation and loss of income from pandemic.

Do you not see how ironic it is that you use higher costs due to inflation as the reason for turning around and increasing the costs for your already burdened constituency???? As if nothing has changed in the last two years?

The only word for that is: tone deaf.

You need to do what we all do - cut back on the non-essentials, and if that's not enough then you cut uniformly across the board. That's how it's done in the real world.

I would like it if our leadership could foster more of a "we're all in this together" mindset..... instead of the rather classist attitude that if a lower income person objects to paying "only" \$45 more a year that we are being unreasonable.... or even worse, a REPUBLICAN!!! (as I was accused on one on-line forum)

THANK YOU

Cathy Debevec

1885 E Main St

Madison, WI

From: Cnse55@yahoo.com <Cnse55@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 9:08 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: [All Alders] Recycling

Recipient: All Alders

Name: Tom Gynknopski
Address: 1313 mockingbird ln, Madison , Wi 53716
Phone: 575-621-0463
Email: Cnse55@yahoo.com

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

Message:

NO MORE FEES, stop the over taxation. Wake up

From: tagatzcreek@att.net <tagatzcreek@att.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 9:31 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Resource Recovery Charge

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

Please vote NO on this agenda item.

This is a regressive approach to services and will result in a setback for recycling.

I recall the days prior to tax dollars and incentives for garbage/trash/recycling services in rural areas of the state and finding tires and old windows thrown over a bridge and into a trout stream.

-Bonnie McMullin-Lawton

From: jpbecker28@gmail.com <jpbecker28@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 9:57 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: [All Alders] Resource recovery fee

Recipient: All Alders

Name: James Becker
Address: 217 N Few St, Madison, WI 53703-2423
Email: jpbecker28@gmail.com

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

Message:

Greetings,

Not in favor of. Figure out a way to change state laws limiting property tax increases. Fight back, instead of using "how to get around it" mentality. We will become a city of fees before too long if you don't challenge.

How about a public education campaign showing the harm these rules cause and then a statewide referendum on the matter at next ballot event?

Thank you.
James Becker

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

From: Patricia Oasen <kpoasen2@att.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 10:16 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Recycling Fee

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

Hello,

If it cost so much to recycle, why is the city doing it? I thought recycling should break even. Many cities around the country do not recycle. Perhaps it is time to stop curb side pick up and only have drop off centers. Why should recycling be forced upon a residence. Instead it should be a personal choice.

Stop the ongoing hiding of fees. It is just another name for a tax.

Patty Oasen

From: Steeves, Sheila M <SSteeves@madisoncollege.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 11:08 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Agenda Item No.93. File No. 70344

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ENOUGH WITH THE ADDED TAXES/FEES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Where is the collected wheel tax going??? Where is the money from Creating Section 4.097 of the Madison General Ordinances to Create a Resource Recovery Special Charge this charge going to be spent????? I am tired of our common-council and Mayor thinking they can just keep adding taxes/fees when their pet projects need money!!! Start living within you means and stop giving money away to anyone who requests it!! I have a fixed income and it seems like the common council has no BALLS to say NO to anything. JUST SAY NO!!!

Also, as a citizen of this city, when will I see a budget statement as to where the wheel tax money collected has been spent.

From: Jennifer Argelander <jargelander@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 1:31 PM

To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Abbas, Syed <district12@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Item #93 Legistar 70344

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I oppose this recycling fee. This should be part of essential services and handled that way. Any extra fee will hurt those who can't afford another tax and hence will just stop recycling items and toss everything into the trash. That would defeat the purpose of recycling. Thanks.

Jennifer Argelander

1715 Erie Court

Madison, WI 53704

From: Peggy <peggy188@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 1:48 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: NO "recovery fee" on recycling!!

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Do not dis-incentivize recycling!!

The fees and taxes in Madison are already too high. You have borrowed way too much money and you have put the city and Madison citizens way too much in debt.

Learn how to balance a budget by curbing your spending; NO new programs or special projects. Trash and recycling are basic services, a reason to live in a city. Please do not screw up one of the remaining reasons to not flee to the newer outlying areas around Madison.

If you cannot curb your spending in other ways, please give up your council seats, so that others can give it a go.

Thank you-
Peggy

From: Richard Soletski <dpenguinll@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 2:36 PM

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

Subject: Oppose recycling tax

Importance: High

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Honorable Mayor and City Council:

It is hard to debate the illegitimacy of the City's justification for the recycling tax because of the shape-changing nature of its arguments.

First, it is a matter of equity. Private homes, which are mandated to participate in the recycling program, get "free" pickup, whereas larger housing complexes and businesses do not.

