



# Pay As You Throw

## CONSIDERATIONS FOR MUNICIPALITIES

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### PICK A PROGRAM

There are several PAYT options that may work for your community

- Bag Program - where residents cover the cost of their MSW services by purchasing specific town bags to be used for their trash.
  - Punch-card system - residents purchase a punch card and get one punch per bag of trash.
  - Sticker or Tag system - residents attach pre-paid stickers or tags to each trash bag.
  - Weight-based system - residents pay a fee based on the weight of their MSW.
  - Cart or Can system - for those with curbside pick-up, residents are charged based on the size of their container (eg. 35 gallon, 65 gallon, or 95 gallon cart)
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### EDUCATE

Your town officials (Select Board or City Council), town administrator, director of public works, and of course, your residents and other community members! Folks need to know WHAT program you are implementing, HOW it works, and WHY it's important. Education needs to start EARLY. Aim for at least 6 months to a year prior to program implementation.

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### BUDGET

Prior to starting a new PAYT program, create a separate PAYT budget. This will help capture and track the costs and revenues specific to the program. You will also want to decide what costs your PAYT program will include. Will it cover all costs associated with collection and disposal of MSW and recyclables? Or just a portion of those costs? Only tipping fees? Transportation? Labor costs? Additionally, you need to include estimates for the total waste once PAYT is established, start-up and on-going costs, and an estimate for the per container price needed to meet program costs.

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### POLICY

Beyond creating your community's PAYT program plan - the who, what, where, and how it will work - there are additional policy considerations. How will you accommodate low-income, physically handicapped, and elderly residents? How will you accommodate residents of multi-family units?

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### PUT IT TO THE VOTERS

To implement a new PAYT program, you must have town support. Create a warrant article for the annual meeting to adopt PAYT. This should be the final step and, once complete, you're ready to begin your new PAYT program!

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