

Pennsylvania Pay-As-You-Throw Programs

Douglass Township, Montgomery County

Contact: Clement S. Seroski, Waste/Recycling Coordinator, Douglass Township
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2000 Population: 9,104

Program inception: 1991

Program type: Bag program

Container description: 40 gallon green bag with custom logo. Bags sold at seven businesses in Twp.

Cost structure: \$2.00/bag. \$5.00/sticker for bulk collection items for all persons participating in the PAYT program.

Annual budget: \$209,000 (2000) for all waste and recycling services.

Service provider: Waste Management, Inc., for waste, curbside recycling, bulk waste, and leaf and yard waste collection.

Recycling program: Mandatory ordinance for curbside collection of commingled aluminum, glass, and steel containers including empty aerosol and paint cans, plastics coded 1-7, newspaper, and junk mail. Separate containers for commingled materials, newspaper, and junk mail, with mail placed in grocery bags. Weekly collection. Commercial recycling and reporting required.

The Township's Small Business Recycling Drop-off Center is open on the second and fourth Wednesday and Saturday each month for collection of corrugated cardboard and high-grade office paper, commingled materials, household metals, and leaf and yard trimmings. The drop-off center is also used for Christmas tree recycling and a mulch give-away program.

Bulk waste collection: Available throughout the year. \$5.00 sticker required. Appliance pick up handled through a separate contractor with no charge to residents participating in the PAYT program. Freon removal provided for appliance recycling.

Composting program: Seasonal leaf and yard waste collection. Promotion of home composting through the Montgomery County office of the Penn State Cooperative Extension.

Ordinances: Recycling by residents and businesses; burning; illegal dumping.

Education program: The Township publishes an annual insert for its regular newsletter, provides a fact sheet with each package of PAYT bags, uses public notice ads in two newspapers, and provides an educational packet for businesses to promote PAYT and recycling programs.

Comments: Survey indicates average weight of trash bag is 21.5 pounds. Participation in PAYT program is 90 percent and curbside recycling participation is 97 percent. Township recycling rate from curbside recycling was 37.1 percent, and total recycling rate was 43 percent in 2000. Township performs collection of tires dumped along roadsides. Tire collection, bulk collections, and drop-off recycling center costs are carried by revenue from sale of PAYT bags.