



CITY OF CHICOPEE PAY-AS-YOU-THROW (PAYT) PROGRAM

In a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) or Save Money and Reduce Trash (SMART) solid waste program, residents purchase official bags or preprinted stickers for disposal of trash, thereby paying directly for the amount of solid waste they generate. A barrel or cart limit of 35 gallons (before the PAYT fee applies) is also considered to be a MassDEP SMART program – or “modified PAYT”. There is no direct fee for recycling.

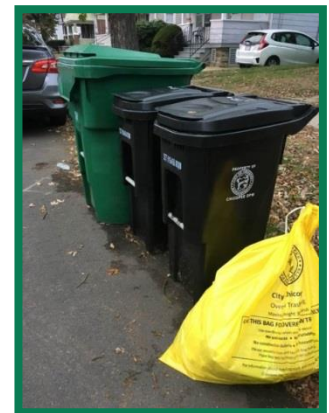
Community Population: 55,293

Households Served: 18,872 + 160 small businesses

Services Provided: Weekly automated curbside collection of trash in 35-gallon carts and yellow “overflow” PAYT trash bags; every other week curbside collection of single-stream recycling in 95-gallon carts; every other week collection of yard waste in 32-gallon barrels or paper bags. Chicopee municipal crews provide collection services, and the program is funded by a tax levy.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

- The main impetus of this program was the anticipated closure of the Connecticut Valley Sanitary Landfill in Chicopee in 2019.
- Under the PAYT program, the City provides each residential unit (including multi-family homes up to 6 units) with one 35-gallon trash cart. Trash that does not fit in this cart must be placed in City-approved yellow overflow bags.
- Residents can purchase these overflow bags at 25 local retailers at a cost of \$2.00 per 33-gallon bag (\$10.00 for a pack of 5) and \$1.20 per 15-gallon bag (\$6.00 for a pack of 5).
- Trash dropped off at the landfill by residents must also be in the City’s official overflow bags.



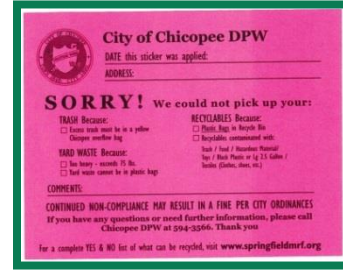
IMPLEMENTATION:

- In November 2016, the Mayor proposed, and City Council voted, to implement a PAYT collection program. The goal was to reduce trash volume by 25%.
- Chicopee was awarded a PAYT grant from the MassDEP in 2017, totaling \$300,000. The City provided an additional \$400,000 in matching funds in order to fully finance the purchase price, hot stamping, assembly, and delivery of the 35-gallon trash carts.
- The City negotiated with vendors for purchase and delivery of the carts (manufactured by Rehrig Pacific) and overflow bags (manufactured by Waste Zero).
- The PAYT Program officially started on May 1, 2017.
- The City notified residents of this Program through public meetings and hearings, as well as outreach materials including postcard and calendar mailings, handouts to residents visiting the landfill, and information packets included with cart delivery.



ENFORCEMENT:

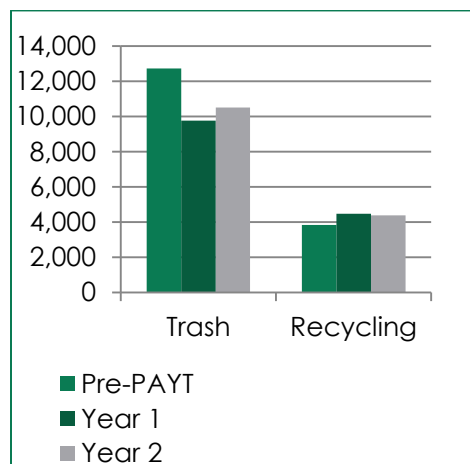
- Around the same time of this PAYT program implementation; Chicopee received \$38,000 in grant funding from MassDEP for a Waste Reduction Enforcement Coordinator (WREC).
- The WREC spent 3 mornings per week “on the ground” focused on recycling contamination and compliance with the PAYT program.
- Enforcement tools included:
 - Stickers (used during the 30-day grace period)
 - Door hangers for mild contamination
 - Pink rejection stickers for major contamination PLUS hauler refuses to pick up the cart
- The WREC issued 4,000 stickers/notices over 2 years.



PROGRAM RESULTS:

- Prior to the start of the PAYT program, there was no limit on the number of barrels residents could place at the curb. Solid waste disposal was approximately 12,720 tons per year and recycling was 3,836 tons per year.
- Solid waste disposal decreased to 9,771 tons in the first year, but had a slight increase to 10,508 tons in the second year, likely due to residents' knowledge of the impending landfill closure.
- Recycling increased to 4,470 tons in the first year and stayed stable at 4,394 tons the second year (WREC and Sanitation workers refused more carts due to contamination).
- Overall, there was a 12.7% increase in recycling tonnage and 17.4% decrease in trash tonnage compared to the previous two years before the program started.
- The City of Chicopee saved more than \$113,000 in disposal costs over two years.
- In addition, likely because of the on-the-ground assistance provided by the WREC, the City saw a 3.8% decrease in recycling contamination since inception of the program.
- 249,400 33-gallon bags and 111,000 15-gallon bags have been sold so far.
- There have been no significant changes in illegal dumping or littering. Residents report cleaner-looking, more organized streets on trash collection day.
- Strong support from the Mayor and City Council has attributed to the program's success.
- The City decided to continue to fund the WREC position beyond the grant to continue educating citizens and bringing awareness of trash reduction and proper recycling.

Figure 1: Trash & Recycling Tonnage



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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MassDEP: Rachel Smith at 617-292-5704 or Rachel.Smith@mass.gov; or visit: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/pay-as-you-throw-paytsave-money-and-reduce-trash-smart>