



**Pay As You Throw:**  
*a direct economic incentive  
to recycle more and generate less waste*

Jim Litke, Environmental Manager  
Trash Collection And Recycling - City of Aberdeen

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# What is Pay As You Throw?



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## Why PAYT?

- ▶ Environmental Sustainability
- ▶ Equity & Fairness



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### History of PAYT in Aberdeen

- ▶ Trash tipping fee and curbside recycling started in 6/92.
- ▶ Aberdeen "Sticker" program started 3/1/1993.

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### History of PAYT in Aberdeen (cont)

- ▶ Concerned citizens wanted an equitable way to distribute the trash tipping fee.
- ▶ Sticker program proposed and was a "hot" topic.
  - Residents were polled.
  - Council voted for the program
  - Stickers cover tipping fee only
  - The collection costs are covered by the tax base
  - Stickers chosen over other methods because stickers take up less stock area than bags. Stickers chosen over cans due to lower start-up costs.

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### History of PAYT in Aberdeen (cont)

- ▶ Main sticker program selling points:
  - Equitable way to distribute tipping fee charges (pay as you go based on volume)
  - Increases recycling rates

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### Aberdeen Trash & Recycling

▶ Basic services offered:

- Trash 1x/ week
- Recycling 1x/week
- Yard waste 2x/ month for 10 months
- Bulk pick-up by call-in appointment.
- ONLY regular trash pick-up requires trash stickers



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### Aberdeen Trash & Recycling

▶ Sticker Details

- Stickers are approx. 1" by 5", and numbered
- Sticker costs
  - 40 cents purple ; good for 20 lbs. (20 gallon+- can, 13 gallon bag)
  - 80 cents yellow ; good for 40 lbs (30 gallon can)(30 gallon bag)
- Sell stickers at 6 retail outlets at face value
- ONLY regular trash pick-up requires trash stickers
- "Sorry" tags are issued to residents who fail to sticker the trash properly



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### Aberdeen PAYT Bottom Line

- ▶ Tipping fee in 1992 was \$35/ton (Current tipping fee is \$50/ton)
- ▶ Illegal dumping never a big issue
- ▶ Aberdeen monthly recycling tonnage increased from 37 to 63 between 1992 and 1993 (4300+- households currently)
- ▶ Benefits those who generate less waste (because they have small household and/or because they recycle)

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**QUESTIONS?**

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**Thank You!**

▶ Jim Litke, Environmental Manager  
Trash Collection And Recycling – City of Aberdeen



The logo for the Maryland Recycling Network features the lowercase letters 'mrn' in a stylized font. The 'm' is black, the 'r' is green, and the 'n' is black. Above the 'r' is a small green plant icon. Below the letters, the words 'maryland recycling network' are written in a smaller, lowercase font.

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