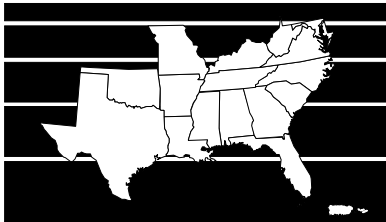


# **Pay-As-You-Throw Programs in the South**

Summaries of Existing Unit Pricing Programs for Municipal Solid Waste Collection

## **Southern States Waste Management Coalition**

June 1997



Southern States Energy Board  
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## **Introduction**

Traditionally, many communities in the United States have paid for waste management services through property taxes or through an annual fee charged to each household. The cost per resident remains constant regardless of the differences in the amount of waste generated.

Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) is just one of the terms used to describe a system under which residents pay for municipal waste management services per unit of waste collected rather than through a fixed fee. Other terms often used include:

- Unit pricing
- Variable rate pricing
- Volume based pricing
- Weight based pricing
- Variable can/bag system
- Pay-by-the-Bag

PAYT takes into account variations in waste generation rates by charging households or residents based on the amount of trash they place at the curb or take to a drop-off site, thereby offering individuals an incentive to reduce the amount of waste they generate and dispose.

PAYT programs are usually of two different forms. Residents can be charged by:

- Volume of waste (garbage, yard waste or some other waste), using bags, tags or stickers, or prescribed sizes of waste cans or bundles.
- Weight of waste, with the municipality weighing at the curbside the amount of waste set out for collection.

While they operate differently from one another, these systems share one defining characteristic: residents who throw away more, pay more.

No single method can address every aspect of municipal solid waste management. A community must evaluate all the tools available and then decide the proper mix of management options. In order to make wise decisions, a community needs unbiased and thorough information about each management tool and how the community can integrate the tool into its current system.

PAYT represents one of the management tools a community can utilize in meeting its goals for municipal solid waste management. Previous studies of existing PAYT programs have focused

primarily on communities outside the southern region. Guidance from such studies is valuable, however, conditions endemic to the southern region warrant deeper investigation of PAYT programs operating in southern communities. As part of its 1995-96 work plan, the Southern States Waste Management Coalition (SSWMC) conducted a survey of these PAYT programs.

The survey consisted of identifying existing PAYT programs in the southern region, and submitting a questionnaire requesting information for a one to two page summary of each program. The results of these questionnaires are the following summaries. Not all communities returned the questionnaire and some of the information may have changed since the summaries were written. As this is an ongoing process, SSWMC will attempt to keep all information current. In this respect, any further information regarding the programs listed or additional programs not included here would be very beneficial.

SSWMC is committed to community outreach programs and will continue to disseminate useful information that promotes a balanced and responsible approach to solid waste management. The summaries presented here are intended to provide general information about the many types of PAYT programs currently utilized in the south. In this way, local decision makers from communities interested in implementing PAYT or improving their current PAYT system can quickly view possible options and make further in-depth inquiries of specific programs.

Copies of all or sections of this document are available to communities in SSWMC member states by contacting the appropriate state officials or through the Southern States Energy Board's World Wide Web home page at [www.clever.net/sseb](http://www.clever.net/sseb).

The Southern States Waste Management Coalition and Southern States Energy Board staff would like to thank the individuals from communities responding to the survey. The information they have provided has already been an invaluable education tool for communities interested in PAYT. The dedication these people have shown and the selfless assistance they have provided their colleagues are to be commended.

#### A Message to the Reader:

The information in this document is continually updated. Some of the programs listed here may no longer be active. New programs are implemented every year and may not be included in this summary. To help keep this document current, please notify Southern States Energy Board (SSEB) staff of any changes, additions or deletions that should be made to any PAYT program in the SSEB region.

Also, please be considerate when contacting the communities listed. Like you, they have many duties and little spare time. That having been said, it is my experience that most of these officials are very willing to lend assistance to their colleagues from communities considering PAYT. I encourage you to learn from their experience and then share your own experience with others. In today's world of shrinking budgets and expanding responsibilities, there is no room to "reinvent the wheel".

Thank You  
Kathryn Baskin  
SSEB Assistant Director

## **Southern States Waste Management Coalition**

The Southern States Waste Management Coalition (SSWMC) was organized in 1992 in response to a policy statement passed unanimously by the Southern Governors' Association recognizing the changing nature of solid waste management infrastructure and the need for environmentally sound and integrated solid waste management systems.

The Southern States Waste Management Coalition, a unique public/private partnership, is an issue-focused, problem-solving, interactive body of gubernatorial appointees from 16 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and representatives from private industry, local government and non-profit organizations whose mission is to develop, promote and encourage implementation of a balanced and responsible integrated approach to regional solid waste management that is environmentally sound and economically sustainable. Through this coordinated and cooperative effort, the Coalition can support the decision-makers of the southern region in taking an efficient economical and technically achievable approach to solid waste management issues.

The Southern States Waste Management Coalition operates under the auspices of the Southern States Energy Board (SSEB), a public non-profit interstate compact organization established under state law and consented to by Congress with a broad mandate to contribute to the economic and community well-being of the citizens of the southern region. As an institution that has led to economic growth in the South, SSEB endeavors to reach the goal of sustainable development by implementing strategies that support its mission. SSEB develops, promotes and recommends policies and programs which protect and enhance the environment without compromising the needs of future generations. SSEB serves its members directly by providing timely assistance designed to develop effective energy and environmental policies and representing members before governmental agencies at all levels.



## **Benton County, Arkansas**

**Contact:** Dale Stevener

Fulton Sanitation  
P.O. Box 1776  
Rogers, AR 72757  
(501) 636-2346

**Population:**

**Inception:**

**Type:** sticker

**Latest Update:**

### **Rates**

### **Results**

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled:	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

Fulton Sanitation customers outside Rogers city limits purchase 39 stickers per quarter which may be used at any time. Overflow stickers may be purchased for \$1.50 per sticker for 32 gallon bags. Recyclables are accepted for no additional charge under a "blue bag" program.

## Berryville, Arkansas

**Contact:** Brian Ukena  
Director

Carroll County Solid Waste Authority  
111 Public Square  
Berryville, AR 72616  
(870) 423-7156  
(870) 423-3866 fax

**Population:** 3,250

**Inception:** January 1996

**Type:** Base fee + Sticker  
(Bag)  
Curbside and Drop-off

**Latest Update:**

### Rates

Residential Garbage  
Disposal/Collection:  
Base fee:  
\$6.83/month  
Bag fee:  
\$1 for 33 gallon bag

Landfill Tipping Fee:  
\$13.75/ton

### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled:	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

Berryville is located in the northwest corner of the state in Carroll County. Eureka Springs is in the same county and also has a PAYT program that has been in place since 1992.

Before implementing PAYT, there were no franchise agreements with the city and at least three haulers operated in the area. Billing was handled by the haulers and there was no routing and no limit on the amount of waste that could be disposed. There was no recycling program either. At the time PAYT was implemented, curbside recycling was begun. PETE and HDPE plastic containers, metal containers, glass containers and newspapers are collected commingled curbside once per week. The staffed drop-off centers, open 80 hours per week, collect the same materials plus office paper, cardboard, packing peanuts, cooking oil, motor oil and scrap metal. Garbage can be brought to the drop-off centers if bagged with an authorized sticker as well.

Garbage is collected curbside once per week. The first 30 gallon bag is "free" covered by the base fee charged monthly on the water bill. Each 33 gallon bag after that must have an authorized tag attached. The tags are purchased at city hall. Yard waste is collected curbside only once per year but drop-off centers accept yard waste year round. There is no additional charge for yard waste disposal. Bulk items are also



collected once per year curbside. In addition, the City offers a clean up "amnesty" for residents moving in or out whereby any type and amount of waste will be collected at no charge. Low income residents are charged only \$6 per month base fee. The base fee and tag sales cover all costs of the Berryville program.

City officials believe the base rate disposal amount is a contributing factor limiting illegal dumping. Illegal dumping has not been a problem and is a bigger problem in communities in the county that do not have franchise agreements with haulers or mandatory collection of waste. Some illegal dumping into commercial dumpsters did occur at first but this problem was overcome by putting locks on the dumpsters. Fluctuations in fees and revenues is an ongoing problem as is customer confusion, especially among new residents. Educating the residents and political leaders is a constant challenge overcome only by continuous education efforts.

The Berryville program is very similar to the Eureka Springs program and probably benefited from their experience. Unlike Eureka Springs, Berryville officials decided on a tag (or sticker) system rather than bags. They believe the tags are more convenient than the bags but concede that haulers prefer the bags because no judgment is needed regarding size of bags and bags are easier to see. City officials stress the importance of offering a "free" level of service to residents. Without this free bag, they believe illegal dumping would have been significant. They also stress working closely with contracted haulers since they will have to implement the program and deal with the problems. Still, the biggest challenge was convincing people that solid waste service is a utility that should be billed and controlled as such. In this regard, Berryville has been successful.

## Eureka Springs, Arkansas

**Contact:** Brian Ukena  
Director

Carroll County Solid Waste Authority  
111 Public Square  
Berryville, AR 72616  
(870) 423-7156  
(870) 423-3866 fax

**Population:** 2,000

**Inception:** February 1993

**Type:** Base fee + bag  
Curbside

**Latest Update:**

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection: Base Fee: \$7.75/month (no waste covered) Bag Fees: \$.75 for 32 gallon bag \$.35 for 15 gallon bag	Landfill Tipping Fee: \$9.75/cubic yard
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### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled:	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total: down 14% since 1993

Eureka Springs is a small scenic resort community in northwest Arkansas. Since implementing PAYT, a neighboring community, Berryville, in the same county also has implemented PAYT.

Official city bags are available at city hall, the recycling center and grocery stores. Twice a year, the city holds a "Clean-Sweep" event where, for \$8, bulk items, C&D debris, household hazardous waste, etc. is collected. A drop-off site is available for the disposal of white goods for a fee of \$10 for non-refrigerant containing devices and \$15 for those with refrigerants at other times of the year. Other scrap metals may be taken to the drop-off site for free.

Hardship cases are charges only \$4.35 per month for the base fee and garbage is collected at the front door. Regular customers receive once per week curbside garbage and commingled recyclables collection. The city accepts a wide variety of recyclables including newspaper, plastic, glass and metal containers and cardboard. In addition to these, the drop-off site accepts mixed paper and office paper. Curbside cardboard collection is made twice per month. Yard waste is collected monthly, for no additional charge, from the 640 residents served by the system.

