

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

PAYT in the United States: 2006 Update

Pay-As-You-Throw



An EPA/SERA Report

Big Results

- Nearly 7,100 programs in the U.S. now use PAYT (up from 4,000 from last national census).
- 30 of the largest 100 cities use PAYT.
- PAYT now available to 25% of U.S., or about 75 million people.
- PAYT reduces MSW by 4.6 million to 8.3 million tons a year.
- PAYT shows tangible GHG reductions.
- Monthly household costs not higher for PAYT.

Penetration of PAYT in U.S.

- Largest share of PAYT communities in CA, IA, MA, MI, MN, NH, NY, OR, WA, and WI – each with 40% or more.
- MN, NH, OR, WA, and WI have more than 75%.
- CA, IA, IN, MA, ME, MI, MN, NY OR, PA, WA, and WI each added more than 50 programs in 10 years.
- WI, OR, and MN have laws to mandate PAYT.
- # of programs doubled or more in AR, CA, FL, IA, KS, ME, MI, MN, MO, MT, NC, NM, NV, SC, VA, and WY.

Greenhouse Gas Effects

- PAYT leads to reductions of:
 - 2.1 million to 3.8 million metric tons of carbon equivalents annually.
 - 7.8 million to 13.3 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents annually.
 - 61 million to 109 million British thermal units annually.

PAYT vs. No PAYT

- Recycling rate: 17.1% vs. 13.6%
- Yard waste diversion rate: 11.5% vs. 7.8%
- Overall diversion rate: 28.7% vs. 21.4%

PAYT Communities More Likely to...

- Have municipal garbage collection rather than hauler
- Have a recycling or diversion goal
- Have a recycling program – curbside or drop-off or both
- Have an electronics collection program
- Have a curbside yard waste service
- Have higher incomes and housing values
- Be urban or mixed urbanization

PAYT Large Cities

- PAYT communities more likely to...
 - Be a university town
 - Have less frequent garbage collection
 - Have bottle bills
 - Have C&D programs
 - Have mandatory recycling
 - Have electronic collection
 - Have food waste programs
 - Have single-stream collection

PAYT Large Cities (cont'd)

- PAYT vs. No PAYT
 - Recycling rate: 14% vs. 11%
 - Yard waste diversion rate: 17% vs. 13%
 - Overall diversion rate: 32% vs. 26%