

ISLAND WIDE TRASH COLLECTION INITIATIVE



"What is Piggybacking?"

By Irvin Slike, General Manager

"Piggybacking" is a practice where residents share or utilize legitimate residential or commercial refuse containers, thus reducing the number of users who bear the actual cost of the collection and disposal program. Despite an estimated generation rate of 3.15 lbs. per person and the 2021 population estimate, the projected tonnage to be disposed at Layon Landfill should be around 98,242 tons. However, the actual recorded tonnage was 96,923 tons, according to GSWA waste data spanning from 2010-2021.

This indicates that a significant portion of the island's population's waste is being disposed of at the landfill. The Guam Solid Waste Authority (GSWA) is of the opinion that illegal dumping does not significantly contribute to waste disposal from the 18,000 residents who choose not to register for refuse collection. The tipping face size at Layon measures approximately 85 by 25 by 8 feet, equivalent to about 630 cubic yards or 40 dump truck loads per day.



Given these factors, it is more plausible that piggybacking is occurring, allowing residents to share or misuse refuse containers intended for legitimate use. **This practice results in a reduced number of users bearing the true cost of the collection and disposal program.**