

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



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(NEWMOA)  
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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](http://www.newmoa.org)



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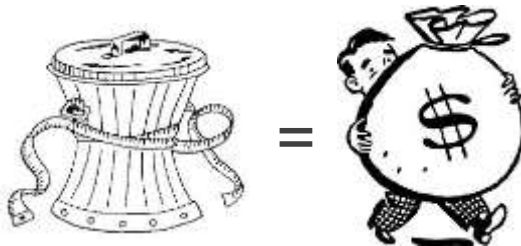
## Project Promoting Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT)

- ▶ 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





## 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  $\sim\frac{3}{4}$  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 ↓  $\sim$ 220 tons/yr. before to 99 tons in 2013
- ▶ Recycling ↑  $\sim$ 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  
(4<sup>th</sup> Q 2012 vs 4<sup>th</sup> 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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