The biggest challenge, according to city officials, was getting people to accept that they had to pay for garbage disposal. Before PAYT, some citizens would pile their garbage

at one neighbor's house thus dodging collection fees. The equity of PAYT was stressed which brought about opposition to the base fee. Eureka Springs decided not to include any "free" disposal with the base fee. Berryville chose the opposite and allows a certain amount in association with the base rate. Apparently, residents are now used to paying for waste disposal since the program has been operating successfully for several years. Another measure of the success of the program is that the neighboring city of Berryville used the Eureka Springs program as a guide.

## Newton County, Arkansas

**Contact:** Eugene Villines  
Judge

Court Street  
Jasper, AR 72641  
(501) 446-5127

**Population:** 7,666

**Inception:**

**Type:** Bag  
Curbside (Mailbox)

**Latest Update:**

### Rates

\$1 for 32 gallon bag

### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled:	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

Newton County is in the northwest portion of the state in a scenic area of the Ozark National Forest. The county is very rural.

The county provides mailbox pickup of garbage for all residents. Garbage must be in official county bags. Recyclables are collected mailbox using a blue bag system.

## **Rogers, Arkansas**

**Contact:** LuAnn Diffin

Water Department  
P.O. Box 338  
Rogers, AR 72757  
(501) 321-1142

**Population:**

**Inception:**

**Type:** sticker

**Latest Update:**

### **Rates**

### **Results**

	Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled:		Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:		Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:		Administration:
Other Collections:		Total:

The City bills residents for Fulton Sanitation, a private hauler. Residents put a sticker on one bag which allows them to throw out three 32 gallon bags per week. Overflow stickers must be purchased from Fulton Sanitation for \$1 per sticker for one bag.

## Alachua County, Florida

**Contact:** Ms. Karen Deeter  
Waste Collection Manager

Alachua County Public Works  
P.O. Box 1188  
Gainesville, FL 32602-1188  
(352) 338-3233  
(352) 491-4680 fax

**Population:** 88,091

**Inception:** October 1994

**Type:** Can  
Curbside & Drop-off

**Latest Update:** June 1997

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection:	Landfill Tipping Fee:
\$155.28/year for 35 gallon cart	\$50/ton
\$178.25/year for 64 gallon cart	
\$234.41/year for 96 gallon cart	

### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled: down 14% in first 2 years	Waste Collections: down over 13% since program inception
Recyclable Collections: up 25% during same period	Waste Disposal: down 11% during same period
Yard Waste Collections: down 20% during same period	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total: up 5% since program inception

Alachua County is located in the north central portion of the peninsula of Florida. Gainesville is the major city in the county, home to the University of Florida.

Prior to the PAYT program, county residents received once per week garbage, recyclables and yard waste collections. Residents paid for waste services through a non-ad valorem assessment on their property tax bills. The city of Gainesville also has a PAYT program in place and participated in a joint bid with Alachua County. The two programs are virtually identical and both use the same contractor. However, the contracts are approved separately. The above results for collections represent both the Alachua County and City of Gainesville programs. The cost results are for the county curbside program only.

The county program serves approximately 16,000 households in the unincorporated portion of Alachua County. Curbside collection is in the urbanized areas of the unincorporated portions of the county. Drop-off centers are provided for rural residents. Multi-family dwellings of nine units or less are treated the same as single family residents. Once per week garbage, recycling and yard waste collections are provided for curbside customers. Overflow garbage must be in official yellow bags used by both the county and city programs. The 30 gallon bags are sold through local retailers at a cost of \$10 for five bags. Yard waste disposal is limited to the equivalent of five bags or bundles per week. Excess yard waste is collected through special

pick-ups and charged directly to the customer or prepaid stickers can be purchased from the contract hauler. Stickers are sold in packs of five for \$7.50. Bulk items such as appliances, furniture and remodeling debris generated by the resident are collected at no additional charge with prior pick-up arrangement. Low income homeowners (150% of Federal poverty level) are provided garbage collection at no charge. The disabled and frail elderly are offered back door service at no additional charge.

A wide variety of recyclables are accepted at no additional charge. The county already had an extensive recycling program before implementing PAYT and now accepts newspapers, glass, metal containers, PETE and HDPE plastic containers, magazines and catalogues, cardboard, paper bags, phone books and household batteries. Recyclables are collected curbside commingled (papers separated from other materials at the truck) and separated at a MRF utilized by the city and county.

Five years before implementing the program and at the time full scale curbside recycling was introduced, public education began with radio and TV spots as well as newspaper advertisements, pamphlets and public service announcements (PSA's). The city and county cooperate on education and promotion efforts and the two programs are very similar. The county and city distribute a well-written brochure explaining the PAYT program that gives tips on reducing waste. The public education campaign is ongoing and currently stresses ways to reduce yard waste disposal. In addition, Earth Machine composters are periodically sold to residents for \$15 and wire composters are always free. A state grant helps off-set the cost of the composters.

Although a concern before implementing PAYT, illegal dumping has not been a significant problem. The County passed an ordinance that provides that identifying information found in illegally dumped garbage is considered prima facie evidence of the person who dumped the garbage. In only a few incidents has garbage been dumped on someone else's property. A County Waste Inspector finds identifying evidence and contacts the Sheriff's Office. A specific time is given for the offender to clean up the garbage and, so far, every offender has done so without incident. There has been some illegal dumping of yard waste but identifying the offender is very difficult. Some bulk items are illegally dumped but since these items are collected at no additional charge, County officials do not believe the problem to be a result of the PAYT program.

Some of the obstacles that had to be overcome include opposition to reducing the frequency of garbage collections, limiting the amount of waste disposed, distribution of carts during the short time period between contract award and program implementation and the new hauler's unfamiliarity with the geographical area. Given these, County officials stated the following as recommendations to those considering a similar program.

- In writing bid specifications, allow the bidders enough flexibility to determine the best and most cost-effective means of providing the required service. At the same time, be very specific as to performance standards and use appropriate incentives and disincentives to ensure performance.
- Allow sufficient time for the process; at least six months between bid award and implementation.
- Consider implementing all major changes at once. You can expect your customers to take four to six months to adapt to any major change or combination of changes.
- Give special attention to contract length, as the hauler's ability to amortize the equipment costs will be reflected in the bid price.

The Alachua County (and the City of Gainesville) program has been very successful in reducing waste disposal and increasing recycling. Although administration costs have increased a good bit, overall costs have increased only 5 percent since implementing PAYT. All other costs, except education, have decreased. Yard waste expenses have decreased by nearly 27 percent and recycling expenses have decreased by 16 percent. All of the obstacles stated above were resolved within the first six months of the program. The joint bidding process between the County and City produced substantial savings over separate contracts. Also, the new joint contract encourages waste reduction by providing the haulers with payment only for collection of garbage and recyclables. Landfill disposal charges are paid directly by the County and City. There are now fewer collection vehicles on the streets and residents commend the more aesthetic appearance of standardized carts at the curb. In all, the Alachua County and City of Gainesville PAYT program has generated significant waste reductions, an efficient collection system and the intergovernmental cooperation has resulted in lower rates for the citizens.



## **Lauderhill, Florida**

**Contact:** Ray Sanders  
Utility Billing Supervisor

City of Lauderhill  
2000 City Hall Drive  
Lauderhill, FL 33313

(954) 730-4239

### **Rates**

**Population:**

**Inception:**

**Type:**

**Latest Update:**

### **Results**

#### Collections

Waste Landfilled:

Recyclable Collections:

Yard Waste Collections:

Other Collections:

#### Costs

Waste Collections:

Waste Disposal:

Administration:

Total:

## Gainesville, Florida

**Contact:** Steve Hiney  
(352) 334-3456

**Population:** 97,700  
**Inception:** October 1994  
**Type:** Can  
Curbside  
**Latest Update:**

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection:  
\$13.50/month for 35 gallon cart  
\$15.96/month for 64 gallon cart  
\$19.75/month for 96 gallon cart

### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled: down 14% in first 2 years	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections: up 25% during same period	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections: down 20% during same period	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

Gainesville, home to the University of Florida, is located in Alachua County with which the city has a joint PAYT program although separate contracts. The program is virtually identical to the Alachua County program since the City and County cooperated on a joint bid with a single hauler for garbage and recyclables collection and another hauler for yard waste collections.

The city went from twice per week collections to once per week and changed contract haulers at the same time it implemented PAYT. Full cost accounting was also implemented. Prior to PAYT, city residents were charged a flat monthly rate on their utility bill. The above results for collections represent both the Alachua County and City of Gainesville programs.

Multi-family dwellings of four units or less are treated the same as single family residents. Once per week garbage, recycling and yard waste collections are provided. Overflow garbage must be in official yellow bags used by both the county and city programs. The 30 gallon bags are sold through local retailers at a cost of \$10 for five bags. Unlike the County program, City residents are allowed unlimited yard waste disposal. Bulk items such as appliances, furniture and remodeling debris generated by the resident are collected at no additional charge with prior pick-up arrangement. Low income homeowners (150% of Federal poverty level) are provided garbage collection at no charge. The disabled and frail elderly are offered back door service at no additional charge.

A wide variety of recyclables are accepted at no additional charge. The City already had an extensive recycling program before implementing PAYT and now accepts newspapers, glass, metal containers, PETE and HDPE plastic containers, magazines and catalogues, cardboard, paper bags, phone books and household batteries. Recyclables are collected curbside commingled (papers separated from other materials at the truck) and separated at a MRF utilized by the City and County.

Five years before implementing the program and at the time full scale curbside recycling was introduced, public education began with radio and TV spots as well as newspaper advertisements, pamphlets and public service announcements (PSA's). The City and County cooperate on education and promotion efforts and the two programs are very similar. The City and County distribute a well-written brochure explaining the PAYT program that gives tips on reducing waste. The public education campaign is ongoing and currently stresses ways to reduce yard waste disposal. In addition, Earth Machine composters are periodically sold to residents for \$15 and wire composters are always free. A state grant helps off-set the cost of the composters.

Although a concern before implementing PAYT, illegal dumping has not been a significant problem. The County passed an ordinance that provides that identifying information found in illegally dumped garbage is considered prima facie evidence of the person who dumped the garbage. In only a few incidents has garbage been dumped on someone else's property. A County Waste Inspector finds identifying evidence and contacts the Sheriff's Office. A specific time is given for the offender to clean up the garbage and, so far, every offender has done so without incident. There has been some illegal dumping of yard waste but identifying the offender is very difficult. Some bulk items are illegally dumped but since these items are collected at no additional charge, County officials do not believe the problem to be a result of the PAYT program.

Some of the obstacles that had to be overcome include opposition to reducing the frequency of garbage collections, limiting the amount of waste disposed, distribution of carts during the short time period between contract award and program implementation and the new hauler's unfamiliarity with the program. Given these, County officials stated the following as recommendations to those considering a similar program.

