Making Real Progress on Waste Reduction

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Statewide Approaches to PAYT

- State statute on volume- or weight-based pricing (Minnesota, Vermont)

- Incentivizing PAYT through comprehensive planning or as condition of funding (Iowa)

- Incidental: waste reduction as a by-product of general property tax limitations
Important Note

It matters quite a bit as to what we measure, and how we measure it

- Different states have taken different approaches, most of which measure the wrong things.

- We need to be specific – different waste reduction programs achieve very different results, so much so that the name PAYT can become misleading.

- “On average”, Bill Gates and we are all billionaires, but in reality, we are in very different places.
Measurement is Important

PAYT: Up to -40% -8% -44%

25 lbs. Trash $2 -20% -12%

Waste reduction estimates are approximate but directionally correct

Recycling Rate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Trash Disposal</th>
<th>Recycling</th>
<th>Recycling Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andover, MA</td>
<td>784 PPC</td>
<td>327 PPC</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falmouth, MA</td>
<td>520 PPC</td>
<td>120 PPC</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
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Which is better?
Pay-as-You-Throw in Minnesota

M.S. 115A.93 (passed in 1992)

“A licensing authority shall require licensees to impose charges for collection of mixed municipal solid waste that increase with the volume or weight of the waste collected.” (Also applies to local government units in M.S. 115A.9301.)

“A licensing authority that requires a pricing system based on volume instead of weight...shall determine a base unit size for an average small quantity household generator and establish, or require the licensee to establish, a multiple unit pricing system that ensures that amounts of waste generated in excess of the base unit amount are priced higher than the base unit price.” (Also applies to LGUs in M.S. 115A.9301.)

RESULT: Everyone must pay for garbage service, but...
PAYT Results in Minnesota

Hard to quantify

- Most compliance for PAYT is in hauler-provisioned variable rate carts w/slim differential (example: $10 for 30g; $12 for 60g; $14 for 90g)

- ~2/3 of Minnesota households have subscription hauling; hard to know what anyone pays for garbage to measure effect; MSW measurement takes place at disposal facilities

- Substantial number of bag-based PAYT programs in MN (St. Peter, St. Cloud, Crookston, La Crescent, Caledonia, Virginia, Chisholm, Gilbert, Little Falls, others); some are more effective than others based on design

- State legislators like to give local government “flexibility” when it comes to mandates, which can lead to uneven results.
Like Minnesota, Vermont required responsible entities to charge for solid waste, with higher costs given larger volumes.

As we’ve seen, the how of waste reduction drives the results we produce.

Many pivoted from charging $XYZ for the service (in 95 gallon carts) to $XYZ for per solid waste “unit” (the same 95 gallon carts); this essentially eliminated any waste reduction incentive and frustrates the purpose of the law.

If bags and CATS can reduce trash by 40%+ and tags/stickers can reduce trash by 20%, what level of waste reduction should we be satisfied with as a matter of policy?
Brattleboro, VT

➢ Per a State report (Feb. 2017) VT experienced a 5.0% reduction in trash disposal as a result of Act 148.

➢ Bag-based PAYT: Brattleboro, VT experienced a 50% reduction in trash, a doubling of composting, and was able to switch to every-other-week trash.

Dear Neighbor:

I am writing to share the important news that beginning July 2016 Brattleboro will transition to every-other-week trash collection.

Beginning last July, participants in Brattleboro’s Curbside Collection Program were required to purchase special Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) bags for the disposal of their trash. Since there was no charge for compost and recycling placed at the curb, participation in those programs increased, which reduced the amount of household trash and, therefore, the expense for PAYT bags. As a result, total trash tonnage and the Town’s cost to dispose of that trash have been cut in half. This success now offers us an opportunity to achieve additional cost savings of over $100,000 annually by reducing trash collection from weekly to every-other-week.
Real Change Driver – The Economy

- PAYT works because economics “work”.

- The same goes for cities and towns – MA and other tax-limited states dramatically accelerated PAYT adoption after implementation of statewide property tax caps.

- In most states, PAYT revenue sits outside the property tax limits, allowing cities and towns to capture:
  - Tipping fee savings
  - New revenue
  - Collection/hauling savings

If we know we can do better, and if we will need to at some point, should we support efforts now to make it easier to implement these programs?
Our Partners Nationwide Are Making It Happen

Decatur, GA
480 lbs.
(46% better than national)

Worcester, MA
450 lbs.
(50% better than national)

Malden, MA
480 lbs.
(46% better than national)

Tiverton, RI
500 lbs.
(44% better than national)

Dartmouth, MA
400 lbs.
(55% better than national)
Thank You!

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