

Spring into PAYT

How to Make it Work for You



Rachel Smith
MassDEP Municipal Waste Reduction Branch
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What is PAYT?

- ▶ Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) = Solid waste program where residents pay a per-unit fee for disposal of household trash. Residents are not charged a direct fee for recycling.
- ▶ This creates a financial incentive to reduce, reuse, and recycle more; and waste less.
- ▶ Sometimes referred to as a “Save Money and Reduce Trash (SMART)” or “Waste Reduction” program.



Why PAYT?

- ▶ 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan published October 2021
- ▶ Goal to reduce disposal by 30% by 2030 and 90% by 2050
- ▶ PAYT is one waste reduction strategy that MassDEP has prioritized in the SWMP
- ▶ Promote and provide financial and technical assistance to municipalities to implement PAYT

www.mass.gov/guides/solid-waste-master-plan

Why PAYT

- ▶ Single most effective tool to reduce waste and increase recycling
- ▶ Equitable - like utilities, you pay for what you use
- ▶ Environmental benefits - reduces trash sent to landfills and incinerators, which reduces emissions
- ▶ More reuse and recycling less waste
- ▶ Savings in avoided disposal costs
- ▶ Signals to residents the true costs of SW management

Program Design Options

- ▶ Imprinted Trash Bags (specific colors w/ town name/seal)
- ▶ Stickers or Tags
- ▶ 35-gallon Trash Cart or Barrel



Program Design Options: Cart vs. Barrel



- ▶ <35-gallon barrel supplied by resident
 - ▶ Advantages: residents purchase their own, less expensive
 - ▶ Disadvantages: hard to enforce size limits (“barrel creep”), can lead to “snow-coning”, may not be able to be used w/ automated collection



- ▶ Automated <35-gallon wheeled trash cart w/ attached lid
 - ▶ Advantages: works with automated trash collection, easy to enforce and maintain compliance
 - ▶ Disadvantages: more expensive, municipality is responsible for maintenance and replacements

Program Design Options: Hybrid

- ▶ Hybrid PAYT Program
 - ▶ One container <35 gallons allowed as part of basic level service
 - ▶ Excess trash >35 gallons MUST go in PAYT overflow bags, stickers tags



Includes leaf and
yard waste collection

Includes recycling
collection

Excess trash
requires PAYT Bag

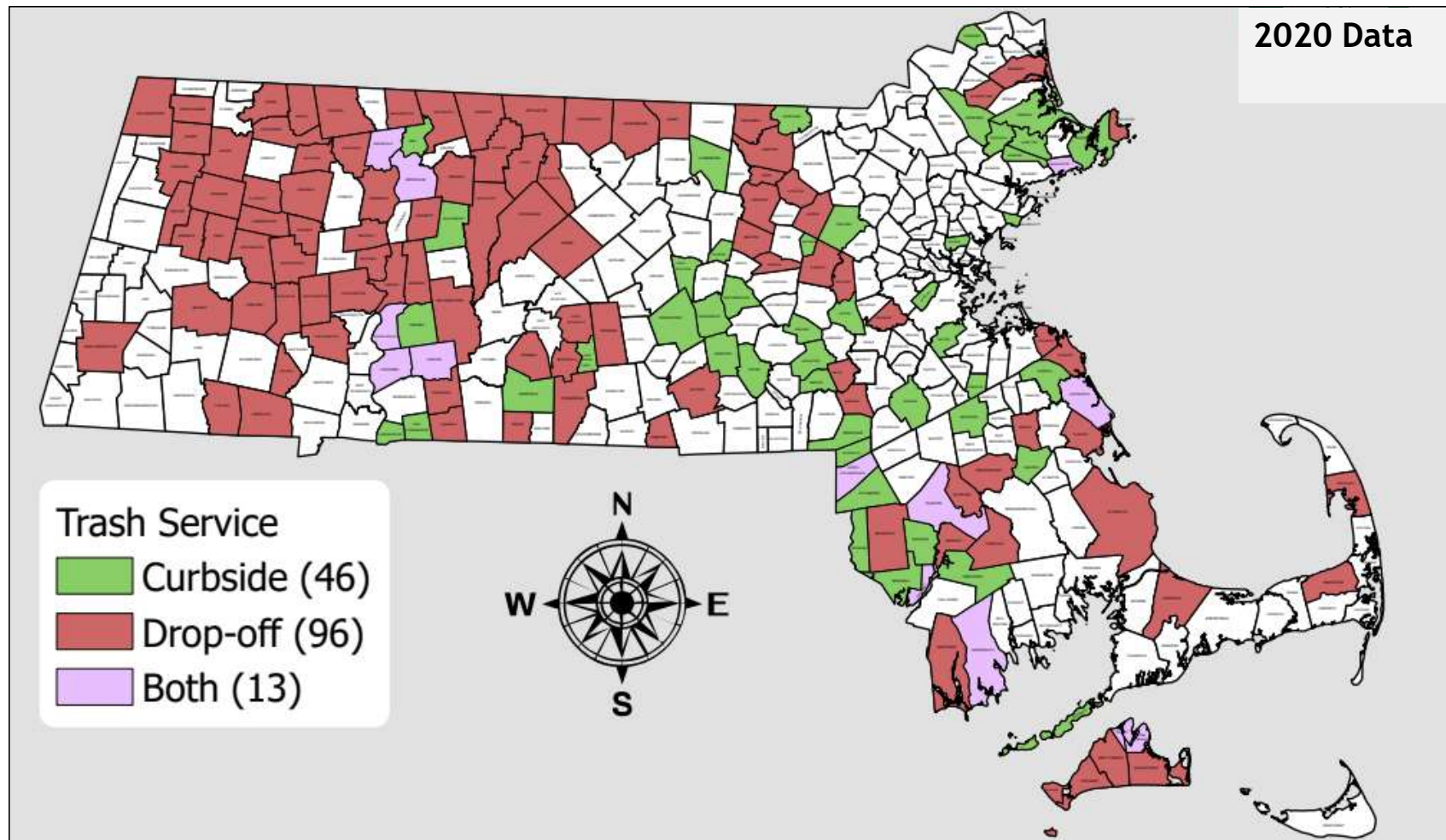
Annual Fee entitles a
household to one
35-gallon barrel