- In writing bid specifications, allow the bidders enough flexibility to determine the best and most cost-effective means of providing the required service. At the same time, be very specific as to performance standards and use appropriate incentives and disincentives to ensure performance.
- Allow sufficient time for the process; at least six months between bid award and implementation.

- Consider implementing all major changes at once. You can expect your customers to take four to six months to adapt to any major change or combination of changes.
- Give special attention to contract length, as the hauler's ability to amortize the equipment costs will be reflected in the bid price.

The City of Gainesville (and Alachua County) program has been very successful in reducing waste disposal and increasing recycling. The joint bidding process between the County and City produced substantial savings over separate contracts. Also, the new joint contract encourages waste reduction by providing the haulers with payment only for collection of garbage and recyclables. Landfill disposal charges are paid directly by the City and County. There are now fewer collection vehicles on the streets and residents commend the more aesthetic appearance of standardized carts at the curb. In all, the City of Gainesville and Alachua County PAYT program has generated significant waste reductions, an efficient collection system and the intergovernmental cooperation has resulted in lower rates for the citizens.

## Oakland Park, Florida

**Contact:** Greg Gomez

3650 NE 12th Avenue  
Oakland Park, FL 33334  
(954) 561-6266  
(954) 561-6202 fax

**Population:** 26,000

**Inception:** July 1996

**Type:** Weight-based  
Commercial

**Latest Update:**

### Rates

### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled:	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections: up over 42%	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

Oakland Park has initiated a unique weight-based program for commercial, multi-family residences and small business customers. Customers are charged by the number of times the dumpsters are emptied and an additional amount based on the weight of the garbage in the containers. Disposal tonnage is down 20 percent and 77 percent of all customers are paying less than they did before the system was implemented.

Currently, Oakland Park is considering a weight-based system for its residential customers.

## Plantation, Florida

**Contact:** Paul DeBernardo

400 NW 73rd Avenue  
Plantation, FL 33317  
(954) 797-2207  
(954) 797-2756 fax

**Population:** 74,000

**Inception:** 1976

**Type:** bag  
curbside

**Latest Update:**

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection: \$1.60 for 50 lb. bags	Landfill and Incinerator Tipping Fee: \$77.32/ton
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### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled:	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

Plantation has one of the oldest pay-as-you-throw programs in the country. Located in south Florida near Ft. Lauderdale, some 22,000 households are served by the PAYT system. Bags are sold at three supermarket chains who order their own replacements. Bag distribution is handled through a contractor.

The city contracts services with a private hauler that includes a "blue bag" recycling program for single family homes and condominiums. Plastic, glass and metal containers are commingled in the bags while newspapers are kept separate. Single family residents pay \$.11 for recycling bags and multi-family dwellers pay \$.15 per recycling bag. Bulk items are collected curbside three time a year for no additional cost. Small bundles of yard trimmings (branches, palm fronds, cardboard, etc.) are collected curbside with garbage if set out with an official garbage bag. They will not be collected without a bag present. Larger quantities of yard trimmings are accepted at a drop-off site with special coupons purchased at the same locations as the bags. Coupons are \$5 each. One car equals one coupon, trucks are two coupons and trucks or trailers with side-boards are three coupons. Wood chips are offered free to the public. The city also operates a recycling drop-off center that accepts plastic, glass and metal containers as well as newspaper for free.

The Plantation program is somewhat unique in that residents pay for recycling as well as disposal. However, the program has been very successful as evidenced by its long history.

## Athens - Clarke County, Georgia

**Contact:** Melissa Tweedell

P.O. Box 1868  
Athens, GA 30603  
(706) 613-3512  
(706) 613-3513 fax

**Population:** 90,000

**Inception:** September 1995

**Type:** Can  
Backyard/sideyard

**Latest Update:** August 1997

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection:  
\$12/month for one 20 gallon can (minimum service available)  
\$13/month for one 32 gallon can  
\$16/month for two 32 gallon cans (basic service level)  
\$22/month for three 32 gallon cans  
\$30/month for four 32 gallon cans  
\$42/month for five 32 gallon cans (maximum service available)  
\$2 per bag sticker for overflow service

Landfill Tipping Fee:  
\$34/ton

### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled: down over 10% since inception	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections: 72% increase from FY'96 to FY'97	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

Home to the University of Georgia, the Athens-Clarke County (ACC) is a consolidated government in the northeast portion of the state. Athens is a classic "college town" where the population increases dramatically when classes are in session. The area is growing rapidly as the university grows and the Georgia economy expands. The county to the south of ACC, Oconee County, also has a PAYT program in place. However, the two programs are quite different. The ACC program serves approximately 9,000 single family households in the Urban Service District (former Athens City limits) of the county. The General Service District, the former county areas of ACC, are served by private haulers. The private haulers are regulated by ACC and must offer PAYT and collect the same recyclables in order to operate. However, they may set pricing on their own. The information given here is for the Urban Service District only, unless otherwise stated.

Small businesses such as retail shops, restaurants and bars/coffee shops also have a PAYT program. They pay a base fee determined by the number of pick-ups per week, ranging from \$15 per month for twice per week collection to \$154 per month for three times per day plus twice on Sunday, plus \$1.00 for each 38 gallon bag. Built into the billing costs, there is no additional cost for recycling to small businesses. Larger businesses use traditional dumpster services and have the opportunity to recycle as all haulers must offer recycling to their customers. The small businesses, therefore, have

two ways to decrease their garbage bill. They can reduce the number of bags needed and/or the number of pick-ups needed.

Garbage collection is once per week back yard or side yard and residents must provide their own cans as outlined in the pricing structure. Residents may change their level of service for free once per year. There is a \$10 fee for each additional change. Overflow must be placed in a bag and have an official sticker attached. The stickers can be ordered by mail and charged to the utility bill. Garbage fees also are charged on the resident's utility bill.

Yard waste collections are financed in the traditional method of property taxes giving customers the right to throw out approximately a pick-up truck load at no additional charge. Collections are made every two months to all of ACC, including the General Service District. Residents may take yard waste to the ACC landfill mulch processing facility for \$3.50 per pickup truck load. White goods and other scrap metals are accepted free for recycling at the landfill. White goods, oversized items and additional yard waste can be collected curbside for an additional fee which can be charged to the resident's utility bill. The fees usually start at \$35.

In conjunction with the PAYT system, Athens-Clarke County contracted for a materials recovery facility (MRF) that handles a wide array of items collected curbside commingled once per week, paper and containers separate, or at one of the six unstaffed drop-off centers located throughout the county. The facility is guaranteed 775 tons per month through a put-or-pay system and 80 percent of the recycling revenue goes to the county. Business customers commingle plastic, glass and metal containers in clear bags and mixed paper in separate clear bags. Businesses recycling large quantities of containers, such as glass, may use roll-out carts. Residential customers are given two recycling containers, one for plastic, glass, metal and aseptic containers and the other for mixed papers. There is no additional charge for recycling. The elderly and handicapped are offered front door pick-up of recyclables at no additional charge.

As part of its ongoing education efforts, waste reduction workshops and audits are offered to businesses to help them reduce waste generation. In addition to the brochures, presentations, etc., compost workshops are offered to residents and compost bins are sometimes given away for free. Compost bins with education material are regularly offered to residents for \$10 each. Eight months prior to implementing PAYT, mailers, public service announcements, presentations and press coverage was used to educate residents about the ensuing program. Press coverage, in particular, was quite extensive with articles appearing in Atlanta papers, widely read throughout the state. In fact, the education proved so successful that the program began with very few problems, much to the surprise of ACC officials. They now believe



they should have concentrated more on the businesses, both large and small. Their recycling programs have been more difficult to implement and there has been more resistance to PAYT from businesses than residents. ACC officials believe more education is needed for their business clients especially since they produce such a large quantity of solid waste. Overall, ACC officials stress that education is the key to a successful program.

## **Austell, Georgia**

**Contact:** Clay Hayes

2716 Broad Street  
Austell, GA 30001  
(770) 944-4325

**Population:**

**Inception:** 1993

**Type:** Bag

**Latest Update:**

### **Rates**

### **Results**

#### Collections

Waste Landfilled:

Recyclable Collections:

Yard Waste Collections:

Other Collections:

#### Costs

Waste Collections:

Waste Disposal:

Administration:

Total:

## **Cherokee County, Georgia**

**Contact:** John Sparks

Cherokee Clean and Beautiful  
470 Blalock Road  
Canton, GA 30115  
(770) 517-7650  
(770) 517-7652 fax  
JSPARKS687@AOL.COM

**Population:**

**Inception:**

**Type:**

**Latest Update:**

### **Rates**

### **Results**

#### Collections

Waste Landfilled:

Recyclable Collections:

Yard Waste Collections:

Other Collections:

#### Costs

Waste Collections:

Waste Disposal:

Administration:

Total:

## Coweta County, Georgia

**Contact:** Judy Holdaway  
Director of Environmental Management

22 East Broad Street  
Newnan, GA 30263  
(770) 254-3705  
(770) 254-2606 fax

**Population:** 38,302

**Inception:** October 1993

**Type:** Bag  
Drop-off

**Latest Update:**

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection:  
\$.40 for 8 gallon bags  
\$.75 for 16 gallon bags  
\$1.50 for 32 gallon bags  
\$.10 for any bags for seniors and low income citizens (limited  
to a maximum equivalent of one 16 gallon bag per week)

### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled:	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

Coweta County is located in west central Georgia off I-85. The county is experiencing growth from the southern expansion of Atlanta and surrounding communities.

Residents of the county have the option of either curbside collection through franchised private haulers or self-service at one of 16 drop-off convenience centers. Garbage taken to the convenience centers must be in approved bags purchased at fire stations, the Solid Waste Department and grocery stores. Recycling is free to all county residents at 12 of the 16 convenience centers. The other four sites are strictly compactor sites staffed by community service workers. Recyclables are collected in roll-off containers that, when full, are taken to a local recycler. Operation and maintenance of the 12 convenience centers offering recycling is contracted out to a private company. Two of the sites are open 80 hours per week, ten are open 60 hours per week and the four sites serviced by community workers are open at limited times. The cost to staff the sites is approximately \$300,000 per year. Nearly all costs are paid by the program with some general revenue fund appropriations. Eventually the county hopes for the program to become an enterprise fund.

Large and bulk items must be taken to the county's transfer station and disposed at \$1.48 per 100 pounds. Recyclables but not garbage is accepted at the transfer station. The private haulers operating in the county must register with the county and are required to utilize the transfer station. Other than that, private haulers are free to operate independently and contract with individual households. Most of the private

haulers offer curbside recycling of select materials. The county has no records of the number of residents utilizing curbside service.

