

Municipal Solid Waste Unit-based Pricing (UBP)¹ Case Study

Concord, Vermont²
Population: 1,297

Prepared by: The Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA)³

The Town of Concord is a rural community located in northeastern Vermont on the border with New Hampshire just east of Saint Johnsbury and is a member of the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District (NEKWMD).⁴ Concord has had their “Pay-Per-Bag” system for over 20 years. Residents can bring their trash and sorted recyclables to the transfer station. Recycling is free and the current fees for trash are: \$1 for small white kitchen bags; \$2.50 for “regular” black trash bags; and \$5 for “contractor” bags. Residents can also use their own trash can and pay a \$5 fee. Concord does not require the use of special bags. The transfer station attendant collects the fees using a computerized cash register that provides residents with a receipt and maintains a record of the income that should be deposited.

Approximately 60 percent of the trash generated by Concord households is handled by the transfer station. The other 40 percent is picked up by private contractors hired by individual households and brought directly to a disposal facility. The Concord transfer station is open Tuesday evenings for trash only and Saturday mornings for both trash and recycling. On Saturdays, the town has a second paid attendant that helps residents with recycling. The fees collected through the Pay-Per-Bag system cover the cost of disposal and operation of the transfer station, including labor. The transfer station accepts trash and recycling from non-residents. In 2013, the transfer station handled 156 tons of MSW and 95 tons of recyclables. Town leaders are happy with the Pay-Per-Bag system and report that illegal dumping is not a problem.

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¹ Also known as: Save Money and Reduce Trash (SMART), variable rate pricing, and pay-as-you-throw (PAYT).

² The information in the case study is based on correspondence with Donna Berry, Concord Town Clerk and information provided by NEKWMD.

³ NEWMOA is a non-profit, non-partisan interstate association whose membership is composed of the state environmental agency directors of the hazardous waste, solid waste, waste site cleanup, and pollution prevention programs in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Visit www.newmoa.org.

⁴NEKWMD provides recycling, composting, household hazardous waste management, and other solid waste services to its members.