



Pay-As-You-Throw



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 \$1.50 or \$2.00 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 2012 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.