PAYT Programs in MA

- ▶ Curbside
 - ▶ 46 Munis
 - ▶ Represents 306,241 HHs
- ▶ Drop-off
 - ▶ 96 Munis
 - ▶ Represents 129,625 HHs
- ▶ Combination Curbside & Drop-off Program
 - ▶ 13 Munis
 - ▶ Represents 81,206 HHs



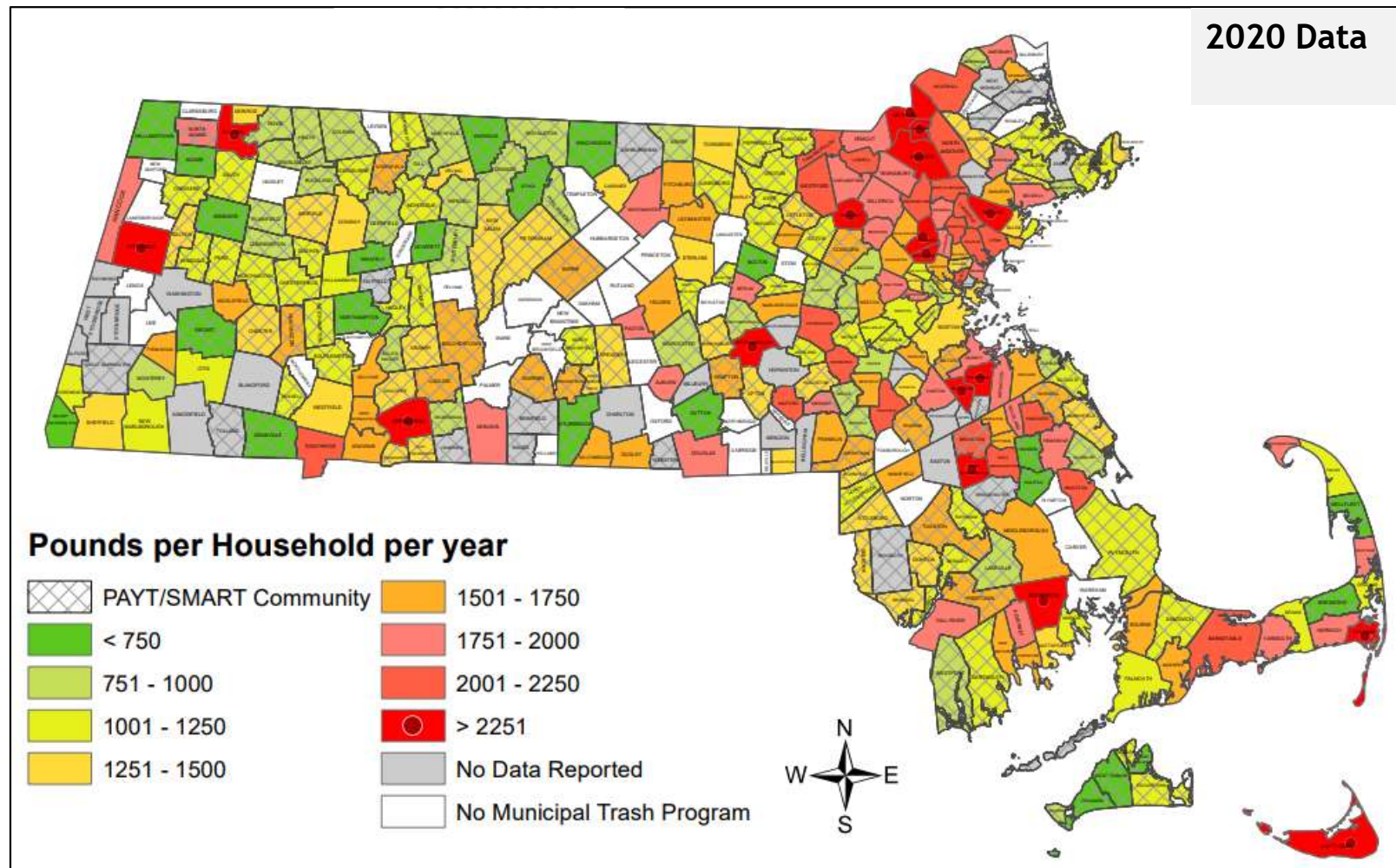
PAYT Programs in MA - Map



PAYT Stats in MA

- ▶ 155 municipalities in MA have a PAYT program (out of 351)
 - ▶ 517,000 (or 27%) households in MA
- ▶ Trash is reduced by 25-50% in communities with PAYT
- ▶ In 2020, trash tonnage in PAYT municipalities was 517 pounds, or 29% LESS than in non-PAYT
 - ▶ PAYT: averaged 1,239 pounds per HH per year
 - ▶ Non-PAYT: averaged 1,756 pounds per HH per year

