



PRESS RELEASE

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Department of Public Works

Pay-As-You-Throw Comes to Old Town

Beginning January 1, Old Town will be adopting a new system of trash collection and management called “pay-as-you-throw” that will help both residents and the City save money and increase recycling participation. While the recycling program in Old Town has been a success, the cost associated with the amount of waste the City is disposing of from residents continues to rise. This led officials and the City’s Department of Public Works to search for alternatives that would help reduce waste across the community.

What they have found is pay-as-you-throw. Currently, funding for trash collection and disposal comes from the City’s budget, which is supported by residents’ property taxes. Since residents are not charged directly for the collection and disposal of their trash, the true cost of this service is masked. Pay-as-you-throw takes a different approach. Residents under this system are charged for each bag of waste they put out at the curb. This gives them an incentive to generate less: the less they toss, the less they pay.

In this way, waste collection becomes a fee-based service, just like electricity, gas, and other utilities. This is fairer, because residents are asked to pay only for the service they use. For the first time, residents are in control of the amount they pay for waste collection. And since households will be generating less waste, the town’s waste collection and disposal costs also will decrease. In addition, recycling will increase, because the more residents recycle, the less waste they will need to pay for.

Participating in Old Town’s new program will be easy. Residents can purchase special 15 or 33 gallon bags at several different retailers in town (a final list of participating stores will be announced before January 1). The bags will cost \$1.50 and \$2.00 respectively, and will be marked with the City’s seal. All residents have to do is place their trash in these bags for collection (only trash in the special bags will be collected).

**See reverse side for frequently asked questions regarding our
January 1st 2013 conversion to Pay-As-You-Throw.**

**Be on the lookout for more information arriving
in the mail, including two complimentary City
of Old Town PAYT bags to get you started.**

Pay-As-You-Throw

Frequently Asked Questions

Who does this impact?

Anyone who receives municipal curbside trash collection, which we define as all single family homes, and multi-families of four units or less. If you are unsure whether or not you are impacted, or have additional questions beyond what we cover below, please reach out to our Director of Public Works, John Rouleau, at 827-3974.

What is Pay As You Throw?

Pay As You Throw (PAYT) is a fee-based trash program that helps residents and the City save money and increase recycling participation by charging for each bag of waste placed at the curb. Since recycling service is free, PAYT provides an economic incentive to waste less and recycle more. The less you toss, the less you pay.

Where can I buy these PAYT bags?

Since only waste in City approved PAYT bags will be collected at the curb (with the exception of two personal vehicle tires per week) we wanted to make purchasing as convenient as possible. A list of several local businesses selling bags will be maintained on the City's website, including places you probably already shop, such as Hannaford and IGA. Bags are available in two sizes, 15 or 33 gallon, at a cost per bag of \$2.00 or \$1.50 respectively. For additional convenience they are sold in sleeves of five, with an insert containing more information on PAYT and our Zero-Sort® Recycling program.

How does PAYT work?

Just toss your non-recyclable waste in the City approved PAYT bag and place it at the curb or in your trash can by 7AM as you always have. Because so much less waste is generated with this combination of PAYT and Zero-Sort® Recycling, many families who were used to dragging two barrels to the curb find they need just one, and repurpose the other barrel for all their newly discovered recycling (free stickers are available at City Hall to convert your can from trash to recycling).

When did we adopt PAYT?

In July of 2011 City Council approved the implementation for PAYT for January 1st, 2013. At this time we also introduced every-other-week Zero-Sort® Recycling collection. The new recycling program is much more convenient because all your recyclables can be placed in a single bin, no more sorting! Most importantly, this change allowed us to dramatically increase the types of material we could recycle. Please visit the City's website or zerosort.com for additional details.

Why did we move in this direction?

While the recycling program in Old Town has been a success, the cost associated with the amount of waste the City is disposing of from residents continues to rise. Rather than simply raise taxes, we searched for alternatives that would help reduce waste across the community and bring a sense of fairness and equity to the process, similar to paying for water, electricity, and other utilities.

Pay-As-You-Throw

Waste Not, Pay Not

GARBAGE is a service just like electricity, gas, and water. You pay for only for what you use of these utilities. Why should garbage be any different?

It's not.

Thousands of communities across the United States have a new system for paying for trash pickup and disposal. It's called "PAY AS YOU THROW."

PAY AS YOU THROW is a system that charges residents for trash services based on the amount of waste they throw away. The system is fair to everyone, and it puts you in control of how much you spend on trash.

Less trash is good for the environment.

Reducing the amount of waste you create can help:

- Save landfill space.
- Conserve materials that are used in manufacturing packaging and products.
- Reduce energy usage in manufacturing and transporting materials.
- Prevent pollution from manufacturing and transporting materials.
- Curb global warming by reducing the greenhouse gases that result from some manufacturing processes and transportation.



The fewer garbage bags or cans you fill, the smaller your trash bill. In the past, you weren't rewarded in dollars and cents for reducing, reusing, and recycling.

Less trash saves you money.
Now you can be!

Pay-as-you-throw means waste reduction counts. As you take less and less trash to the curb, you'll notice the difference in what you spend.

Less trash is good for the local economy.

Though you might not realize it, you are paying for your trash services now. Your local taxes pay for trash pickup and disposal.

It costs the community more and more money each year to pick up trash. Reducing the amount of waste you throw away will reduce the cost to the community. And that translates into less money that you have to pay as well. It also means that there might be more resources available for other community programs and services.

TEN TIPS FOR REDUCING WASTE

1. Participate in our curbside Zero-Sort® Recycling program provided by Casella.
2. Buy products with less packaging.
3. Buy products in bulk. Use concentrated products, such as juice and household cleaners.
5. Buy reusable items, such as razors or batteries, instead of disposable ones.
6. Share items with a neighbor or friend.
7. Donate useful items once you are finished with them, such as books, supplies, furniture, or clothing, instead of throwing them away.
8. Rent items that you use only once in a while.
9. Compost food scraps and yard trimmings, and leave grass clippings on the lawn.
10. Request that your name be removed from mailing lists and other sources of bulk mail.

See reverse side for details about our curbside Zero-Sort® Recycling program.

Old Town Residents... ALL TOGETHER NOW!



Cartons

Aluminum & metal cans



#1 thru #7 Plastic bottles & jugs



Phone books



Newspapers, magazines, brochures & inserts



Corrugated cardboard & Paper bags



Greeting cards, regular & junk mail



Cardboard beverage carriers



Paperboard boxes (cereal, pasta & tissue)



NO

NO NEED TO REMOVE:

Paper clips, stamps, address labels, staples, tape, metal fasteners, cellophane address windows, rubber bands, spiral bindings, plastic tabs

- Scrap metal

- Plastic bags

- Plastic 6-pack holders

- Needles or syringes

- Window panes, mirrors, ceramics & Pyrex dishware

- Stickers or address label sheet waste

- Waxed paper or waxed cardboard

- Styrofoam or paper to-go containers

- Organic material and food waste

- Electronic waste (batteries, cell phones, computers, etc.)

Glass bottles & jars



File folders, office paper



Loose metal jar lids & steel bottle caps



Paper towel rolls



Paperback books



Collection occurs **EVERY OTHER WEEK** on your trash pickup day.

For additional information please contact public works at 827-3974 or visit zerosort.com



You can place your recyclables in a large **CLEAR** plastic bag or an easily identified recycling container like these.