Before implementing PAYT, the county offered curbside service to all residents and operated its own landfill. The unique change has been accepted well and there has been no significant illegal dumping problem.

## Douglasville, Georgia

**Contact:** Keith L. Williams  
Public Services Director  
Buddy Allison, Street & Sanitation Superintendent

P.O. Box 219  
6695 Church Street  
Douglasville, GA 30133  
(770) 920-3000

**Population:** 15,000  
**Inception:** June 1995

**Type:** Base fee + Bag  
Curbside

**Latest Update:**

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection:

Base Fee:

\$8/month

Bag Fees:

\$.70 for 20 gallon bags

\$1.20 for 40 gallon bags

### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled: down 40%	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

Douglasville is in Douglas County just west of Atlanta. Like many communities surrounding Atlanta, the city and county are experiencing rapid growth from urban expansion.

After implementing a pilot recycling program, the city decided to utilize PAYT to increase recycling and decrease waste generation. The bag system chosen by the city serves the 4,200 households in the city. The specially imprinted bags are purchased at local grocery stores and must be placed in 90 gallon carts provided by the city. The base fee covers approximately 60 percent of the collection and disposal costs for the solid waste and recycling programs. Recycling is contracted through a private hauler. With the additional revenues from bag sales, all costs are covered by the program. The city also purchased a grinder for yard trimmings and provides the mulch free to the public. The combination of PAYT, recycling and yard waste mulching has reduced landfilled wastes by nearly 40 percent.

## Duluth, Georgia

**Contact:** Larry Rubenstein  
City Administrator

City of Duluth  
3578 West Lawrence Street  
Duluth, GA 30136  
(770) 476-3434

**Population:** 9,029

**Inception:** 1979

**Type:** Bag

**Latest Update:**

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection:  
\$1 for 32 gallon bags

### Results

	Collections		Costs
Waste Landfilled:		Waste Collections:	
Recyclable Collections:		Waste Disposal:	
Yard Waste Collections:		Administration:	
Other Collections:		Total:	

Duluth is just north of metropolitan Atlanta and is experiencing growth from the northern expansion of the Atlanta area. With approximately 10,000 residents Duluth is still a relatively small city yet is an innovator in waste management having adopted a PAYT program in 1979. The program has grown and now includes an extensive recycling and composting program.

Officially marked bags are available at grocery stores and city hall in boxes of twenty. Special provisions are made for senior citizens, the disabled and low income families with proper documentation. They may purchase bags at a reduced rate but are limited to six boxes per year. A one-time fee of \$5 is charged for recycling bins. Backyard composters and countertop containers are available for free to city residents. Once a month, the city operates a drop-off site for oversized articles free of charge. Although most of the cost of the program is paid from the sale of bags, some general revenue funds used to defray expenses.

Garbage is collected once per week as are recyclables. A wide variety of recyclables are accepted commingled in bins and are collected by the same private hauler contracted by the city. residents pay no direct extra charge for recycling.

As with any program, there are still a few complaints, especially from large families, but most residents are pleased with the program. The city has experienced significant decreases in the amount of waste being landfilled.

## **Eatonton, Georgia**

**Contact:** Roy Vining  
City Administrator

P.O. Box 3820  
Eatonton, GA 31024  
(706) 485-3311

**Population:**

**Inception:**

**Type:**

**Latest Update:**

### **Rates**

### **Results**

#### Collections

Waste Landfilled:

Recyclable Collections:

Yard Waste Collections:

Other Collections:

#### Costs

Waste Collections:

Waste Disposal:

Administration:

Total:



## **Forsyth County, Georgia**

**Contact:** Nancy Smallwood  
Resource Coordinator

110 East Main Street  
Suite 120  
Cumming, GA 30130  
(770) 781-2175

**Population:**

**Inception:**

**Type:**

**Latest Update:**

### **Rates**

### **Results**

#### Collections

Waste Landfilled:

Recyclable Collections:

Yard Waste Collections:

Other Collections:

#### Costs

Waste Collections:

Waste Disposal:

Administration:

Total:

## Jackson County, Georgia

**Contact:** Tommy Page

Solid Waste Department  
P.O. Box 434  
Jefferson, GA 30549  
(706) 367-6303  
(706) 367-9083 fax

**Population:** 30,005

**Inception:** 1994

**Type:** Bag  
Drop-off

**Latest Update:**

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection:  
\$.75 for 16 gallon bags  
\$1.50 for 38 gallon bags

### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled:	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

Jackson County is located in the northeast portion of the state just north of Athens, Georgia. The county is mainly rural.

Before implementing the PAYT system, garbage disposal had been "free" to residents. Now, county residents must either take their garbage directly to the landfill or transfer station or, utilizing the PAYT system, to one of two compactor sites. Garbage taken to these two compactor sites must be in official bags. The sites are fenced and staffed by retirees open from 7am - 7pm, Monday through Saturday. The sites cost approximately \$20,000 to run annually. Recyclables may be disposed of free at the compactor sites where they are collected and transferred to the transfer stations for further separation. Contamination has been a problem causing more than half of the material collected to be landfilled. Most residents have not chosen to use the PAYT program and instead take their garbage directly to the landfill where five bags can be disposed of for only \$2.00.

There has been a great deal of resistance to the program and the county is planning to contract the compactor sites out to a private company and perhaps end the PAYT program altogether.

## **Lincoln County, Georgia**

**Contact:** Robert Ashmore

(706) 359-7162

**Population:**

**Inception:** 1992

**Type:** Bag

Drop-off

**Latest Update:**

### **Rates**

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection:

\$.25 for 32 gallon bags

### **Results**

	Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled:		Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:		Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:		Administration:
Other Collections:		Total:

The county currently operates one drop-off site and is looking to add more.

## Marietta, Georgia

**Contact:** Joan Ellars  
Director Marietta Clean City Commission

P.O. Box 609  
Marietta, GA 30061  
(770) 528-0629  
(770) 528-0439 fax

**Population:** 44,129

**Inception:** March 1995

**Type:** Can  
Curbside (Backdoor)

**Latest Update:**

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection:	Transfer Station Tipping Fee:
\$10/month for one 20 gallon can	\$27.50/ton
\$12/month for one 32 gallon can	
\$16/month for two 32 gallon cans	
\$5/month for each additional 32 gallon can	

### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled: down 30%	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

Marietta is located in Cobb County northwest of Atlanta and part of the metropolitan Atlanta region. The city has experienced tremendous growth in recent years but still retains much of its "old South" character. Largely populated by professionals, the average income is over \$42,000.

Marietta's PAYT program began as a pilot project in 1994 partly funded by EPA Region IV. The city tested both a can and a sticker program. Ultimately, the residents demonstrated a preference for the can system and the program was implemented city-wide in 1995 and serves nearly 11,000 single family, duplex and quadraplex households. Residents must subscribe to their preferred level of service by purchasing special stickers that affix to their own garbage cans. These cans must not exceed 32 gallons and there is a weight limit of 60 pounds allowable in each can. Overflow garbage may be placed in official bags that sell for three for \$5.00. Special and oversize items are picked up for a charge of from \$5 to \$30 depending on the item.

Garbage is collected twice per week with backdoor pickup. Recyclables are collected curbside twice per week. Some property tax revenue is used to fund the program. Although there was initial resistance, the program is running smoothly now with fewer complaints. The city considers education the most important component for success.

## **McDuffie County, Georgia**

**Contact:** DeWayne Patrick or Harry Johnson

P.O. Box 1017  
Thomson, GA 30824  
(706) 595-1781

**Population:**

**Inception:**

**Type:**

**Latest Update:**

### **Rates**

### **Results**

#### Collections

Waste Landfilled:

Recyclable Collections:

Yard Waste Collections:

Other Collections:

#### Costs

Waste Collections:

Waste Disposal:

Administration:

Total:

## Oconee County, Georgia

**Contact:** Paul S. Penn, Jr. - County Administrator  
John McNally - Oconee County Clean & Beautiful

P.O. Box 145  
Watkinsville, GA 30677  
(706) 769-5120  
(706) 769-0705 fax

**Population:** 25,000

**Inception:** May 1994

**Type:** Base fee + Bag  
Drop-off

**Latest Update:** August 1997

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection:	Landfill Tipping Fee:
Base Fee:	\$50/ton
\$19.50 (charged on tax bill)	
Bag fees:	
\$1.00 for 20 gallon bags	
\$1.50 for 32 gallon bags	

### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled: down 30%	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

Oconee County is adjacent to Athens-Clarke County, which also has a PAYT program, and is home to many professionals associated with the University of Georgia. Much of the county is still rural although the county is growing at a rapid rate.

In May of 1994, the county removed its 119 green boxes from 39 sites and replaced them with five strategically located convenience centers. The convenience centers are fenced, lighted and staffed. They are open from 7am - 7pm Monday through Saturday and 1pm - 4pm on Sundays. Official bags can be purchased at various retail outlets or the commissioners office. Retailers pay \$1.40 per 32 gallon bag which gives them \$.10 profit from each bag sold. A wide variety of recyclables are accepted free at the five staffed and one unstaffed convenience centers. Once collected, recyclables are taken to the county's closed inert landfill for further separation and baling, then sold.

There has been no noticeable increase in illegal dumping. Some of the decrease in waste landfilled by the county may be attributed to less waste entering the county from neighboring county residents and from licensed private haulers who can contract with residents for curbside collection. A scrap tire elimination grant allowed hiring of code enforcement officers to deter illegal dumping, although few citations have been issued.

Residents may take yard trimmings to the inert landfill for disposal at \$10 per ton.

## Pickens County, Georgia

**Contact:** Burley Young

3043 Camp Road  
Jasper, GA 30734  
(706) 692-2722

**Population:**

**Inception:** 1991

**Type:** Bag  
Drop-off

**Latest Update:**

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection:  
\$1 for 32 gallon bags

### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled:	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

Pickens County is located in north central Georgia and is mostly rural.

There are two drop-off sites where residents may bring their bagged garbage or pay by the ton for loose garbage.

## Snellville, Georgia

**Contact:** Gaye Johnson

Sanitation Department  
1000 East Park Drive  
Snellville, GA 30278  
(770) 985-3527

**Population:** 12,084

**Inception:** 1993

**Type:** Can  
Curbside

**Latest Update:**

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection:  
\$31.50/quarter for one 38 gallon cart  
\$33.00/quarter for one 65 gallon cart  
\$15.75/quarter for each additional 65 gallon cart

### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled:	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:



## Thomasville, Georgia

**Contact:** Veon Williams

Thomasville/Thomas County Clean and Beautiful  
P.O. Box 1540  
Thomasville, GA 31799  
(912) 225-4300

**Population:** 17,457

**Inception:** 1992

**Type:** Can (sticker)  
Curbside

**Latest Update:**

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection:  
\$8/month for one 32 gallon can  
\$5/month for each additional 32 gallon can  
\$8/month voluntary yard trimmings pickup

### Results

Collections		Costs
Waste Landfilled:		Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:		Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:		Administration:
Other Collections:		Total:

Thomasville is in the extreme southern part of the state in a rural county.