Oh, well if we're concerned about equity, let's look at city services which go to people who are not mandated to use them, but benefit without paying a dime. Like the scores of thousands of bicyclists in the city who use city streets, closed lanes, expensive bike lanes built just for them and bike paths which are whisk-broomed of snow to clear pavement before city streets are plowed. How about a registration fee for bikes to pay for these services. Equity!

Or, the people who choose to go to the Overture Center, Mistake on the Lake or future Public Market. These all require city subsidy. Let the play- or concert-goers pay a facility fee on their tickets. How about a cover charge to get into the market? Why should people who go to the atrium of Olbrich Gardens pay a fee, but a few blocks away, people who choose to go to Garver Feed Mill for pricey food and drinks and stuff, not pay a cover charge?

Equity!

Or charging real cost fares for using the Bus Rapid Transit. With not having to pay attention to traffic lights, \$7, 8 or \$10 wouldn't be a bad price for a ride to downtown or the other side of town that is faster than calling for a cab which is stuck in traffic.

But then the argument goes to the cost of the recycling program is increasing. Yeah, so is the price of tea in China. My property taxes are increasing. Recycling is a mandated (or is it persondated? Which pronoun to use?) basic service.

Then we're told that there was a budget hole that had to be filled. A budget hole that the mayor and council made little effort to cure by reconciling revenues with spending. The city budget was awash

with \$13 million in Covid money. (how lucky can we get?) Money, that while it came with restrictions was used for more dubious things.

The money from the recycling tax doesn't go to fix the budget hole, it is spent elsewhere.

Oh and no matter which Orwellian term the Mayor prefers, it is a tax. The resolution states that if the charge is not current, it will be placed on next year's tax roll as a delinquent TAX!

If this Council and Mayor cannot find \$1.5 million in a \$360,000,000 budget to lapse or cut, they should resign.

Beware general public, future targets identified by the Streets Department as cash cows for taxes are picking up yard waste, the ability to use public drop-off sites and brush collection.

The recycling tax, when proposed and adopted as a concept was estimated at \$3 per month. Surprise, it's now 25% higher before it's even implemented. The excuse that the Streets Department was rushed in its estimate is bullshit. It was a budget initiative which are developed weeks/months in advance. In any case, that's the information the Council had when it approved the concept.

Reminds me of the Forestry Tax, proposed to help fund extra expense for the emerald ash borer. It was pulled out of former alder Mark Clear's ass at \$500,000 per year. By budget time it was \$1 million dollars and I believe it's at least doubled since then.

The money sent to the Forestry line was then freed up for spending on other things. It wasn't related to actual extra costs incurred by the department.

At the special City Council meeting called to approve (slam-through) the largest wheel tax in the state, I referenced the forestry tax and the shell game with taxes. I didn't call out former Alder Clear who was in the room but when he came to the podium, he happily copped to the scheme as a way to get around levy limits.

He and Robbie Weber and other former alders were absolutely giddy when the wheel tax passed. Nothing like higher taxes to "stiffen" tax and spenders.

The Mayor and Council are enabled by feeble local media coverage in this broad daylight shell game.

So, I would ask this of the Council, as Bernie says, "When is enough is enough?"

The Forestry tax, \$74 is the same for a new McMansion on the west side, ensconced in mature woods on a big lot, as my 60s ranch on the east side.

The wheel tax is the same on a beater used by a poor soul to go to a minimum wage job as it is for a developer's BMW to go to his TIF subsidized downtown office.

Now, the recycling tax will be the same for someone who fills it every two weeks with Amazon packaging as it is for a family who puts their food pantry recycleables in their's once a month.

How much is enough to feed the beast? Recycling (\$49) plus Forestry (\$74) plus Wheel (\$40) equals \$163 in regressive, flat rate taxes for basic services. How much is enough? If you vote for the Recycling Tax tonite, have the honesty and please let us know what your limit is. \$250? \$500? \$1,000?

The typical estimated "water bill" these taxes are included on is approaching \$1,000 a year. So much for affordable housing, but that's just a slogan isn't it.

Alder Foster in his blog wants ideas for cuts. Nuh uh. That's your job. As I said, if you can't come up with \$1.5 million in a \$360 million budget, resign. Appoint new people.

And he says that the city understands people's budgets, inflation and the high cost-of-living because the city is facing higher costs too. Um, if I am facing higher costs on my home, I don't buy a summer home (public market). If I can't afford my car I don't spend \$160,000,000 on a new one (Bus Rapid Transit)

But yeah, other than that, it's just the same. (eye-roll)

Everyone on the council asked for signatures and then votes to get the job. Now do it.

And Alder Furman, he of the appoint me to the vacant seat and I'll just serve until the election (and then renege) was quoted as saying 2023 will be even worse with a \$18-20 million dollar hole, and the Mayor and Council will have to be even more clever. No, if the past is predictive, the word is devious.