Pay-As-You-Throw for Trash in the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Region

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What is NEWMOA?

- Non-profit, non-partisan interstate association
- Solid waste, hazardous waste, waste site cleanup, & pollution prevention programs
- CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, RI, & VT
- Formally recognized by EPA in 1986
- More information at: www.newmoa.org

NEWMOA is an equal opportunity provider & employer
Project Promoting Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT)

- **New Hampshire:**
  - Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission
  - Department of Environmental Services

- **Vermont:**
  - Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District
  - Windham Solid Waste Management District
  - Department of Environmental Conservation

- Contacted over 15 small communities that have PAYT in some form or another - developed case studies
- Can help towns investigate & design their PAYT system

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What is Pay-As-You-Throw?

- **A system that saves $$$ in town budgets**
  - NOT an added cost - just changes the way waste management is paid for
Pay-As-You-Throw: How?

- Residents pay according to the amount of trash they generate for disposal
  - generate less = pay less
  - generate more = pay more

- Flexible - towns can design their system
  - residents pay per bag, container, or weight
  - fees set to cover some, most, or all costs

Why Pay-As-You-Throw?

- Removes costs from the town budget
  - how much depends on the rates the town decides on:
    - fees can be set to cover all or just a portion of the costs associated with trash & recycling
Why Pay-As-You-Throw?

- **Fair for residents**
  - pay only for what you use
  - those producing less trash aren’t subsidizing those that produce more
  - can choose to lower your cost by:
    - smart purchasing choices (i.e., buy products in less packaging)
    - recycling / reusing
    - composting - kitchen scraps & leaf/yard

Why Unit-Based Pricing?

- **More reasons:**
  - some towns turn to UBP to stop influx of trash from non-residents
  - reduces the amount of trash managed
    - reduces hauling frequency/costs
    - reduces disposal fees
    - increases recycling & composting
What is NOT Pay-As-You-Throw?

- Transfer station sticker on vehicle
- Punch-card that is canceled once per-trip
- Fixed monthly fee for curbside pickup

Bottom line: the amount paid varies with the amount thrown away

PAYT @ Transfer Stations

- Usual options:
  - special bags
  - stickers - affix to bag provided by resident
  - punch-cards - one space per bag/container
- Requires convenient sale locations
- Some administrative costs for town:
  - purchase bags/stickers/punch-cards
  - sell - directly and/or to local merchants
  - keep track of inventory
  - manage $
PAYT @ Transfer Stations - Issues

- Requires operator to only allow trash in special bags or with the sticker - or mark punch-card for each bag
  - stickers can fall off... or not?
- Best if transfer station attendants do not handle $,
  - helps flow during busy times
  - residents can’t dispute charges

PAYT @ Transfer Stations

- Can implement without bag/sticker/punch-card
  - residents use their own bag or container & operator collects $,
    - computerized cash register with receipts - helps accounting
  - OR contract out operation: collected fees only payment
    - Orford, New Hampshire & Newark, Vermont
- Typical charge that covers all costs: $3 per 32 gallons
  - many communities have 2 or 3 sizes (15, 32 & “contractor”) & fees
PAYT & Curbside Pickup

- Special bags (or stickers) - easiest option
  - requires convenient sale locations & some administrative costs
  - can put bags in containers if problems with animals

- Containers
  - different fees for different sizes
    - 32 gallon base size (or smaller) - 2X base fee for larger size
  - administrative costs to bill monthly/quarterly & collect
  - requires trash collectors to keep track of extra trash so additional fee can be charged
  - or require special bags/stickers for “extra” trash

- Trash collectors must leave all improper trash at the curb
Curbside Pick-Up: Plainfield, NH

- Population: 2,241
- PAYT since 1991
- 50/50 Split: PAYT fees & Town budget
- $2 sticker per 30 pounds
- Stickers sold at several local stores

Curbside Pick-Up: Hinsdale, NH

- Population: 1,548
- PAYT since late 1990’s
- Fees paying off landfill closure costs
- Special bags
  - $1 / 15 gallon
  - $2 / 30 gallon
- Bags sold at Town offices & local stores
Transfer Station: Unity, NH

- Population: 1,530
- PAYT since landfill closed in 2008
- Fees cover ~3/4 costs
- Require special bags
  - $2.00 / 33 gallon bag
  - sold at the transfer station

Transfer Station: Piermont

- Population: 709
- PAYT since 2001
- Fees cover all costs
- Require special bags
  - $2.50 / 33 gallon
  - sold at Town offices & local general store
- Disposal ↓ ~220 tons/yr. before to 99 tons in 2013
- Recycling ↑ ~50 tons/yr. before to 98 tons in 2013
Transfer Station: Newark, VT

- Population: 581
- Removed all costs from Town budget
- Contractor operates - paid by fees only
  - $2 / 15 gallon
  - $3 / 30 gallon
  - $4 / “contractor”
- Disposal: 33.39 tons to 14.4 tons (4th Q 2012 vs 4th Q 2013)

Next Steps for Communities

- Establish Solid Waste Committee
  - understand current costs: labor, hauling, disposal, recycling & capital expenses
  - initiate ongoing public education/input process
  - determine how much fees should cover
    - all trash & recycling costs
    - most costs
    - just hauling & disposal
    - disposal only
    - capital expenses
More Next Steps

- Determine type of system
  - bags vs. containers
  - 1 size vs. multiple sizes

- Determine fee structure
  - estimate post-PAYT trash & recycling quantities & costs (include PAYT administration)
  - determine PAYT rate(s)
    - evaluate feasibility & modify as necessary
    - best to set similar/higher than nearby towns

Final Steps

- Plan for logistics
  - if bags/stickers/punch-cards, where will they be sold?
  - if containers, will they be provided?
  - how will fees be collected & managed?

- Educate & obtain plan approval

- Publicize new system to residents
  - alert those with commercial dumpsters to restrict access
Questions?
Or
Request Assistance

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