Recycling is available at three unstaffed drop-off sites in the city. The program is set up as an enterprise fund so all costs are covered by the revenue collected from the program.

## Tift County, Georgia

**Contact:** Sherrie Sumner  
Executive Director Tifton/Tift County Clean Community Commission  
The Myron Complex  
P.O. Box 229  
Tifton, GA 31793  
(912) 382-6231 ext. 129 or 133  
(912) 386-9694 fax

**Population:** 19,292  
**Inception:** October 1992  
**Type:** Bag  
Drop-off

**Latest Update:** August 1997

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection:	Landfill Tipping Fee:
\$1.50 for 32 gallon bags	\$38/ton
\$.75 for 16 gallon bags	
\$.45 for 8 gallon bags	

### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled:	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

Tift County and the major city in the county, Tifton, are located in the southern part of the state off I-75. Both the city and the county have a PAYT program that are usually grouped together but are in fact different systems. The County program is administered by the Department of Public Works and the City program is administered by the Department of Sanitation. The Tifton/Tift County PAYT program has been a model program from inception and has received much publicity.

Before PAYT, the county operated 23 dumpster sites subsidized through tax revenue. The county now operates seven staffed collection centers for garbage disposal and recycling drop-off. Each site is fenced, landscaped and well lit with operating hours from 30 to 80 hours per week. Recyclables accepted include aluminum and steel cans, all colors of glass, #1 and #2 plastics, OCC and ONP. Recyclables are transported to the Tifton/Tift County Recycling Plant where prison laborers bale the materials for transport to markets.

Bags, colored according to size, are purchased at the county commission office or at grocery and convenience stores. The stores purchase the bags from the county at a discounted price for a \$.10 profit per bag.

## Tifton, Georgia

**Contact:** Sherrie Sumner  
Executive Director Tifton/Tift County Clean Community Commission  
The Myron Complex  
P.O. Box 229  
Tifton, GA 31793  
(912) 382-6231 ext. 129 or 133  
(912) 386-9694 fax

**Population:** 14,215  
**Inception:** January 1992  
**Type:** Can  
Curbside

**Latest Update:** August 1997

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection:	Landfill Tipping Fee:
\$11.50/month for one 32 gallon can	\$38/ton
\$18.50/month for two 32 gallon cans	
\$26.00/month for three 32 gallon cans	

### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled:	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

Tifton is the county seat for Tift County, a rural county in the southern part of the state. The city and the county both have PAYT programs which operate somewhat differently but are usually considered together as the Tifton/Tift County program. In fact, city residents with overflow garbage may use the bags sold by the county for that purpose. However, the County program is administered by the Department of Public Works and the City program is administered by the Department of Sanitation.

The main difference between the city and the county program is that city residents have curbside collection and use cans rather than bags. City residents must choose one of the pricing options and supply their own 32 gallon cans to which a sticker is affixed. Residents are supplied with an 18 gallon recycling container for curbside collection of aluminum and steel cans, all colors of glass, #1 PET and #2 HDPE plastics, OCC and ONP. Additional recycling containers may be purchased for \$8. Garbage and recyclables are collected once per week using separate vehicles. Recyclables are transported to the Tifton/Tift County Recycling Plant where prison laborers bale the materials for transport to markets.

The program has been a model in the state and region and is widely acclaimed as very successful. Preliminary results have indicated a 33 percent decrease in landfilled materials.

## West Point, Georgia

**Contact:** Joel Wood  
City Manager  
P.O. Box 487  
West Point, GA 31833  
(706) 645-3522

**Population:** 3,571  
**Inception:** August 1994

**Type:** Can  
Curbside  
**Latest Update:** August 1997

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection:  
\$8/month for one 45 gallon can  
\$4/month for each additional 45 gallon can (up to three total)

### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled:	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

West Point is in the central part of the state on the Alabama border.

The city implemented the PAYT program after a one year educational campaign. Residents are given a numbered tag for one can up to 45 gallons which the residents supply. The tags are registered at city hall in case of theft. Residents may have up to two additional cans, each no larger than 45 gallons, for an extra \$4 per month per can. Overflow garbage can be put in authorized bags purchased at city hall for \$2 each. Yard trimmings up to 5 cubic yards are collected weekly at no additional charge.

There is no curbside collection of recyclables. The city built a drop-off location, which they call the recycling park. The city contracts for operation of the drop-off site. Revenue from the recyclables serves as compensation for the contractor.

The program is not self supportive and funds from the general revenue are used to offset the difference. The city considers the program a success and has received few complaints from residents.

## Aberdeen, Maryland

**Contact:** Jim Litke  
Recycling Coordinator

P.O. Box 70  
Aberdeen, MD 21001  
(410) 272-1600  
(410) 273-7402 fax

**Population:** 13,500

**Inception:** March 1993

**Type:** Base fee + can or bag  
Curbside

**Latest Update:**

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection: Base Fee: \$5/month (charged on tax bill) Bag fees: \$.40 for 20 gallon can or 13 gallon bag \$.80 for 32 gallon can or 30 gallon bag	Landfill & Incinerator Tipping Fees: \$35/ton
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### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled:	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

Aberdeen is located 30 miles northeast of Baltimore on the Chesapeake Bay. The PAYT program serves some 3,600 households and is unique in that the fees collected from the PAYT program are used to cover the cost of the tipping fees only. The base fee charged to everyone covers garbage collection, recycling, collection of yard waste and bulk items.

Garbage is collected curbside once per week with the correct official sticker attached. Residents may use either their own bags or cans. If cans are used, stickers are to be placed on the top piece of trash in the can, not on the can. Residents also may use larger 60 and 90 gallon cans with the appropriate corresponding number of stickers attached. The City chose the sticker program because of the ease of distribution to retail outlets, the flexibility of allowing a large light-weight bag to be covered by a small bag sticker and the immediate impact of disposing of less garbage. The stickers may be purchased at supermarkets, convenience stores and the city office in any amount.

Recyclables are collected curbside commingled alternating between containers one week and paper items the next week. Newspaper, mixed paper, cardboard, glass, metal containers and PETE and HDPE plastic containers are accepted in the "blue bag" program. A staffed drop-off site accepts the above recyclables in addition to scrap metals, all other plastic containers and polystyrene, textiles, oil and antifreeze and nickel-cadmium batteries on the first and third Saturday of the month.

Yard waste is collected curbside twice per month for ten months of the year at no additional charge. Other bulk items are collected curbside by appointment also for no additional charge. Free compost is given away to residents at the recycling drop-off site. Additionally, free compost workshops are periodically given and compost bins are available to residents for \$3 each.

Although total tonnage figures are unavailable since they were not recorded until approximately nine months before implementing the PAYT program, the average pounds of garbage collected per household has decreased by 36 percent since the program began. Recyclables collected has nearly doubled and landfill disposal fees have decreased by 19 percent. Illegal dumping has not been a problem with only minor occurrences noted. The greatest concerns before implementing PAYT were the public's perception of increased costs and political uncertainties.

Neither is considered much of a problem now some four years into the program. As with any successful program, the City made sure that all residents were educated about the program and continue to do so. In fact, prior to implementation, all residents were polled as to the type of system preferred. Residents chose the sticker system over a flat rate system by 70 percent to 30 percent. Not only does this show the residents' preference for PAYT but also was a good marketing tool and may have contributed to the success of the program.

## Centreville, Maryland

**Contact:** Todd Mohn  
Roads Engineer

P.O. Box 56  
Centreville, MD 21617

### Rates

**Population:**

**Inception:**

**Type:**

**Latest Update:**

## Results

### Collections

Waste Landfilled:

Recyclable Collections:

Yard Waste Collections:

Other Collections:

### Costs

Waste Collections:

Waste Disposal:

Administration:

Total:

## **Kent County, Maryland**

**Contact:** Carter G. Stanton  
Kent County Public Works Director

100 Gibson Avenue  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
(410) 778-7433  
(410) 778-7424 fax

### **Rates**

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection:  
\$10 for book of 25 coupons

### **Results**

Collections
Waste Landfilled: down 17% last year
Recyclable Collections: up 13% last year
Yard Waste Collections:
Other Collections:

**Population:**  
**Inception:** 1991

**Type:**

**Latest Update:**

Costs
Waste Collections:
Waste Disposal:
Administration:
Total:



## **LaPlata, Maryland**

**Contact:** Dennis Fleming  
Chief of Solid Waste

Department of Public Facilities  
1001 Radio Station Road  
LaPlata, MD 20646

**Population:** 112,000

**Inception:** 1992

**Type:** Bag/can  
Drop-off

**Latest Update:**

### **Rates**

\$.50 for 32 gallon bag or can

### **Results**

	Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled:		Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:		Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:		Administration:
Other Collections:		Total:

The county operates four drop-off sites. An estimated 10 percent of households utilize the "Tag-A-Bag" system.

## Jefferson City, Missouri

**Contact:** Charles Lansford

Community Sanitation

City Hall

Jefferson City, MO 65101

### Rates

**Population:**

**Inception:**

**Type:**

**Latest Update:**

## Results

### Collections

Waste Landfilled:

Recyclable Collections:

Yard Waste Collections:

Other Collections:

### Costs

Waste Collections:

Waste Disposal:

Administration:

Total:

## **Joplin, Missouri**

**Contact:** Matt Matthews

P.O. Box 1423

Joplin, MO 64802

### **Rates**

**Population:**

**Inception:**

**Type:**

**Latest Update:**

### **Results**

#### Collections

Waste Landfilled:

Recyclable Collections:

Yard Waste Collections:

Other Collections:

#### Costs

Waste Collections:

Waste Disposal:

Administration:

Total:

## Buncombe County, North Carolina

**Contact:** Don Yelton  
Waste Reduction Specialist

Buncombe County General Services Department  
30 Valley Street  
Asheville, NC 28801  
(704) 255-5066  
(704) 251-4936 fax

**Population:** 174,821

**Inception:** 1988

**Type:** Bag  
Curbside and Drop-off

**Latest Update:**

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection:  
Curbside

\$11.50/month for four 33 gallon bags per week if recyclables separated	Landfill Tipping Fee:
\$13.50/month for four 33 gallon bags per week if recyclables not separated	\$31/ton
Drop-off	Wood Waste Mulching Fee:
\$.75 per 32 gallon bag or \$28/ton	\$15/ton

### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled:	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

Buncombe County is in western North Carolina amid the Blue Ridge Mountains. The county seat of Asheville is best known for the Biltmore Estates park and one of the most scenic portions of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Municipalities in Buncombe County have the option of participating in the county PAYT program or contracting with private haulers. Private haulers operating outside municipal districts must charge according to the rates set by the county. The Buncombe County program is primarily geared toward encouraging recycling. Each hauler operates their own recycling program but most of the common items are accepted in the blue (or clear) bag program. Residents pay the higher rate if they do not set out a bag of recyclables. Recyclables are accepted for free at the landfill for residents hauling their own garbage thus enabling them to reduce the cost of disposal.

