

Pay-As-You-Throw – Frequently Asked Questions

What is a pay-as-you-throw program?

Under pay-as-you-throw programs, residents purchase official City trash bags available at their local store. Only waste put curbside in official bags is collected by the City.

What are the benefits of a pay-as-you-throw program?

Pay-as-you-throw programs allow residents to choose how much they wish to pay for refuse collection. Residents who produce less waste pay less for service. Because residents have the incentive to reduce waste, pay-as-you-throw programs typically realize a 40% reduction in trash and a doubling of the recycling rate. As a result, the costs incurred by the municipality to dispose of waste go down.

Have other communities in New Hampshire adopted pay-as-you-throw programs?

Yes. To date, 37 towns and cities throughout New Hampshire have adopted a version of pay-as-you-throw, including Dover, Concord, Claremont, Keene, Lebanon, Somersworth and Raymond.

Would I have to pay for pickup of recyclables under a pay-as-you-throw program?

No. You would be able to place an unlimited amount of recyclables in your blue cart(s) for free collection by the City. Recyclables cost the City much less to process because no landfill fees are paid.

If pay-as-you-throw is implemented, I would like to begin recycling. How do I get a blue recycling cart?

Public Works anticipates that recycling rates would double under a pay-as-you-throw system. A large order of new blue recycling carts would be placed prior to implementation and made available to residents free of charge. To put your name on the list for a recycling cart, please visit www.recyclemanchester.com and sign up.

Is illegal dumping expected to increase under a pay-as-you-throw system?

Overwhelmingly, studies show—and communities report—that increased illegal dumping is more of a perceived, rather than actual, problem under pay-as-you-throw programs.

Is participation mandatory?

No. Residents would be free to participate or utilize other disposal options, such as the City of Manchester Drop Off Facility or a private collection service. Standard fees would apply.

Which size bags would be available and how much would they cost?

Typically, pay-as-you-throw programs make 15 and 30 gallon bags available to participants at a cost of \$1.25 and \$2, respectively.

Under pay-as-you-throw programs, what does a typical household pay annually for bags?

A household of four typically spends a little over \$100 per year on official pay-as-you-throw bags. Smaller households and individuals spend significantly less.