

Municipal Solid Waste Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT)¹

Case Study

Piermont, New Hampshire²
Population: 709

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

The Town of Piermont is a rural community located in northern New Hampshire on the border with Vermont about halfway between Saint Johnsbury and Lebanon. In the late 1990's, Piermont had problems associated with residents and non-residents taking advantage of their property tax-based method of paying for disposal. The Town was searching for methods to reduce costs when representatives attended a regional meeting where they learned about pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) and its successful implementation in other New Hampshire communities. The concept was presented to Town Meeting in 2000, where it was approved and instituted in 2001.

Today, approximately 80 percent of residents bring their trash and sorted recyclables to the transfer station where recycling is free and the fee for trash is \$2.50 for a 33 gallon size bag and \$2.00 for a small bag. Piermont requires that residents use specific bags purchased by the Town and sold to residents at the Town offices and the local general store. The transfer station is open for several hours on Saturdays and Sundays, and Wednesday evenings in the summer only.

Results:

- The amount of trash disposed was cut in half – from approximately 220 tons a year before PAYT, to 99.27 tons in 2013.
- The amount of recycling doubled – from approximately 50 tons a year before PAYT to 98 tons in 2013.
- Fees collected from bag sales, combined with the income generated from recyclables, typically covers all of the cost to operate the transfer station, including labor and disposal.
- Piermont did not notice an increase in illegal disposal.
- Town officials are happy with their PAYT system and complaints are rare.

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This material is based on work supported by the Utilities Program, United States Department of Agriculture. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the view of the Utilities Program.

¹ Also known as: variable rate pricing, unit-based pricing (UBP), and save-money-and-reduce-trash (SMART).

² The information in the case study is based on correspondence with Wayne Godfrey, Piermont Transfer Station Manager.

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.