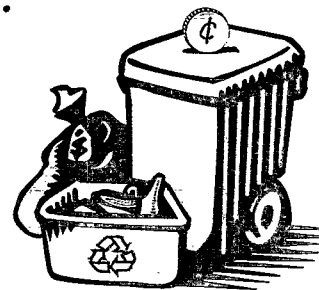




A Listing of Pay-As-You-Throw News and Events

PAYT



BULLETIN

**Berkeley, California's,** PAYT program has been going strong for 30 years.

**Forest, Ohio,** increased recycling by 350 percent and decreased solid waste by 45 percent with its PAYT program.

**PAYT helped Fort Collins, Colorado,** boost its recycling participation rate from 60 to 83 percent.

**With the help of PAYT, Reading, Pennsylvania,** has the highest curbside recycling rate in the state.

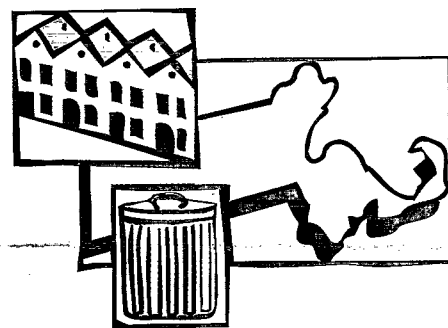
**Wilmington, North Carolina's,** switch to PAYT prompted a 10 percent increase in recycling and 40 percent increase in yard debris collection.

## Massachusetts Makes PAYT a Priority

**F**or years, the West Coast has been the PAYT leader, but recently New England has started gaining ground. Nowhere is the trend more evident than in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. With more than 95 communities with PAYT programs, including more than 30 established in the past 5 years, Massachusetts has proven itself a leader in providing its towns and cities with the resources they need to implement unit-based pricing.

### The Workshop Way

In a more targeted effort to encourage communities to switch to PAYT, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) began offering PAYT workshops in 1995. DEP holds four half-day workshops a year in the south-eastern, northeastern, central, and western regions of the state. DEP targets Board of Selectmen members, department of public works directors, recycling staff, advisory committee members, and any other interested parties. The workshops include discussions on full cost accounting and setting rates, as well as roundtable sessions to address specific issues participants may have. In 2000, DEP hopes to hold a workshop covering PAYT strategies for municipalities with populations of 200,000 and more.



### Give Them an Incentive

As landfills began reaching capacity and new ones were prohibited, Massachusetts, like many other states, needed to find a way to encourage source reduction and recycling. In 1995, the Massachusetts DEP began the Municipal Recycling Incentive Program (MRIP), which provides performance-based grants to municipalities. The program, which is designed to increase recycling and stimulate demand for recycled products, awards \$8 per ton to

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curbside recycling programs and \$4 per ton for drop-off programs. To participate in the program, communities must meet a set of minimum requirements and elective criteria covering recycling participation, access to recycling and composting programs, and purchase of recycled-content products. If a municipality has a unit-based pricing program, however, it is only required to meet the buy recycled criteria.

## Success Speaks for Itself

Frequently, the best way to spread the word about the benefits of PAYT is to let the program speak for itself. Massachusetts has noticed a "cluster effect" often occurs soon after one community implements a PAYT program. In southeastern Massachusetts, Seekonk switched to a unit pricing system in 1992. In the course of 8 years, seven surrounding communities also launched PAYT programs, and two more are imminent.

"People see the results and think, 'If they could do that there, why can't we do it here?'" relates Joseph Lambert, recycling and solid waste planner at Massachusetts DEP. "When a dialogue on PAYT starts on a local and personal level, that can be the best outreach strategy there is." Massachusetts has found the cluster effect can even span state borders. Communities in Rhode Island and New Hampshire have begun PAYT programs after adjacent Massachusetts communities made the switch.

## Is It Really Successful?

Is PAYT really working in Massachusetts? The answer is a resounding "yes!" From fiscal year 1999 to fiscal year 2000, North Attleborough decreased its tonnage disposed by 44 percent, Royalston by 42 percent, and Needham by 41 percent. Recycling rates increased significantly in PAYT communities listed in the table below.

Community	Recycling Rate Before PAYT (%)	Recycling Rate After 1 Year (%)
Lakeville	24	54
Merrimac	14	37
Taunton	25	34
Plainville	20	29

## More PAYT Superstars

PAYT is everywhere—the East Coast, West Coast, and all points in between! Following are summaries of a few successful PAYT programs and the issues they have faced.

### Berkeley, California— Continuing to Improve

**B**erkeley, California (population 105,000), is no stranger to PAYT, enjoying its benefits since the 1970s. These days, Berkeley is working to improve its PAYT program by moving from an annual billing cycle, included in citizens' tax bills, to a quarterly waste collection bill. This billing shift will allow citizens to more clearly see the connection between the amount they pay for waste collection and the amount of waste collected each quarter. Another future improvement will offer lower rates to households that source separate their waste.

