



CITIZEN'S FACT SHEET: THE MADAKET STRANGLEHOLD

April 1, 2026 - Public Hearing Briefing

THE \$4.4 MILLION 'BROKEN' ASSET

THE QUESTION: Did the Town know the 180-foot Bedminster Digester had a structural crack extending 40% around its circumference before they spent \$4.4 million in 'Free Cash' to buy it in 2025?

THE FACT: The machine is currently held together by a 15-foot welded 'metal collar.' It suffers 8-12 weeks of downtime for gear failure and shell thinning. We bought a 30-year-old liability.

THE 'NANTUCKET GOLD' MYTH

THE QUESTION: Where are the receipts? Can the DPW show any revenue from off-island compost sales in the last 24 months?

THE FACT: Because the digester is structurally compromised, it cannot stay hot enough (131F+) to kill invasive seeds. The 'Gold' is contaminated with plastic and glass. 50% of what goes in comes out as 'Residuals' (trash) that we have to bury anyway.

THE \$5 MILLION HOLE

THE QUESTION: If our 'innovative' composting system works, why did the Town just budget \$5,065,000 for a new landfill expansion (Cell 3B)?

THE FACT: We are spending \$5M to dig a new hole because our \$4.4M machine is failing to divert the waste. We are paying for a solution and a failure at the same time.

THE STEAMSHIP 'DEADHEAD'

THE QUESTION: Why are off-island trash trucks allowed to travel empty to Nantucket, taking up vital deck space, while residents can't get a reservation?

THE FACT: By replacing local haulers with an off-island monopoly, we are 'Deadheading.' This wastes boat space on 'Hazardous' freight trips that are hidden from the public schedule.

THE 'CASE-BY-CASE' FAVORITISM

THE QUESTION: Who decides which contractors get 'exceptions' to the 100-ton waste cap?

THE FACT: The new 'discretionary' clause allows the Town to pick winners and losers behind closed doors. This lacks transparency and punishes local industry while protecting a muddled contract.

THE BOTTOM LINE: We gave the operator a raise (\$800K), we bought the broken building (\$4.4M), and we are digging a new hole (\$5M). Why are we still in an 'Emergency'?