

Pay-as-you-throw Program Fort Collins, Colorado

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December 11, 2008



City of
Fort Collins



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Background Information about Fort Collins

- Trash Collection is **Privatized** (i.e., “open subscription”)
- 1992, City began using municipal code to influence waste collection, recycling through trash hauling license requirements
- Open market currently includes 3 companies that haul residential trash, with 8 more commercial-only trash haulers
- Goals set for diverting waste from landfill disposal by 35% (2004) and ultimately 50% by 2010

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Fort Collins’ Cornerstone is its PAYT System

- Residential customers are charged for the volume of trash set out – to send the “price signal” that the more you discard, the more you pay for household trash
- The cost for any extra trash is the same as the cost for the first container; if, for example,
 - the first 35-gal. can costs \$1.50,
 - then a 65-gal polycart would cost \$3.00
 - And a 95-gal. cart would cost \$4.50
- Costs are determined by each hauler – the City does not set the rate! – and prices are very competitive in Fort Collins
- Haulers can offer any system– bags, tags, subscription levels for trash can or poly-cart service, etc.; most customers like the poly-cart option

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Fort Collins Hauler Licensing, cont.

- Trash service must include “free” curbside recycling for all materials on City’s designated list
- Haulers must also:
 - provide yearly education & information to customers
 - submit annual Recycling Plan that lists all their rate schedules
 - report volumes for trash and for recycling to City bi-annually
 - maintain records of service to verify PAYT is being implemented
 - be prepared to make records available to City auditors
 - violations = fines plus risk of losing license



Effects of PAYT in Fort Collins

- Participation in curbside recycling averages 85-95%
- Trash volumes decreasing: 224,700 tons in 2006 (down from 230,400 tons in 2004)
- Recycling volumes increasing: 60,250 tons in 2006 (up from 58,000 tons in 2004)
- Diversion rate: 21% + 6% [PAYT] = 27%



Reaching 50% diversion - Possible Initiatives

- Include commercial customers in PAYT
- Enhance curbside recycling program
 - more designated materials, larger recycling containers, etc.
 - Add curbside yardwaste collection
- More education!
- Create City yardwaste drop-off site
- Consider banning cardboard from the trash
- Recycling for construction & demolition debris





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eWASTE
NOT FOR LANDFILLS!

