
****Town of Tunbridge**

Cold-Weather Transfer Station Closure Policy**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to protect the Town's trash compactors from cold-weather damage, ensure safe operations, and provide clear guidance to staff and residents. Extremely low temperatures can cause hydraulic failure, slow cycle times, and unsafe operating conditions. This policy establishes when the Transfer Station must close due to cold weather.

2. Temperature-Based Closure Rule

To prevent equipment damage and ensure staff safety:

➔ The Tunbridge Transfer Station will be CLOSED when the temperature is below 10°F.

This applies to:

- Opening time
- Mid-day temperature drops
- Wind chill conditions that create equivalent strain on equipment

Staff must check the temperature at the start of the shift and monitor conditions throughout the day.

3. Staff Responsibilities

When temperatures fall below 10°F:

- The Transfer Station **does not open**, or closes immediately if already open
- Staff must post temporary signage at the entrance
- Staff must notify the Town Clerk and Selectboard
- Staff must redirect residents to return when temperatures rise
- No compactor operation or waste acceptance may occur

4. Communication

When a closure is required:

- Staff must place “Closed Due to Cold Weather” signage at the gate
- The Town Clerk may post updates on the Town website or Front Porch Forum
- Staff should inform residents who arrive on-site

5. Safety

Under no circumstances should staff attempt to:

- Operate a compactor below 10°F
- Force a frozen hydraulic system to cycle
- Enter the compactor pit or hopper
- Perform repairs beyond their training

6. Reopening

The Transfer Station may reopen when:

- The temperature rises **above 10°F**, and
- The compactor shows no signs of freezing, strain, or malfunction

Staff must perform a visual and operational check before accepting waste.

7. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or after any significant cold-weather event or equipment issue.

The foregoing Policy is hereby adopted by the Selectboard of the Town of Tunbridge, Vermont the 10th day of March 2026 and is effective as of this date until amended or repealed.

Town of Tunbridge Selectboard






