



Hyattsville City Council Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: March 2, 2020
Submitted by: Danny Schaible
Submitting Department: Legislative
Item Type: Budget
Agenda Section:

SUBJECT

FY21 Budget Request: Pay-As-You-Throw Trash Disposal Study (15 minutes)

HCC-217-FY20

Recommendation:

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize a feasibility study to assess transitioning our municipal trash collection services from the current flat-rate approach to a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) approach. Under the current approach, resident's pay a flat-rate for trash collection from their property tax assessment regardless of how much or how little trash they generate. Under a PAYT approach, property taxes would be decreased to offset the new fees associated with metered trash collection, typically metered either by weight or by volume. This would bring trash collection into alignment with other metered utilities like water and electricity, where consumers are charged for what they use, creating financial incentives to conserve, recycle, and compost.

This feasibility study will provide guidance to help the City assess the relative benefits and potential drawbacks of switching to a PAYT approach, including:

- Expected decrease in municipal trash tonnage driven by increases in recycle and compost participation rates, and possible changes in consumer behavior
- Expected cost savings driven by decreased trash collection and associated labor, hauling, and disposal fees
- An assessment of the various models of PAYT trash collection, considering their relative strengths and weaknesses
- A review of other comparable municipalities that have switched to PAYT, exploring the impacts associated with the switch including resident satisfaction, cost impacts, and overall changes in trash, recycle, and compost collection rates.
- A review of the possible drawbacks or unintended consequences of switching to PAYT, based off of actual data from other jurisdictions that have switched to PAYT.

For increased cost-efficiency and to expedite procurement, I recommend that this study be incorporated into the existing trash study authorized by the City of Hyattsville that explores trash collection services for single family and multi-family Hyattsville residents, if appropriate. This could be done by modifying the contract for the existing trash study, once awarded. If not appropriate, then this would be a stand alone study.

Sponsor(s):

Schaible

Co-Sponsor(s):

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

[Curbside Compost Container_Schaible.docx](#)

[General Public Fact Sheet _ Pay-As-You-Throw _ US EPA.pdf](#)

Summary Background:

BACKGROUND:

Pay as you throw (PAYT) (also called trash metering, unit pricing, variable rate pricing, or user-pay) is a usage-pricing model for disposing of municipal solid waste. PAYT programs have been successfully implemented in thousands of communities across the US. Users are charged a rate based on how much waste they generate. This is in contrast to the traditional approach to trash collection where residents pay a flat-rate out of their property taxes. Under the flat-rate system there is no financial incentive to reduce waste or participate in recycle or compost collection programs.

Potential benefits of switching to a PAYT approach include reduced trash disposal and operational costs, increased revenue from recycled materials, increased material recovery from recycling and composting programs, a greater diversion of compostable materials from the landfill resulting in decreased methane gas generation, reduction in materials being sent to landfills and extended lifespans on landfills, creates jobs in the local green economy in recycling and composting facilities, a fairer system where residents who generate less trash are rewarded with a proportionally lower cost, and increased municipal resources available for other community needs.

ANTICIPATED STAFF RESOURCES REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT:

- DPW to scope feasibility study, adding this work to the existing single-family/multi-family trash study, if possible.
- Hyattsville Staff and City Council would review and provide feedback on PAYT feasibility study draft(s).
- If implemented, likely reduction in municipal trash collection costs and labor due to a significant reduction in trash generation.

Next Steps:

Council discussion.

Fiscal Impact:

TBD

City Administrator Comments:

The City is reviewing responses to the Trash Study RFP. We expect to bring the request to negotiate a contract before the City Council next month. Pay As You Go can be added to the scope of work with an expected increase in cost. If Council selects this course of action, the results can be provided to the Mayor and Council at the conclusion of the study.

Community Engagement:

To be determined.

Strategic Goals:

Goal 1 – Ensure Transparent and Accessible Governance

Legal Review Required?

N/A