## New Bern, North Carolina

**Contact:** Tim Lee

American Refuse Systems, Inc.  
P.O. Box 3455  
New Bern, NC 28564  
(919) 633-6330  
(919) 633-9707 fax

**Population:** 17,363

**Inception:** November 1991

**Type:** Can + Sticker overflow  
Curbside

**Latest Update:**

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection:

Base fee:

\$ for 64 gallon can

Sticker fees:

\$1.25 per sticker for 33 gallon bags

### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled:	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

The system implemented in New Bern is a variation of Craven County's program where residents pay a monthly fee for a 64 gallon cart and any overflow must be placed in a bag with an official Craven County sticker affixed. The city performs bulk waste and yard waste collections while allowing the county to serve city curbside garbage and recycling customers through the hauler contracted for the county.

As with the Craven County system, New Bern residents are provided an 18 gallon recycling bin and are not charged an additional fee for recycling. The curbside recycling program accepts plastic, glass and metal containers and newspapers. In addition, mixed papers are collected once per week when placed in a paper bag. Also, cardboard is collected the third week of each month. The city provides curbside yard waste and white, brown and bulky goods collection. Loose leaves are collected from November through February. Bagged leaves are collected year round. Mulch from yard waste collections is available free to residents.

New Bern residents have access to the seven staffed convenience centers operated by the county and must follow the same guidelines.

## Craven County, North Carolina

**Contact:** Bobbi Waters  
Clean Sweep Coordinator, Craven County

406 Craven Street  
New Bern, NC 28560  
(919) 636-6659  
(919) 636-6638 fax

**Population:** 86,789

**Inception:** November 1991

**Type:** Sticker  
Curbside & Drop-off

**Latest Update:** June 1997

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection:  
\$2 per sticker for 33 gallon bags

### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled: down 45% since 1991	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

Craven County is located in eastern North Carolina near the Atlantic shore. It is a fairly rural county with approximately 32,000 households. There are several small municipalities in the county, some of which offer services in addition to the county.

The Craven County program is a unique blend of services that gives county residents a number of options. All county residents have access to curbside garbage collection through one of six haulers operating in separate franchised areas. Residents contract individually with licensed haulers in their area for curbside pick-up of garbage placed in bags with approved stickers or they can opt for 33, 64 or 90 gallon carts. The county sets a maximum price that the haulers can charge for each cart size. However, the majority of people use the sticker program. Curbside recycling collections are contracted out to a single hauler which serves every household in the county. County residents are charged \$27 per year on their property tax for recycling services, down from \$36 a year ago. Qualifying elderly, low income and handicapped residents are offered back door garbage and recyclable collections at no additional cost and pay only \$12 per year for recyclable collections.

The county also operates seven staffed convenience centers for garbage disposal (garbage must be in bags with sticker attached) and other items. These items include yard waste, cardboard, mixed paper, used motor oil, batteries, white, brown and bulky goods, construction and demolition debris and agri-chemical containers. Except for regular garbage disposal, the drop-off sites are free. The sites are open four days per week. All county residents have access to the convenience centers although some municipalities, New Bern, Havelock and Bridgeton, have modified versions of the county program and offer some different services.

At the time of implementation, the county removed all the green boxes which had served county residents. At that time the county determined that 69 percent of residents were served by private haulers and the rest used the green boxes. The county was divided into franchised areas and the existing haulers were awarded franchises based on the previous percentage. Franchised haulers are required to operate under the terms of the PAYT program and accept any waste with approved stickers attached. Stickers are purchased at a number of retail outlets throughout the county. Retailers receive 8.75 cents per sticker as commission for the sale of stickers.

The Craven County program has been quite successful as well as accepted. Residents were given the option of using cans in place of stickers and paying a flat fee based on the size of the can 5 years after the program was initiated. It is interesting to note that most have opted to stay with the stickers underlining the popularity of the program.

## Jones County, North Carolina

**Contact:** Larry Meadows  
County Manager

P.O. Box 266  
Trenton, NC 28585  
(919) 448-7571

**Population:** 9,648

**Inception:** 1972

**Type:** Bag  
Curbside

**Latest Update:**

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection:

\$.75 for 33 gallon bags or \$71 for a roll of 125 33 gallon bags

### Results

	Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled:		Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:		Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:		Administration:
Other Collections:		Total:

## Randolph County, North Carolina

**Contact:** Victoria D. Prevo  
Waste Management Specialist

725 McDowell Road  
P.O. Box 4728  
Asheboro, NC 27204-4728  
(910) 318-6608  
(910) 318-6853 fax

**Population:** 116,000

**Inception:** January 1991

**Type:** Bag  
Drop-off

**Latest Update:**

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection:  
\$.50 for 16 gallon bags or equivalent  
\$1 for 33 gallon bags or equivalent  
\$2 for furniture

### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled:	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

Randolph County is located in central North Carolina just south of Greensboro. The population of 116,000 is spread over the county's 800 square miles and eight municipalities. County residents outside city or town limits have the option of individually contracting with their choice of ten private haulers or they may participate in the county's PAYT program. None of the municipalities or haulers operates a PAYT program. Most county residents have contracted with private haulers.

For county residents who do not choose to contract with a private hauler, the county operates three convenience centers. At the three sites, residents may dispose of garbage for the fees outlined above and recyclables for free. The sites are staffed by retirees who are authorized to take in cash. Although there have been three after hours break-ins, there has never been a robbery of the workers. Residents also have the option of disposing of garbage at the county's landfill on a per ton basis at the same rate as all other haulers. The county operates its solid waste program entirely through tipping fees at the landfill and fees collected at the convenience centers.

The amount of garbage received at the convenience centers has decreased but this may not be completely attributable to the PAYT program. Many residents may have simply contracted with private haulers since garbage disposal was no longer "free" to them after the PAYT program was put in place. The impact of the PAYT program likewise is impossible to determine since the county started the program at the same time as scales were installed.

The county is considering offering a program whereby residents may bring a bag of recyclables and dispose an equivalent size bag of garbage for free.



## Scotland County, North Carolina

**Contact:** Jim Blackwell  
Scotland County Engineer

P.O. Box 489  
Laurinburg, NC 28353  
(910) 277-2407

**Population:** 17,419

**Inception:** October 1994

**Type:** Weight based  
Drop-off

**Latest Update:** August 1997

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection: \$.06/pound at \$.25 increments with \$.50 minimum charge	Landfill Tipping Fee: \$31/ton
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### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled:	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

Scotland County is in the southeast portion of the state on the South Carolina border. Before implementing the PAYT program, the county operated unstaffed green box sites which were funded through a \$61 annual solid waste fee to the residents.

The county operates staffed sites open 12 hours a day seven days a week. A variety of recyclables are accepted free including, tires, newspapers, glass, plastic soft drink and milk jugs, lead acid batteries, used motor oil, cardboard, magazines, office paper, junk mail, aluminum and steel cans, scrap metals and used appliances. In addition, a swap shop is at each site for items such as clothes, hangers, small appliances and furniture. It is estimated that over 50 percent of the households in the county recycle. Larger loads brought to the convenience centers are charged a higher rate based on volume to offset the transportation costs to the landfill. Loads taken directly to the landfill are charged at the normal rate of \$31 per ton.

One full time deputy hired by the Sheriff's Department is funded through the Solid Waste Program to deal with illegal dumping. The county's Solid Waste Management Ordinance allows identification of illegally dumped waste by an address or name found in the dumped material. Non-county residents are discouraged from using the system by doubling the charge for disposal of waste in Scotland County.

## Transylvania County, North Carolina

**Contact:** Will Sagar  
Solid Waste Director

Route 2 Box 525  
Brevard, NC 28712  
(704) 884-6830  
(704) 877-4508 fax

**Population:** 25,000

**Inception:** February 1995

**Type:** Weight-based sticker  
Drop-off

**Latest Update:**

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection: \$1.25 per sticker for 30 pounds of garbage	Landfill Tipping Fee: \$40/ton
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### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled: down 44% in first year	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections: up 50% in first year	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

Transylvania County is located in western North Carolina with half of the county within the Pisgah National Forest. With beautiful mountain scenery, state parks and campgrounds, scenic trails and golf courses, the area is a popular tourist site.

## Wilmington, North Carolina

**Contact:** Bill Reed  
Superintendent of Solid Waste Management

P.O. Box 1810  
Wilmington, NC 28402  
(910) 341-7875  
(910) 341-4619 fax

**Population:** 60,000

**Inception:** November 1992

**Type:** Can  
Curbside

**Latest Update:** June 1997

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection:  
\$12.10/month for one 40 gallon can collected once per week  
\$14.10/month for one 90 gallon can collected once per week  
\$25.70/month for one 90 gallon can collected twice per week  
\$1 for 33 gallon bags for overflow garbage

Landfill Tipping Fee:  
\$60/ton

### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled: down 10%	Waste Collections: down 8%
Recyclable Collections: up 15%	Waste Disposal: down 25%
Yard Waste Collections: up 36%	Administration: no change
Other Collections:	Total: down 10%

The City of Wilmington is located on the coast of southeastern North Carolina with a population of 60,000. The community is growing with many of the new citizens being retirees from the Northeast. Being located near the beach, the population of the surrounding area swells during the summer. These tourists not only add to the trash collected but also to the traffic in which the trash collectors must work. There are several sections of Wilmington which add to the difficulties of providing trash services; a central business located within the historic district with on-street parking and little or no place to store trash and many service alleys extremely difficult in which to maneuver.

In 1992 the tipping fee for Wilmington stood at \$25 per ton. In just a short period the rate jumped 150 percent to \$60 per ton. This increase had to be passed on to customers who became confused by the increase since they were recycling more and thus sending less to the landfill yet their garbage bill increased. The garbage bill was beginning to be a major expense for some people prompting a grass roots effort for a more equitable method of charging for solid waste services. The solid waste staff analyzed the waste generation characteristics of the community and found that one-third of all residents set out their garbage only once per week and that the average weight of the garbage per household for the twice a week collection in place at the time was 50 pounds.