Under a variable rate system, Berkeley's citizens pay about \$6.50 for a 13-gallon container, \$15.00 for a 32-gallon container, \$30 for a 64-gallon container, or \$45.00 for a 96-gallon container, which can be collected as often as three times a week. Berkeley's program also includes recycling collection once a week and yard waste collection twice a week. For more information on Berkeley's PAYT program, contact Tanya Levy at 510 644-8891, Ext. 238.

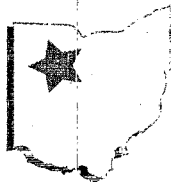
### Making It Better in Fort Collins

**A** PAYT program helped a Colorado city boost an already impressive recycling rate. In the 3 years following Fort Collins' (population 114,000) switch to PAYT in 1996, its recycling participation rate jumped from 60 to 83 percent. Adding to its success, Fort Collins decreased waste collection by approximately 8,000 tons from 1995 to 1999, even though the city is experiencing an annual 4 percent growth in population.

Households in Fort Collins choose from among six waste collection haulers, who each offer a different type of service. In the past, due to the competitive nature of the market, haulers were not enforcing compliance with PAYT for fear of losing customers. If a customer, for example, left out an extra bag or can without paying for it, haulers were likely to collect it anyway. To combat this problem, the city recently amended the PAYT ordinance to state that the city will litigate any hauler operating out of compliance. Haulers now have a disincentive to collect extra trash set out by their customers. For more information on Fort Collins' PAYT program, contact Susie Gordon at 970 221-6265.

## Keeping It Simple Is the Key to Success

**T**he National Recycling Coalition recently honored Forest, Ohio (population 1,600), for its rural recycling program that increased recycling by 350 percent and decreased solid waste by 45 percent. The city started a multi-tiered PAYT program in October 1998 to counteract the rising costs of solid waste management, and the program has been a big success. Keeping the program simple and educating the community prior to its inception were the keys to successful implementation. Every household pays \$10 per month and receives two 30-gallon bags each week. Each additional bag collected requires a \$1 sticker. Before PAYT, the city did not have curbside recycling, and its recycling rate was less than 10 percent. For more information, contact Charles Brunkhardt at 419 273-2500.



## Education Encourages PAYT in Wilmington

**T**he Solid Waste Department of Wilmington, North Carolina (population 70,000), goes to great lengths to educate its community about the benefits of PAYT. When PAYT was introduced as a pilot program in 1992, the community expressed concerns that the program



would affect the city's cleanliness and lead to increased illegal dumping. To combat these concerns, the Solid Waste Department initiated PAYT information campaigns, utilizing local newspapers and radio and television programs. Neighborhood meetings and focus groups involving Wilmington citizens were also effective ways to gather community support.

Today, more than 21,000 households in the Wilmington area take advantage of the PAYT program. Under a variable rate billing system, citizens use either 90-gallon or 40-gallon roll-out carts for weekly waste collection. For larger households that produce more waste, biweekly pickup or individually purchased stickers for occasional overflow are available.

Wilmington's adoption of PAYT prompted a 10 percent increase in its recycling rate and a 40 percent increase in its yard debris collection rate. Getting the word out about PAYT allows the city to successfully support this equitable, economical, and environmentally beneficial waste collection program. For more information, contact Bill Reed at 910 341-7875.

## Pennsylvania Town Demonstrates PAYT Concept

**T**here's an obvious reason the town of Reading, Pennsylvania (population 78,000), can claim the highest curbside recycling rate in the state, collecting more than 360 tons of recyclables each year. In Reading, individual citizens, not the town, are responsible for having their trash picked up. Instead of paying for waste collection through property taxes or a utilities bill, residents of Reading hire their choice of several private haulers that service the town. As a result, citizens are more directly aware of garbage collection costs, creating a huge incentive to reduce waste. Although illegal dumping has been an issue at times, the residents of Reading are clearly more likely to be vigilant about recycling, which is offered as a free service. The PAYT concept comes through loud and clear—if people have to pay to get rid of their garbage, recycling will increase. For more information on Reading's PAYT program, contact Jane Meeks at 610 655-6278.



## Study Recommends Statewide PAYT for Massachusetts

A recent report submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recommends mandatory statewide PAYT pricing for solid waste. *Source Reduction in Massachusetts* analyzes annual waste reduction and investigates potential areas for expanding source reduction throughout the state. In addition to implementing PAYT, the study recommends that Massachusetts set source reduction goals and develop a program targeting waste reduction in the commercial sector. This report estimates that with mandatory PAYT, source reduction could increase by almost 500,000 tons and recycling by 350,000 tons. For more information, contact Peter Allison at the Massachusetts DEP at 617 292-5980 or <peter.allison@state.ma.us>.

## Economic Incentives Work

Two standard PAYT practices were lauded in the September 1999 issue of *The Monthly Uneconomist*. The journal cites a study that found that waste diversion increases when customers pay at least as much for additional cans of garbage collected as they do for the first can of trash. Providing curbside recycling and yard debris collection for no additional charge are also shown to be successful at reducing waste. The study found that these economic incentives can increase diversion rates by 25 percent and influence positive community change in waste disposal practices. For more information, contact Jeff Morris at <jeff.morris@zerowaste.com> or <www.zerowaste.com> using the subscriber access number 100001.

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