

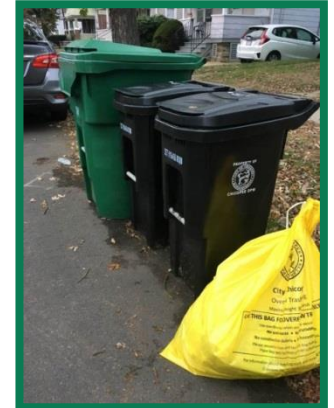


FACT SHEET: PAY-AS-YOU-THROW (PAYT) / SAVE-MONEY-AND-REDUCE-TRASH (SMART)

In a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) / Save-Money-And-Reduce-Trash (SMART) solid waste program, residents pay a per-unit fee for disposal of the solid waste that they generate.

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

- There are now **153 municipalities** out of 352 in Massachusetts that have adopted this approach, which is about 43%. This represents 59 municipalities with curbside trash collection programs and 94 municipalities with drop-off programs.
- In 2018 the average amount of solid waste generated in PAYT/SMART municipalities was 1,072 pounds per household. This is **65% less** than the 1,649 pounds per household generated in municipalities without PAYT/SMART programs.
- According to MassDEP's most recent [recycling and solid waste survey data](#), approximately 1.9 million households in the state participate in a municipal trash program, and more than **26% utilize PAYT/SMART 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 PAYT/SMART programs, that would reduce trash disposal by more than **400,000 tons annually**.
- This represents more than **\$31 million in potential savings** by municipalities, assuming an average disposal cost of \$78 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 2018, 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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