PAYT Reduces Trash

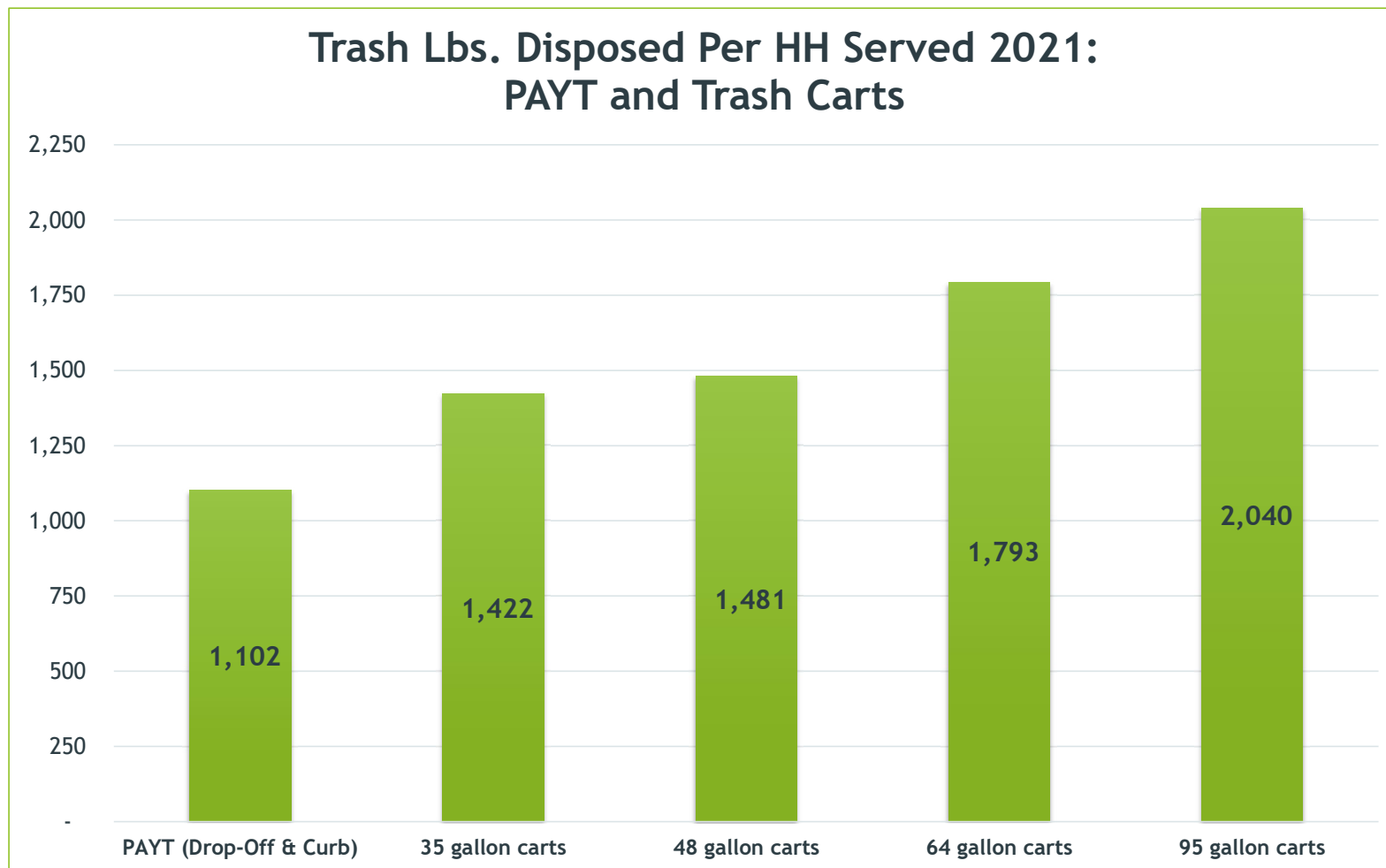


Cart Size Matters

2021 Data

- ▶ Full PAYT Program: All Bags, Tags, or Stickers, Drop off and Curbside - **1,102** pounds per HH
- ▶ 35-gallon Carts: **1,422** pounds per HH
- ▶ 48-gallon Carts: **1,481** pounds per HH
- ▶ 64-gallon Carts: **1,793** pounds per HH
- ▶ 95-gallon Carts: **2,040** pounds per HH

Cart Size versus Performance



Making the Case for 35-Gallon Carts

- ▶ Industry is moving toward automation. This size cart meets the needs of most HHs most of the time. Overflow typically needed only on occasion.
- ▶ Municipalities are using 35-gallon Carts:

Dunstable	Wrentham*	Ipswich	Brookline*
Wenham	Holliston	Sharon	Malden
Hamilton	East Longmeadow	Milton	Brockton
Holbrook	Swampscott	Attleboro	
Norwell	Longmeadow	Chicopee	

*Muni has a variable size cart program; majority of residents use 35-gallon

Challenges & How to Address Them

- ▶ Public perception that the Fee is a Tax
 - ▶ Make the program revenue-neutral by reducing the flat fee so that it covers only the fixed costs, while the unit-based fees cover variable cost of disposal
- ▶ Adverse effects on low-income HHs
 - ▶ Offer hardship waivers or lower rates for low-income, senior citizens, veterans
- ▶ Increases in illegal dumping
 - ▶ Studies in MA and nationwide show no difference in illegal dumping
- ▶ Higher administrative costs
 - ▶ End up being recovered through savings from reduced disposal

Funding & Incentives

Technical Assistance (TA) Grant

- ▶ 80 hours dedicated in-kind technical assistance from your MAC
- ▶ Provide background information on comparable PAYT communities
- ▶ Set up site visits at communities with PAYT programs
- ▶ Provide financial analysis of PAYT and variations under consideration