With this information, the city began a pilot PAYT program in several communities offering customers the fee structure listed above. After the pilot program, the PAYT program was initiated for the city at large.

Wilmington changed from a twice per week collection to a once per week collection at the time of implementing the PAYT program. With this change, the city renegotiated its contract with a private hauler saving \$400,000 in the first year. Although the second collection per week is still available, only 2 percent of the population has chosen this option. Staff originally planned to charge extra for yard waste and bulky item collection but citizens wanted these services tied to the price of the carts. Citizens did like the idea of the overflow bags since this allowed them to opt for the lower rate even if they occasionally set out more garbage than their subscription allows. In fact, excess waste after Christmas and moving-in is collected free.

From the results of the pilot program, the city purchased the 40 and 90 gallon cans. An immediate problem was that more people chose the 40 gallon cans in the city at large than in the pilot program prompting the city to allow some people to pay the 40 gallon subscription price even though they were using a 90 gallon can. Then, after more 40 gallon cans had been purchased and switched out with the 90 gallon cans, they had to be switched out again as residents discovered that they could not get by with the smaller cans. Staff believes this problem could have been minimized with a third intermediate sized can.

Other problems associated with the PAYT program are that illegal dumping has increased by 5 percent although much of this is attributed to the county not requiring garbage collection services. Some people attempt to subscribe to lower service levels by over-stuffing the carts requiring more time to empty them. Also, the administrative workload has increased, due in part to the problem of residents switching can sizes at an unacceptable rate. The city may impose a limit on the number of times a customer may switch subscription levels. Revenue planning also is less predictable.

There are still some problems with people piling bags on top of the cans expecting all of it to be collected because it is not on the ground. Collection employees have been accused of being lazy because they will not pick up the extra garbage. Convincing employees not to pick up unauthorized garbage was a problem at first since, before the PAYT program, they would have been disciplined for leaving any garbage at the curb.

Over time the problems have been solved and the program is considered a success. Most people understand the relationship between garbage generation and their garbage bill. Less waste goes to the landfill and incinerator. More people are recycling more and most people's garbage bill has decreased with the more equitable billing system of the PAYT program. Other communities interested in can systems are now looking to the Wilmington program for guidance.

Through their experience, the solid waste staff recommend that a community already have a recycling and yard waste program in place before implementing PAYT. Furthermore, a cost analysis should be made for pricing the levels of service offered to customers. Also, support from receptive community groups should be sought and utilized to help sell the program to the rest of the community. And finally, customer education is critical throughout the program.

## **Yadkin County, North Carolina**

**Contact:** Ken Holcomb  
Planning Director, Yadkin County Manager

P.O. Box 1688  
Yadkinville, NC 27055  
(919) 679-4243

**Population:** 25,255

**Inception:** April 1994

**Type:** Sticker  
Drop-off

**Latest Update:**

### **Rates**

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection:  
\$.50 for 33 gallon bags

### **Results**

	Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled:		Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:		Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:		Administration:
Other Collections:		Total:

## Chester County, South Carolina

**Contact:** R. Carlisle Roddey  
Chester County Supervisor

P.O. Drawer 580  
Chester, SC 29706  
(803) 385-5133  
(803) 385-2022 fax

Bob Corcoran  
Recycling Consultant

P.O. Box 1957  
Chester, SC 29706  
(803) 377-1717

**Population:** 40,000

**Inception:** October 1995

**Type:** Bag  
Curbside and Drop-off

**Latest Update:**

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection:  
\$1 for large bags  
\$.50 for small bags

### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled: down 50% in first year	Waste Collections: up 14% in first year
Recyclable Collections: up 50% in first year	Waste Disposal: down 27% in first year
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration: down 7% in first year
Other Collections:	Total: down 7% in first year

Chester County is located in the north central portion of the state about equidistant from Charlotte, North Carolina and Columbia, South Carolina. The county is mainly rural with only a few small municipalities.

Before implementing PAYT, Chester County residents were served by green boxes located throughout the county. Residents paid a flat fee of \$90 per year for unlimited disposal. Additional revenues were collected from property taxes. Commercial customers were charged only \$135 per year for unlimited green box pick-up and disposal. Residential customers are now served by the PAYT bag program and commercial customers are charged according to the number of pick-ups requested.

Now, residents within city limits (Chester, Richburg, Great Falls and Fort Lawn) have once per week curbside garbage collection and must use the county's official bags. Recyclables also are collected once per week curbside at no additional charge. Residents outside city limits must take their garbage to the staffed drop-off sites open 78 hours per week. Garbage must still be in official bags. The drop-off sites accept a variety of recyclables including newspaper, cardboard (including cereal boxes, etc.), plastic, glass and metal containers, used motor oil and filters, auto batteries and appliances. Certain bulky or problem items can be taken to the county transfer station. These items include tree limbs and other yard waste, paint cans, tires and small amounts of C&D waste. Yard waste is collected once per week curbside for a fee of \$10 per year for residents within the city limits.

The yellow official county bags are available for purchase from a variety of retail outlets throughout the county. The larger size bags come in packages of five for \$5 and the smaller bags in packages of 10 for \$5. Some of the cities in the county provide their own curbside collection while others contract with private haulers, who must also use the program.

Since implementing the program, waste disposal has decreased considerably and recycling has subsequently increased. Although there were objections to the program at first, most people have accepted it as evidenced by the reinstatement of the County Supervisor shortly after PAYT was implemented. The County Supervisor is an elected official! Before implementing the program, about 50 presentations were made for school groups and luncheons. Enforcement takes the form of two litter officers authorized to issue citations. The first offense carries a \$50 fine and the second an \$80 fine. Although illegal dumping was a concern prior to the program it has not been a problem.

Chester County officials believe the success of their program correlates to the simplicity of the bag system. Residents can easily obtain the bags at grocery and hardware stores and the size of the bag reflects the cost of the bag. The type of bag also is important. It must be of sufficient quality to handle the amount of garbage authorized for the size of the bag. The County sees itself as just another vendor to the retail outlets and is careful to insure adequate stock of bags. County officials stress the importance of obtaining the support of town administrators and council members prior to implementation. They believe the county-wide program is more effective than if it were for a municipality only.

Most programs cannot boast the remarkable results of the Chester County program and the decrease in waste generation is not completely accounted for by the corresponding increase in recycling. However, since illegal dumping has not increased significantly since the program was put in place, county officials are very pleased with the results. In fact, the program has become a model demonstrating the effectiveness of PAYT in areas often thought to be too rural or not progressive enough for such a system. Chester County has proved that these antiquated ideas are incorrect.



## Darlington County, South Carolina

**Contact:** Rodney Freeze

Darlington County  
#1 Public Square, Room 210  
Darlington, SC 29532

**Population:** 62,000

**Inception:** April 1994

**Type:** Bag

Drop-off

**Latest Update:**

### Rates

#### Residential Garbage

#### Disposal/Collection:

Base fee:

\$25 per year

Bag fee:

\$.35 for 13 gallon bag

\$.50 for 35 gallon bag

\$1.35 for 90 gallon bag

### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled:	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

The county operates 12 drop-off facilities, most within a five mile radius of transfer stations. Under Subtitle D the county had to close its landfill and now pays \$18.50/ton tipping fees. The sale of the yellow bags supports the transfer stations as well as three other departments. These departments are paid for by an enterprise fund.

For the first few months, there were some complaints but this has died down over time. The county experienced no significant increase in illegal dumping and employs two full-time officers and three part-time officers to issue citations for illegal dumping.

## College Station, Texas

**Contact:** Katie Gibson  
Recycling Coordinator

P.O. Box 9960  
College Station, TX 77842  
(409) 764-3691  
(409) 764-3489 fax

**Population:** 62,000

**Inception:** 1991

**Type:** Can  
Curbside

**Latest Update:** August 1997

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection:	Landfill Tipping Fee:
\$11.20/month for one 70 gallon can collected once per week	\$23.50/ton
\$8.00/month for additional 70 gallon cans	

### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled:	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

College Station is in the eastern portion of the state and, as its name implies, is a college town home to Texas A&M University.

Before implementing the current program in 1991, garbage was collected curbside twice per week. There was no recycling and yard waste was collected with garbage for landfill disposal. Residents are now supplied with one 70 gallon cart that is picked up curbside once per week. If residents set out overflow garbage they are given a warning that all garbage must be in the cart. If it happens again, the resident is informed of the option to pay an additional \$8.00 per month for a second 70 gallon container. Only 40 such additional containers are needed at this time.

Once per week curbside recyclables collection of lead-acid batteries, newspaper, magazines, metal containers and glass was added at the time PAYT was implemented. Recyclables are collected separated by residents. Yard waste and bulky items also are collected curbside at no additional charge once per month. Once collected, yard waste is sent to a composting facility.

## **Plano, Texas**

**Contact:** Nancy Nevil  
Solid Waste Manager

P.O. Box 860358  
Plano, TX 75086-0358  
(214) 964-4104  
(214) 964-4172 fax

**Population:**

**Inception:**

**Type:**

**Latest Update:**

## **Rates**

## **Results**

### Collections

Waste Landfilled:

Recyclable Collections:

Yard Waste Collections:

Other Collections:

### Costs

Waste Collections:

Waste Disposal:

Administration:

Total:

## **Weimer, Texas**

**Contact:** Francis Parks  
City Manager

P.O. Box 67  
Weimer, TX 78962  
(409) 725-8554  
(409) 725-8488 fax

**Population:**

**Inception:**

**Type:**

**Latest Update:**

## **Rates**

## **Results**

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled:	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

## **Charlottesville, Virginia**

**Contact:** Judy Mueller  
Public Works Director

P.O. Box 911  
Charlottesville, VA 22902

**Population:**

**Inception:**

**Type:**

**Latest Update:**

### **Rates**

### **Results**

#### Collections

Waste Landfilled:

Recyclable Collections:

Yard Waste Collections:

Other Collections:

#### Costs

Waste Collections:

Waste Disposal:

Administration:

Total:

## **Falls Church, Virginia**

**Contact:** Annette Mills  
Recycling Coordinator

300 Park Avenue  
Falls Church, VA 22046  
(703) 241-5080

**Population:**

**Inception:**

**Type:**

**Latest Update:**

### **Rates**

### **Results**

#### Collections

Waste Landfilled:

Recyclable Collections:

Yard Waste Collections:

Other Collections:

#### Costs

Waste Collections:

Waste Disposal:

Administration:

Total:

## Lynchburg, Virginia

**Contact:** LuAnn Hunt  
Recycling Coordinator

2704 Concord Turnpike  
Lynchburg, VA 24504  
(804) 847-1806  
(804) 847-1809 fax

**Population:** 68,000

**Inception:** October 1993

**Type:** Sticker Bags or Can  
Curbside

**Latest Update:**

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection:      Landfill Tipping Fee:  
\$.45 per tag for 13 gallon bags or can      \$45/ton  
\$.95 per tag for 32 gallon bags or can  
or  
\$50 per year for decal for once per week  
collection of 32 gallon cans

### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled: down 41% since inception	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections: up 37% since inception	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

Lynchburg is located in central southern Virginia between Roanoke and Richmond near the historic Appomatox Courthouse.

