

**To owners  
of second homes  
in the territory  
of the Commune of Hérémente**

Hérémente, December 2017

Our ref.: LUR / PAD

**Household waste management  
Introduction of the pay-per-bag tax in French-speaking Valais from  
1 January 2018**

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you will have learned from the media, the communes in French-speaking Valais have decided to introduce the collection of household waste in official taxed bags.

This change is not a deliberate decision but a legal obligation which, among other matters, applies the "polluter pays" principle. This has two main effects which has led to the complete revision of the Communal Regulation on waste management:

- The obligation to create a system that must link billing variable costs to the amount of waste produced.
- The obligation to self-finance the waste management budget, which has not been the case so far, as communal taxes, in addition to the charges collected, covered a part of the costs created by this budget.

This new regulation was approved by the Primary Assembly and is currently being approved by the Council of States.

In anticipation of these changes, we have had set up for many years a waste separation and recycling system in the commune. This resulted in the complete reorganisation of rubbish dumps and the creation of eco-points that allow sorted waste collection at these sites. Annual statistics confirm that these changes have become customary through the regular fall in the amount of household waste and the increase in the amount of sorted materials for recycling.

The system set up in French-speaking Valais has the benefit of not requiring citizens to purchase bags at a single point of sale in the commune, as they will be identical in all communes and, in principle, available in all shops of the relevant sector.

As the owner of a second home, you will see, like all residents, a change in collected taxes which will be divided into a basic tax calculated for residences based on the number of rooms and a variable tax, arising from your use of taxed bags.

You are also responsible for compliance with the new regulation for people who use your flat or chalet (rent or loan) and thus the use of taxed bags (Art. 24(3) of the Regulation). We thus ask you to provide official bags when renting the property to facilitate the sorting and use of eco-points.

We enclose herewith the new "Guide for managing your household waste", which has been fully reviewed and improved. If necessary, additional copies can be obtained free of charge from the Communal Administration.

We advise you that checks will be in place to ensure the correct operation of our disposal system. Infringements will lead to penalties that could result in a fine of CHF 10,000.00, or a claim for damages (Article 24(1) of the Regulation) for littering in a public space, the use of unauthorised bags or failure to comply with the regulation and instructions.

If necessary, you will find further information on

- the website [www.trier-pas-sorcier.ch](http://www.trier-pas-sorcier.ch) concerning the system in Valais and general information
- <https://www.heremence.ch/commune/reglements-89.html> to see the *Communal Regulation on Waste Management and the provision for the application of the regulation to waste management*,
- at the Communal Administration for any information.

We thank you for your assistance in applying these new provisions. We hope that beyond the legal obligation, the introduction of the pay-per-bag tax will represent a real opportunity to change our habits to protect our environment and improve our quality of life.

Yours faithfully,

HEREMENCE  
COMMUNAL ADMINISTRATION

P.S.

Eine Übersetzung des vorliegenden Schreibens finden Sie auf unserer Website



**The new official pay-per-bag tax is in force from 01.01.2018**

**Price per taxed bag:**

- 17 litres : CHF 0.95
- 35 litres : CHF 1.90
- 60 litres : CHF 3.40
- 110 litres : CHF 6.20

**Available in shops in French-speaking Valais**