case study

Town of Hanson Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) Program

In a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) solid waste program, residents purchase preprinted stickers or bags for disposal of trash, thereby paying directly for the amount of solid waste they generate. There is no direct fee for recycling.

Community Population:	9,623
Households Served:	2,747
Services Provided:	Drop-off trash and single stream recycling at Transfer Station

Program Overview

- Residents pay $2.00 for each 30-gal bag, and $1.25 for a 15-gal bag; bags are sold in sleeves of five and eight for $10.
- Residents must obtain a sticker to access the transfer station. There is no cost associated with the sticker but residents are required to show their vehicle registration to prove residency. Only two stickers per address are permitted. Stickers are valid for two years.
- Each participating household spent an average of $85 annually for PAYT trash bags.
- All residential trash must be in Town-approved bags. There is no limit to the number of bags a resident may purchase and use each week.
- The Town made a switch to single stream at the same time they started PAYT, July 2014.
- The Town's 2014 Spring Annual Town Meeting approved the establishment of an Enterprise Fund for the Solid Waste program.
- The Transfer Station was redesigned for more efficient traffic flow. Signage was added to the facility.
- The Town was awarded a PAYT grant in the amount of $18,020; however, after an election that resulted in three new Selectmen, the new Board voted to return the grant monies.
- A trifold PAYT brochure was mailed with a water bill to all households several months before the program began.
- A four sided, 8.5 x 11 program overview brochure was mailed to every address in the Town two weeks before the program began.
- Between signage and brochures the Town spent $6,510 on outreach efforts.

History

- The Town had a twenty year disposal contract with SEMASS Covanta. The tip fee was $34.50 ($29.04 with SEMASS credits) when the contract expired in December 2014. The tip fee was expected to double when the contract expired.
- Adoption of a unit-based-pricing system had been discussed for over five years by town officials. The expected tip fee increase prompted the Town to implement the program.
- The Board of Selectman approved the PAYT program on February 4, 2014.
- The Board of Health adopted private hauler regulations on April 8, 2014.
- The Town adopted a bi-yearly sticker program for access to the Transfer Station. Prior to the bi-yearly system, stickers were issued once and did not expire resulting in unauthorized use of the transfer station and abuse of the Town's solid waste program.
- The Town negotiated with New Bedford Waste Services and signed a ten year contract for disposal and single stream and separated cardboard recycling.

- The disposal tip fee was $55/ton at the start of the contract, January 1, 2015. There is no processing fee for single stream recycling for the first three years of the contract and the Town earns revenue on cardboard recycling.
- ABC Disposal Services provides containers, compactors and transport of solid waste and recyclable material.
- The Town entered into a contract with the bag vendor whereby the vendor guaranteed net revenue of $200,000 during the first year of the program.

Implementation

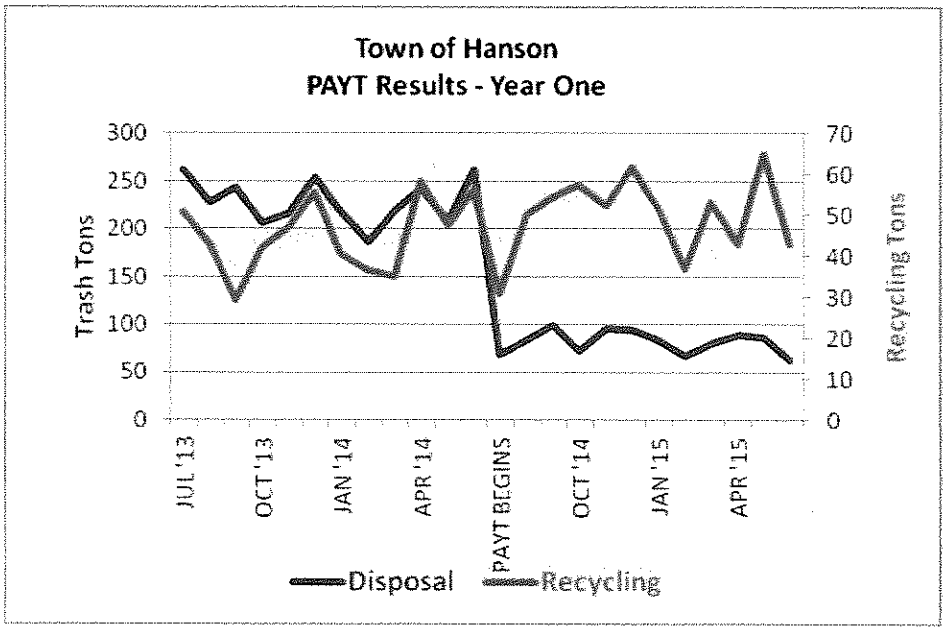
- The PAYT bag vendor manufactures bags, warehouses inventory, delivers bags to stores and handles the billing and accounting.
- In the first year, retailers purchased 341 cases of 15-gal bags (68,160 bags) and 408 cases of 30-gal bags (81,600 bags) for sale to residents.
- There are twelve retail locations that sell PAYT bags. Retailers receive no mark up on bags.

Administration and Enforcement

- Enforcement involves transfer station staff monitoring incoming material at the transfer station. Redesign of the station allows vehicles to make one stop with a trash compactor on one side and the single stream compactor on the other.

Year One Results

- Total PAYT Financial Benefit $258,131
- Trash Tonnage Reduced 64% - from 2,752 to 987 tons
- Trash hauls reduced from 284 to 96
- Disposal Fee Savings $39,001
- Recycling Tonnage Increased 11% - 543 to 600 tons
- Recycle hauls increased from 109 to 137
- Trash/Recycle Haul Savings $24,842
- PAYT Bag Net Revenue $194,288



For More Information

- Hanson Board of Health: 781-293-3138, www.hanson-ma.gov
- MassDEP - www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/recycle/reduce/pay-as-you-throw-payt.html

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