

Tiered Rates for Residential Trash Collection









The Issues

Residential waste disposal by LAC Environmental Services is paid for through monthly fee (\$25) charged on Utility Bill

- provides support for all residential disposal services:
 - curbside trash, recycling and yard trimmings collection, transport and disposal; Eco Station services: "12 free loads", household hazardous waste, electronics recycling, glass recycling, tire recycling, mulching, assisted refuse service, Sullivan Field Recycle Center, Overlook Ctr., etc
- Costs go up** annually for pretty much everything
 - many are external (transportation, recycling, landfill, HHW, etc.)
 - recouped by rate hikes
- LAC Strategic Goals:** environmental stewardship, sustainability, quality of life, appropriate levels of county services
- LAC Sustainability Plan Goals:** reduce waste and Greenhouse Gasses, increase recycling

One approach that can address all of these is switching to Tiered Rates aka. "Save-As-You-Throw" (SAYT)

| Current | vs. | Tiered Rates |
|--|-----|--|
|  = \$\$ | |  = \$\$\$ |
|  = \$\$ | |  = \$\$ |
|  = \$\$ | |  = \$ |
| same cost: \$25 | | cost based on use |

Why Change?

- Tiered rates are more equitable, charge based on use, like electricity, gas, food, etc.
 - Gives residents more control over budgets
- Well-documented (>7000 US communities; >25 yrs.) to reduce trash, increase recycling
 - Saves \$\$, landfill space, resources, GHGs, etc.
- Reduced Waste = **Reduced cost to LAC**, reduced rate hikes
- Preferred by citizens (once implemented)
 - Third most favored approach to increasing LAC recycling, based on meetings and poll of residents
- Raises awareness of environmental/sustainability issues

How does it work?

Several systems in use, two of the most widespread are:

Tiered rate based on cart size



Bag-based system

Residents buy special, required trash bags in stores; revenue from sales comes to LAC*



*Monthly base fees charged to all households cover basic service cost, prevents budget shortfalls

How Effective is It?

"most effective way to decrease trash and increase recycling"
—US EPA

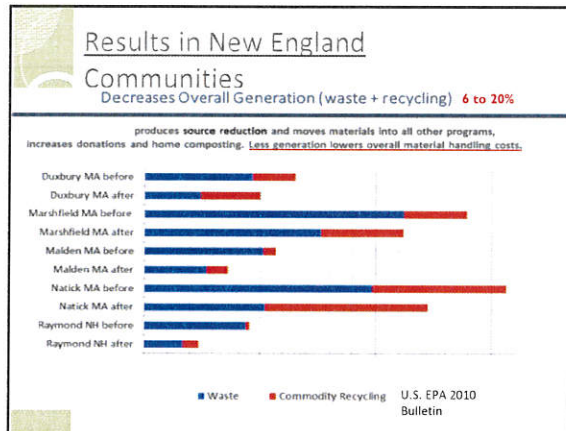
Nationally, communities see:

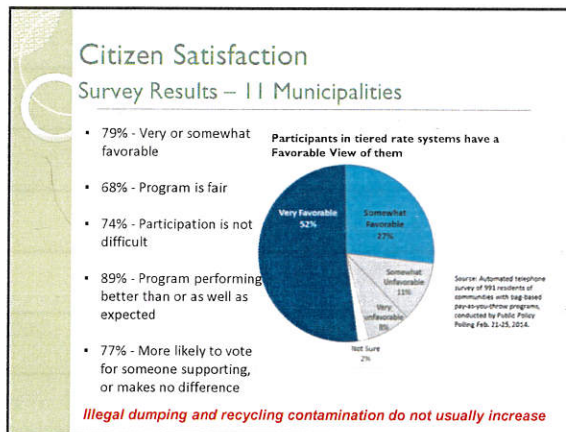
Recycling participation by avg. 50%

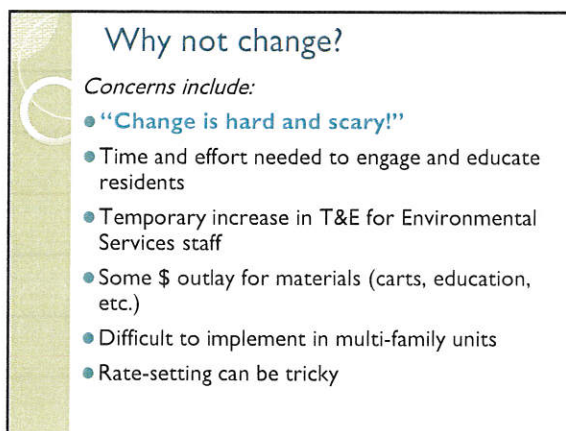
Tons disposed by 15 - 50%

In addition...

- In 2/3 of communities, no budget increase
 - Most see savings overall, due to reduced material handling, transportation, landfill fees
- can significantly reduce GHG emissions (incl. methane)
 - quick and cheap way to reduce GHG, compared to renewable energy, electric vehicles, SMRs, etc.







Comments from Earth Day

1. I live in an apartment
2. Nice- good idea
3. More fair because some people go way over and some people go under
4. Sweden does a bag based system where different colors mean different types of material, we should look into it.
5. Good idea. Small carts best (easier to move and store)
6. We should look into reducing waste streams like food and compost first.
7. The smallest bin is still way too big for two people for a week. A bag-based system would be great.
8. I prefer the 3 sizes of trash cans.

Other Comments

1. Need weekly recycling
2. One time a month brush pickup – easier to remember

Interested in SAYT?

- SAYT Research Subcommittee meets every other Friday 9 a.m. at EcoStation. All are welcome!
- contact us at ESB@lacnm.us
- SAYT Open House at 5:30, June 20, Municipal Building. Snacks provided!
- more information, FAQs, schedule of events @ losalamosnm.us/gogreen
