**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PAY AS YOU THROW (PAYT)**

**What is Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT)?**

Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) is a system much like electricity, gas or telephone under which the user pays a basic amount (sticker) that covers fixed costs and then a user fee (bags) for the amount used.

**How does PAYT work?**

You buy Town approved bags at stores where you usually shop. You put your trash in those bags and bring them to the Transfer Station to dispose of as you currently do with your trash.

**Why did the Town implement the PAYT program?**

The Town implemented PAYT to offset the increasing costs of trash disposal. PAYT allows each household to control their volume of trash disposal and the associated costs with excess disposal. PAYT encourages recycling which benefits everyone.

**When does this program start?**

The PAYT program will begin on July 1st.

**Is this a new idea in Massachusetts?**

No, 155 communities in Massachusetts currently utilize a PAYT program.

**How much will bags cost?**

Bags (5 per package) will be available in the following sizes and costs:

15 gal (kitchen trash can size): $2.50/bag ($12.50/package)

33 gal (Rubbermaid trash can size): $4.75/bag ($23.75/package)

**How much is the sticker fee cost?**

The annual sticker fee will be $150 for regular stickers and $75 for residents over 65.

**What type of bags do we have to use?**

Our PAYT bags are made with at least 40% recycled material and will be yellow and will be imprinted with the Town Seal and Town specific information.

**Will everyone have to purchase bags?**

Yes. Everyone bringing their trash to the Transfer Station will have to purchase the PAYT bags.

**Where can we buy bags?**

Residents may purchase bags at local stores.

**What if I don’t have the proper bag?**

You will not be able to dispose of your trash at the Transfer Station until it’s in the proper bag.

**How many PAYT bags will we be able to dispose of each week?**

There is no limit on the amount of PAYT bags you bring to the Transfer Station each week for disposal. The PAYT bag program is designed to offset the cost of trash disposal. Each resident controls how much they spend for their own trash disposal.

**How will the Town minimize illegal dumping?**

The Town will regularly monitor areas which have historically had dumping issues. We will use whatever means necessary to identify the offenders and fine them in accordance with Massachusetts State Law and Town Bylaws. We would encourage all citizens to report offenders as well as engage the cooperation of our citizens for the success of the program.

**Will there be any charge for recycling?**

No. Standard recycling items (e.g., cans, plastics, bottles, paper cardboard) will be covered by the sticker fee.

**How do I dispose of non-routine items?**

Non-routine items (e.g., refrigerators, TV’s, large furniture, etc ) can be dropped-off at the Transfer Station still. A cost of $15 per item will be charged to dispose of the bulk items and $20 to dispose of an item with freon (this will remain the same as the current procedure) The fee schedule for these items is available at the Town’s web site and at the Transfer Station

**How can I reduce my trash costs?**

Practice the 3 R’s: Reduce (e.g., compost, purchase products that are not wasteful in their packaging or use), Re-use (e.g., hand-me-downs, garage sales, clothing charities) and Recycle (e.g., paper, glass, plastics, cans).

**Why is Essex concerned about its trash?**

In 2021 Essex shipped 1284 tons of trash by truck to the Covanta in Haverhill. That equals out more than a ton per household that uses the transfer station. The Town used to pay $76.41 /ton for a disposal fee which included transportation costs. Under the new contract these costs went up to $93.00/ ton and no longer includes transportation costs which will cost $1,350 per week.

**What were the options Essex looked at for handling increased solid waste costs?**

• Curbside trash pick-up which was substantially higher in cost.

• Increase the price on resident’s annual Transfer Station stickers to cover the increased costs. The transfer station sticker cost would have to be substantially increased, certainly more than $500 annually.

• Use Pay-As-You-Throw to manage solid waste costs.

**If you have any questions please feel free to call the DPW office at**

**978-768-6262**