

Trash Collection Changes

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the Town changing the trash system?

The Town is moving to automated collection as required by contract and evaluating a funding model that is fair and sustainable long-term.

Is this a new tax?

No. PAYT is a user fee similar to utilities, fuel, electricity etc. It shifts part of the cost from property taxes to usage-based payment.

I already paid for tags. What happens to them?

The Town will provide a clear transition period before PAYT begins so residents are not forced into an immediate change.

Why can't the Town keep paying for it through taxes?

In fiscal year 2027 the program costs approximately \$500,000 and increases annually. Fully tax-funding means continued tax pressure on all residents regardless of usage.

Does this hurt seniors or small households?

PAYT generally benefits smaller households because they generate less trash and therefore pay less.

Will illegal dumping increase?

Most communities see no sustained increase after implementation. Clear rules and enforcement prevent misuse.

What if I produce very little trash?

You will pay less under PAYT because cost is tied to how much you throw away.

What if I have a large family?

Larger households generate more waste and would pay more under a usage-based system rather than being subsidized by others.

Why not keep the tag system?

The tag system recovers very little cost, is subject to fraud and misuse, and does not control long-term cost growth.

When will the change happen?

Automated collection begins around April 15th. PAYT will begin August 1st giving residents time to attend meetings, ask questions, and adjust slowly to the change.