

Municipal Solid Waste Unit-based Pricing (UBP)¹ Case Study

Hinsdale, New Hampshire²
Population: 1,548

Prepared by: The Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA)³

The Town of Hinsdale is located in a rural area in the southeast corner of New Hampshire on the border with both Massachusetts and Vermont. When Hinsdale's landfill needed to be closed in the late 1990s, the Town adopted a "Pay-per-Bag" system to pay for the closure costs. Hinsdale operates a transfer station and provides curbside pickup for residents. Hinsdale decided that all residents must use special blue bags for their trash. The bags are sold at the transfer station, the Town offices, and several local stores. Recycling drop-off at the transfer station and curbside pick-up are free for residents.

Current fees are \$1.00 for 15 gallon bags and \$2.00 for 30 gallon bags, which generates over \$85,000 per year in revenue. Once the cost of closing the landfill is paid off, the Town plans to deposit its fee revenues in the Town's general fund to offset the cost of operating the transfer station and curbside service. The transfer station is open Fridays and Saturdays from 7:00 – 3:00. Curbside pickup occurs on Wednesdays.

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¹ Also known as: variable rate pricing, pay-as-you-throw (PAYT), and save-money-and-reduce-trash (SMART).

² The information in the case study is based on correspondence with Jill Collins, Hinsdale Town Administrator.

³ NEWMOA is a non-profit, non-partisan interstate association whose membership is composed of the state environmental agency directors of the hazardous waste, solid waste, waste site cleanup, and pollution prevention programs in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Visit www.newmoa.org.