

# Warrant Article 3: Pay-As-You-Throw

## Questions & Answers

### What is Pay-As-You-Throw?

Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) is a program that charges residents for waste disposal based on the amount they throw away rather than charging based on the value of their house.

### How will it work?

Residents purchase special trash bags at the local stores for their waste. The special bags are the only ones allowed in the packer truck. There's no change to the way recyclables are handled and visits to "Da Dump" will be much the same as they are now.

### Why adopt PAYT?

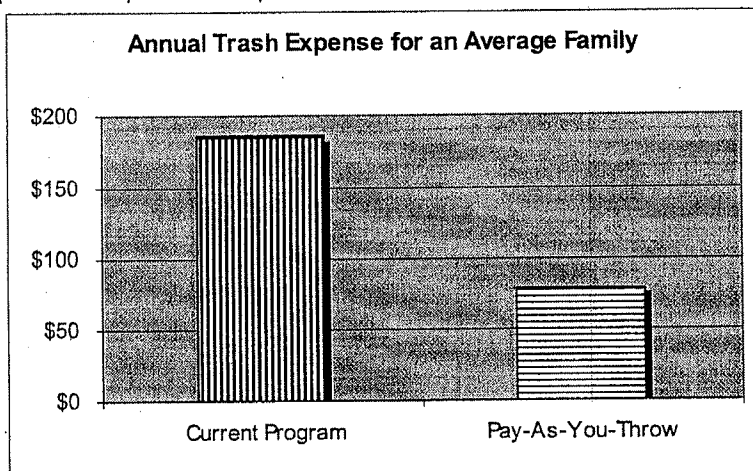
Because it has proven in 38 NH towns and 6000 towns across the U.S.A. to dramatically reduce overall waste generation and increase recycling.

### What are the benefits?

- It saves the town money - our trash tonnage and disposal costs are rising every year at a rate much higher than our growth rate. From 1990 to 2005 our population has grown 33%, our trash tonnage has grown 86% and our costs have grown 108%. Solid waste expense is expected to exceed \$150,000 a year by 2010. Bag revenue from PAYT offsets this expense and reduces the tax rate accordingly.
- It's good for the environment - reduced waste and more recycling conserves resources, reduces air and ground water pollution and extends the life of landfills and incinerators.
- It's more equitable - people pay only for as much trash service as they need, it rewards recyclers, it give residents control over their trash bill.
- It allows Canterbury to "walk the talk" and demonstrate our willingness to help solve the problem of future landfills.

### What will it cost and how much will I save?

33 gallon bags will be \$1.50 each. 15 gallon bags will be 75 cents each. Under PAYT an average family can get by on one large bag a week for an annual cost of \$78. Under the present system, if you have a \$200,000 house your 2005 cost was \$186. You save \$108.



### How will it affect the tax rate?

Revenue from the sale of the bags in the first full year of operation will cover all of the Solid Waste operating budget and Solid Waste Disposal costs (\$109,809 in 2005) for the Town. Covering these line items with bag revenue would have reduced the town tax rate by 92 cents per thousand in 2005.

### Are there drawbacks?

Very few - the less you recycle the more you will pay and you'll have to purchase special bags that will only be available at certain locations.

### Can we be sure that the bag revenue is really used for solid waste costs and won't just disappear into the general fund?

Yes! State law RSA 31:95-c allows the Town to set up a special revenue fund, separate from the general fund, for bag revenue, recycling revenue and dump fees. Money in such a fund can only be used for solid waste expenses and cannot be used for any other purpose. Such a fund is included in the proposed warrant article.

### What about low income families on assistance?

Trash disposal under PAYT is considered a service charge, comparable to other utilities, and is factored into the assistance program by the Town Welfare Administrator.

### Why can't we recycle more items?

Partly because we don't have the space at Da Dump for all marketable recyclables (styrofoam, bubble wrap, plastic bags) and partly because presently there isn't a market for all items (yoghurt cups, certain plastics). The recycling markets are always changing and we add new items as we can (for instance electronics, added this past October).

### Will this create more illegal dumping?

No. Based on the documented experience of the 38 towns in NH with PAYT and the thousands of towns around the country there will be little or no increase in illegal dumping. Based on our own experience with the adoption of mandatory recycling in 1989, Canterbury residents have been and will continue to be responsible about their waste disposal.

### Will this mean that the Transfer Station needs to grow?

At some point, yes. To accommodate our growing population, provide efficiency and maximize recycling, "Da Dump" will have to be updated in the future to meet the growing needs of the Town.

### What do we do with big stuff that won't fit in a bag?

In addition to bags, the town will sell coupons for bulky items that won't go in a bag.

**The Recycling Committee respectfully requests your support of Warrant Article 3 at Town Meeting. Please contact us if you have questions, suggestions or ideas.**