Before implementing PAYT, garbage collection was financed through general revenue funds collected from property taxes. After a task force's extensive research into PAYT, the City opted for the current tag system. Tags are purchased at area grocery stores and City Hall. In addition, residents may purchase special decals for \$50 allowing one 32 gallon can to be set out for the once per week collection. The decals are good for one year. The decals are imprinted with a serial number and the resident's address to prevent use by anyone else as the City does not give refunds on stolen decals. Businesses in the downtown area that use curbside collection may purchase decals for \$100 per year per 32 gallon can for twice a week collection. The maximum weight for bags or cans is 50 pounds. Low income residents (those eligible for Food Stamps) receive one free 32 gallon tag per week. Multi-family units and small businesses have the option of using the system. The City had to overcome ordinance problems that did not allow City workers to enter private property built after a certain date. These properties also have the option of using the system if so stated in writing and signing an agreement allowing workers to enter their property.

Unlike many communities that have implemented PAYT, Lynchburg did not begin a curbside recycling program. Instead, residents may take glass containers, PET and HDPE plastic containers, metal containers, newspaper, mixed paper, corrugated

cardboard and paperboard packaging to unstaffed drop-off centers located throughout the city. Yard waste and bulk items are collected twice per year at no additional charge during the spring and fall. The rest of the year, leaves must be bagged and tagged and brush, within certain size and weight limitations, must be tagged as well. Additionally, residents may haul one load of household generated waste per month to the landfill at no charge. The load may not exceed 1,000 pounds. Additional loads are charged at the normal tipping fee rate.

The program has obviously worked well at reducing residential waste landfilled and recyclables collected as can be seen by the results given. Illegal dumping is not a bigger problem than it was before PAYT but there is greater public awareness of it. Over two dozen illegal dumping cases have been brought to court and an illegal dumping task force has been set up to address the issue. Most illegal dumping has been in the form of bulky items rather than regular garbage. Illegal dumping aside, much of the success of the program is due to the advertising campaign run prior to implementation. Six full page newspaper advertisements, neighborhood meetings and a local cable talk show were used to inform citizens of the new program. Although most residents seem to like the program it is still a hot political topic for city council candidates who advocate abolishing the program as a way to cut taxes. Thus, even though the program is well thought out and much research and planning went into the decisionmaking process, the future of the program is uncertain.



## **Manassas, Virginia**

**Contact:** Sue Lohtka

9027 Center Street  
Manassas, VA 22110  
(703) 257-8252

**Population:**

**Inception:**

**Type:**

**Latest Update:**

### **Rates**

### **Results**

#### Collections

Waste Landfilled:

Recyclable Collections:

Yard Waste Collections:

Other Collections:

#### Costs

Waste Collections:

Waste Disposal:

Administration:

Total:

## Poquoson, Virginia

**Contact:** Bob Kerlinger  
Local Volunteer

20 Roberts Landing Drive  
Poquoson, VA 23662  
(757) 868-3779  
(757) 868-3805 fax

**Population:** 11,500

**Inception:** June 1992

**Type:** Bag  
Curbside

**Latest Update:**

### Rates

Residential Garbage Disposal/Collection: \$1.50 for 32 gallon bags	Incinerator Tipping Fee: \$27/ton
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### Results

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled: down 25% since inception	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections: up 10% since inception & nearly a 50% rate	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

Poquoson is located between the City of Hampton and York County on the Chesapeake Bay. It is a bedroom community of Newport News and Hampton with a long history dating back to the early 1600's. The City already had a successful recycling drop-off program that was the recipient of a national recycling award from the US EPA. At the time of implementing PAYT, the City joined a regional curbside recycling program. The City is charged an amount per household as part of the recycling cooperative.

Because of the success of the recycling drop-off program, a committee was set up to determine if garbage collection could be improved as recycling had been. Before implementing PAYT, garbage collection fees were shown as a line item tax of \$19 per quarter so customers knew that garbage disposal was a separate fee. After eight months and 25 meetings, the City decided on the PAYT system implemented in 1992. The City decided to eliminate its successful drop-off recycling program and join the curbside cooperative to further increase recycling participation.

The bag system was adopted for PAYT because it required little capital to implement, was easy to control (especially bag size) and required few administrative changes. The bag size was determined by the size that would best fit the best selling garbage cans on the market. To prevent over-stuffing, the bags are intentionally designed to burst at 50 pounds. The bags are collected curbside once per week. One particularly favorable aspect of the bag system is that streets are kept clear of empty cans after collection. This was especially a problem due to the normally windy conditions of the region that scattered empty cans. Bags are purchased at local grocery, convenience

and drug stores in packs of five bags for \$7.50. All proceeds are turned over to the City after sale. The stores make no profit but they make no investment in pre-paid bags either. Proceeds from the sale of bags pays all costs of the program including collection, disposal and recycling costs.

Recyclables are now collected curbside once per week. Mixed paper, OCC and newsprint are collected together and glass, PETE and HDPE plastics and metal containers are also collected commingled. The regional recycling cooperative operates a MRF where the recyclable streams are further separated and processed. The city has a 5 year contract with the hauler for recycling services and all recycling revenues are kept by the contracted hauler.

Yard waste is not collected curbside except by appointment only for a \$12 prepaid fee. Otherwise, residents may take yard waste to a nearby composting facility at no additional charge. White goods and oversized items are collected twice per year by appointment only at no additional charge. Funding for this service comes from the City's general fund and is not a part of the PAYT program. Low income citizens may apply for free official garbage disposal bags if they can show a need.

The city stresses that education is very important to the success of the program and has set up a speakers bureau to present the program to community groups. In addition, TV commercial were shown on the local cable access channel, news stories and editorials ran in the local newspaper and information was printed in the City newsletter prior to implementing the program. During talks concerning implementing PAYT, opponents were invited to join the committee set up to investigate possible changes to the waste management system. Nearly all the opponents eventually ended up supporting PAYT and a City Councilman who voted against the program would later admit that the program was good!

The system is not mandatory but there is a 95 percent participation rate and the recycling rate is expected to top 50 percent soon. A few residents still haul their own garbage. Although illegal dumping was a concern before PAYT, it has not been a problem even though no enforcement was ever put in place. The City consistently leads the other seven communities participating in the regional recycling cooperative. In fact, the average pounds of recyclables collected per household in Poquoson is nearly a third more than the regional average. That coupled with the 25 percent decrease in waste disposed attests not only to the success of the PAYT program but to the hard work, dedication and pride of the citizens of Poquoson.

## **Charleston, West Virginia**

**Contact:** Louis H. Bloom  
Kanawha County Board of Commissioners

Box 3627  
Charleston, WV

**Population:**

**Inception:**

**Type:**

**Latest Update:**

### **Rates**

### **Results**

Collections	Costs
Waste Landfilled:	Waste Collections:
Recyclable Collections:	Waste Disposal:
Yard Waste Collections:	Administration:
Other Collections:	Total:

## **Parkersburg, West Virginia**

**Contact:** Richard Williams  
Superintendent of Sanitation

1 Government Offices  
Parkersburg, WV 26101  
(304) 424-8439 or 424-8547

**Population:**

**Inception:**

**Type:**

**Latest Update:**

### **Rates**

### **Results**

#### Collections

Waste Landfilled:

Recyclable Collections:

Yard Waste Collections:

Other Collections:

#### Costs

Waste Collections:

Waste Disposal:

Administration:

Total:

## **Putnam County, West Virginia**

**Contact:** Robert Cummings  
Cummings Collection Service  
126 Locust Street  
Hurricane, WV 25525  
(304) 562-9291

**Population:**

**Inception:**

**Type:**

**Latest Update:**

### **Rates**

### **Results**

#### Collections

Waste Landfilled:

Recyclable Collections:

Yard Waste Collections:

Other Collections:

#### Costs

Waste Collections:

Waste Disposal:

Administration:

Total:

**Contact:**

**Population:**

**Inception:**

**Type:**

**Latest Update:**

## **Rates**

## **Results**

Collections

Costs

Waste Landfilled:

Waste Collections:

Recyclable Collections:

Waste Disposal:

Yard Waste Collections:

Administration:

Other Collections:

Total:

**Contact:**

**Population:**

**Inception:**

**Type:**

**Latest Update:**

## **Rates**

## **Results**

Collections

Costs

Waste Landfilled:

Waste Collections:

Recyclable Collections:

Waste Disposal:

Yard Waste Collections:

Administration:

Other Collections:

Total:



**Contact:**

**Population:**

**Inception:**

**Type:**

**Latest Update:**

## **Rates**

## **Results**

Collections

Costs

Waste Landfilled:

Waste Collections:

Recyclable Collections:

Waste Disposal:

Yard Waste Collections:

Administration:

Other Collections:

Total:

**Contact:**

**Population:**

**Inception:**

**Type:**

**Latest Update:**

## **Rates**

## **Results**

Collections

Costs

Waste Landfilled:

Waste Collections:

Recyclable Collections:

Waste Disposal:

Yard Waste Collections:

Administration:

Other Collections:

Total:

**Contact:**

**Population:**

**Inception:**

**Type:**

**Latest Update:**

## **Rates**

## **Results**

Collections

Costs

Waste Landfilled:

Waste Collections:

Recyclable Collections:

Waste Disposal:

Yard Waste Collections:

Administration:

Other Collections:

Total:

**Contact:**

**Population:**

**Inception:**

**Type:**

**Latest Update:**

## **Rates**

## **Results**

Collections

Costs

Waste Landfilled:

Waste Collections:

Recyclable Collections:

Waste Disposal:

Yard Waste Collections:

Administration:

Other Collections:

Total:

**Contact:**

**Population:**

**Inception:**

**Type:**

**Latest Update:**

## **Rates**

## **Results**

Collections

Costs

Waste Landfilled:

Waste Collections:

Recyclable Collections:

Waste Disposal:

Yard Waste Collections:

Administration:

Other Collections:

Total: