

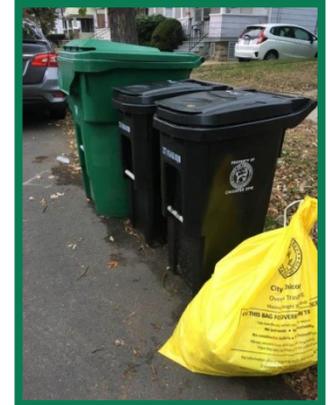


FACT SHEET: PAY-AS-YOU-THROW (PAYT)

In a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) solid waste program, residents pay a per-unit fee for disposal of the solid waste that they generate.

MassDEP has found that PAYT is the most effective mechanism for encouraging waste reduction at the municipal level.

- There are now **162 municipalities** out of 351 in Massachusetts that have adopted this approach, which is about 46%. This represents [48 municipalities with curbside trash collection programs and 102 municipalities with drop-off programs and 11 with both.](#)
- In 2023 the average amount of trash generated in PAYT municipalities was **1,112 pounds** per household. This is 513 pounds, or about **32% less** than the 1,625 pounds per household generated in municipalities without PAYT programs.
- According to MassDEP's most recent [recycling and solid waste survey data](#), approximately 1.95 million households in the state participate in a municipal trash program, and 492,000, or more than **25% utilize PAYT programs.**
- In each of these municipalities, **solid waste tonnage is reduced by 25-50%** through a combination of increased recycling, diversion to reuse, repair, donation, composting, and other methods of disposal.
- If all Massachusetts municipalities implemented mandatory PAYT programs, it would potentially reduce trash disposal by more than **548K tons annually.**
- This represents more than **\$53 million in potential savings** by municipalities, assuming the statistical mean disposal cost of \$97 per ton.



Reference: The Facts and Figures cited in this Fact Sheet are calculated based on the Municipal Recycling and Solid Waste Survey Data as reported by municipalities to MassDEP for calendar year 2023, available at: www.mass.gov/lists/recycling-solid-waste-data-for-massachusetts-cities-towns.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

MassDEP website: www.mass.gov/lists/pay-as-you-throw-paytsave-money-and-reduce-trash-smart

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This information is available in alternate format by calling our ADA Coordinator at 617-574-6872