

Pay-As-You-Throw

Reduce your trash, reduce your cost!



Learn more at www.greenwichct.gov/PAYT

FINANCIAL BENEFITS

The Town of Greenwich's Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) program would treat trash service just like electricity, gas, and other utilities: pay only for what you use. Financial benefits include:

- Reduce trash by at least 40%, resulting in a \$934,680 savings in waste disposal in FY21
- Offset the new recycling expense of \$912,000 in FY21 due to changes in the recycling market
- Reduce the FY21 tax increase from 3.42% to 2.53%, resulting in a savings of about \$105 for a property assessed at \$1M.

	FY21	
	Without PAYT	With PAYT
Mill Rate	12.082	11.977
% Tax Increase	3.42%	2.53%

WHY is the town doing this now?

Starting in FY21, the Town will have to *pay* to have recycling removed from the transfer station, costing taxpayers about \$912,000. Waste disposal already costs taxpayers about \$5M per year, and if we do nothing, will require a tax increase to cover the additional expenses. PAYT solves the problem by reducing trash and more fairly allocating costs to those who create them.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

PAYT is the "single most effective tool a community can implement to reduce waste," according to Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP). In fact, CT DEEP has been studying PAYT for decades and it is one of their top municipal policy recommendations for environmental impact. Due to the waste reduction power, municipal adoption of PAYT is critical to avoiding another trash incinerator in Connecticut, which is planned to cost taxpayers nearly \$330 million in public financing. According to CT DEEP, PAYT in Greenwich will provide significant environmental benefits by reducing over 13,000 tons of trash per year. That is equivalent to:

- Reducing at least 25,000 tons of CO2 per year; Or
- Installing at least 25,000 solar panels per year; Or
- Removing at least 1,800 cars from the road per year!

PAYT encourages sustainable waste diversion methods, including:

- ✓ Food scrap recycling (composting)
- ✓ Textile drop-off
- ✓ Re-use & recycling

HOW IT WORKS

- The Town will contract with a vendor who will distribute uniquely marked trash bags at commercial locations throughout Town (grocery stores, gas stations, pharmacies, etc.) - and directly to private hauling companies if they wish.
- Residents and businesses will purchase the official Town garbage bags instead of generic ones. Bags will be offered in a variety of sizes and prices, ranging from 13 gallons (about \$1.25) to 33 gallons (about \$2.00). The revenue from bag sales, minus an administrative fee paid to the vendor, goes directly to the Town to cover waste disposal expenses.
- Starting October 1, 2020, the Town's Transfer Station will no longer accept trash that is not in an official Town bag. All garbage will need to be placed in the official Town bag.
- Everything else remains the same. Private haulers will pick up garbage in the official Town bag just as they pick up garbage in generic bags. Residents that bring their garbage directly to the transfer station can still do so, only the bag they bring it in will be an official Town bag.