

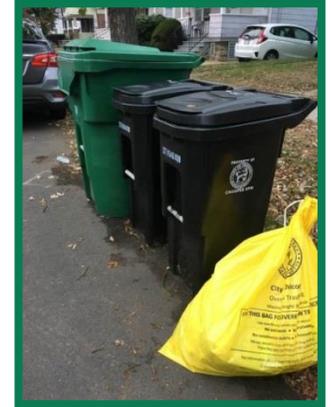


## FACT SHEET: PAY-AS-YOU-THROW (PAYT) / SAVE-MONEY-AND-REDUCE-TRASH (SMART)

In a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) solid waste program, also sometimes referred to as Save-Money-And-Reduce-Trash (SMART), 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 **155 municipalities** out of 351 in Massachusetts that have adopted this approach, which is about 44%. This represents [59 municipalities with curbside trash collection programs and 96 municipalities with drop-off programs](#).
- In 2020 the average amount of trash generated in PAYT municipalities was **1,239 pounds** per household. This is 517 pounds, or about **29% less** than the 1,756 pounds per household generated in municipalities without PAYT programs.
- According to MassDEP's most recent [recycling and solid waste survey data](#), approximately 1.98 million households in the state participate in a municipal trash program, and 517,000, or more than **27% 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 **566K tons annually**.
- This represents more than **\$48 million in potential savings** by municipalities, assuming an average disposal cost of \$85 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 2020, available at: [www.mass.gov/lists/recycling-solid-waste-data-for-massachusetts-cities-towns](http://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](http://www.mass.gov/lists/pay-as-you-throw-paytsave-money-and-reduce-trash-smart)

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Produced by the Bureau of Air & Waste | September 2021

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