

PAY AS YOU THROW

A COMMUNITY SOLUTION FOR THE RISING COST OF SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL



PAY AS YOU THROW

WHAT IS IT?

Pay As You Throw (PAYT) is a different way of paying for waste collection and disposal services. In some communities, it works on a per-container basis: households are charged for each bag or can of waste they generate. A few communities bill residents based on the weight of their trash. Recycling is free. Either way, the system motivates people to recycle more and to think about ways to generate less waste from the start.

For many people, however, the most important advantage may be the fairness and greater control over costs that it offers. Do you have neighbors that never seem to recycle and always leave out six or seven bags of trash? While you may not have thought about it, right now you are helping them pay for that waste. Under PAYT, people only pay for what they generate – so you don't have to subsidize your neighbors' wastefulness. It's only fair. With PAYT, when you recycle and prevent waste, you're rewarded with a lower trash bill.

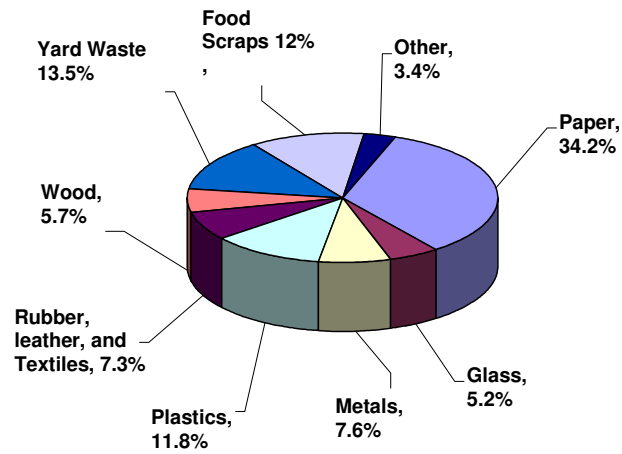
Because of these potential cost savings, both you and your neighbors will naturally want to reduce the amount of waste that you generate. And when you reduce waste, you help lower costs for your community, since it costs less to collect and dispose of everyone's trash. This might even free up funding for other municipal services upon which you depend – like schools, and fire and police protection.

PAY AS YOU THROW FACTS

- Forty-five towns and cities in New Hampshire have PAYT.
- Over 7,000 towns and cities nationwide have PAYT.
- New Hampshire communities with PAYT programs have reported average reductions in waste amounts ranging from 25 to 35 percent.
- PAYT works with both drop-off service and curbside service. It works very well with single stream recycling!
- Illegal dumping has not been a problem for most communities.
- Trash disposal is not free. It is paid for either by property taxes or charges from the haulers. The average household pays \$242 a year in property taxes to dispose of waste. Some households pay haulers directly for convenience.
- Often solid waste disposal is the third or fourth highest line item in the town budget, exclusive of education costs
- PAYT offers people a means to control their waste disposal costs.

Recycling is good for our planet, and will reduce the need for more landfills and incinerators in New Hampshire.

WHAT'S IN YOUR GARBAGE?



New Hampshire Solid Waste Facts 2007

| Source of waste | Tons |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Residential | 705,664 |
| Commercial/industrial | 651,277 |
| Construction & Demolition | 364,492 |
| Total Tonnage | 1,731,433 |

- Each person in NH generates an average of 7.1 pounds of waste per day.
- Each person generates more than 1 ton per year
- It costs the average person in NH \$86.22 to throw out the garbage
- The solid waste industry in NH is estimated at \$290 million per year and it employs almost 5000 people.

RECYCLING MAKES \$ENSE!

ALMOST ALL OF YOUR WASTE CAN BE RECYCLED

- 1 . Food Waste** – With the exception of meat, dairy products and eggs, you can compost almost anything organic. Mix vegetable waste from the kitchen with your leaf litter and grass clippings and you will have great soil additive in no time. Compost bins are available from your local transfer station or garden center.
- 2 . Paper and Cardboard** – Almost all paper is recyclable as long as it is free from food material. Recycling markets for cardboard and paper are at all time highs. Junk mail, newspaper, cardboard packaging, egg cartons, office paper and even paper towels can be recycled. Thirty-four percent of your trash is paper – please make an effort to recycle it.
- 3 . Containers** – Plastic water bottles, soda cans and glass bottles are all recyclable. Aluminum cans are worth a lot of money right now. Plastic bottles are made into clothing, plastic wood like decking and even new bottles. Ground glass bottles are used for a gravel substitute in roads.
- 4 . Metal** – Steel, iron, copper and other metals are very valuable and are easily recycled.

It costs less to use recycled materials in place of raw materials because less energy and natural resources are used. Recycling also reduces greenhouse gases.



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