- ▶ Attend public meetings and forums
- ▶ Provide support for public outreach materials such as FAQ documents and PPT presentations
- ▶ Help develop of Draft Implementation Plan

Funding & Incentives

SMRP Grant for PAYT Program Funding

- ▶ New Drop-off PAYT Program = \$10 per HH
- ▶ New Curbside PAYT Program
 - ▶ One bag/barrel free (e.g., hybrid program) = \$10 per HH
 - ▶ No bags/barrels free (e.g., full PAYT w/ bags) = \$20 per HH
 - ▶ One 35-gallon trash cart = \$30 per HH
 - ▶ One 64-gallon trash cart collected every other week = \$10 per HH
- ▶ Upgrade to Existing PAYT Program
 - ▶ Convert from 1 bag/barrel free to Full PAYT = \$5 per HH
 - ▶ Transition from a sticker program to a bag program = \$5 per HH
 - ▶ Provide automated trash carts of <35-gallon capacity = \$30 per HH

Funding & Incentives

Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) Grants

- ▶ Full PAYT = 5 points
- ▶ Hybrid PAYT (1 “free” <35-gallon cart, sticker, tag) = 4 points
- ▶ 35-gallon Carts (64-gallon carts every other week) = 4 points
- ▶ 48-gallon Carts (96-gallon carts every other week) = 3 points
- ▶ Trash Limits Greater than this or nonexistent = NOTHING

Other SMRP Grant Incentives

- ▶ Recycling Carts = \$20 per HH only for munis w/ PAYT or 35-gallon carts

Programs that Compliment PAYT

- ▶ Organics (Food Waste) Collection - either municipally run or through private subscription
- ▶ Bulky Item Collection - \$5 fee for certain items sent for recycling and/or disposal
- ▶ Reuse Programs - swap events, library of things, etc.



Contact Information

- ▶ Rachel Smith
Regional Planner
MassDEP
Rachel.Smith@mass.gov
- ▶ PAYT Website
www.mass.gov/lists/pay-as-you-throw-paytsave-money-and-reduce-trash-smart