

Pennsylvania Pay-As-You-Throw Programs

Elizabethtown Borough, Lancaster County

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2000 Population: 11,887 with more than 4,000 households

Program inception: 1991

Program type: Bag program

Container description: 30 gallon blue bag with custom logo. Bags sold at Elizabethtown Borough Office and 11 retailers.

Cost structure: \$2.75/bag

Annual budget: \$420,000 (2001) for all waste and recycling services.

Service provider: Penn Waste, Inc., for waste, curbside recycling, corrugated cardboard, magazines, phone books, Christmas trees, bulk waste, and leaf and yard waste collection.

Recycling program: Mandatory ordinance for curbside collection of aluminum, glass, steel and plastic containers coded 1 and 2, newspaper, junk mail, and aerosol cans. Commingled collection. Six seasonal leaf and yard waste collections, including two in the spring. Commercial recycling required by ordinance for aluminum, glass, steel, and plastic containers coded 1 and 2, newspaper, magazines, high grade office paper, and corrugated cardboard.

Corrugated cardboard, magazines and phone books collected on the fourth Saturday of every month at a drop off location. Wood branches also chipped for free on the same day.

Bulk waste collection: Once per quarter on designated Saturdays.

Composting program: Seasonal leaf and yard waste collection. Backyard composting program started in 2001. Free training seminars being provided with assistance from the Lancaster office of the Penn State Cooperative Extension. Composting bins provided free of charge by Borough.

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

Education program: The program is promoted through the Borough's quarterly newsletter (which is mailed to every resident), information packets distributed to new residents, various newspaper articles and advertisements and the Borough's website, www.etownonline.com.

Comments: Weekend drop-off for white goods and tires provided quarterly. Christmas trees collected curbside once a year. Drop-off materials removed by Penn Waste, Inc. Participation in PAYT program is estimated to be 85 percent, and participation in the curbside recycling program is estimated to be 90 percent. All collection program costs for 2000 were carried by revenue from sale of PAYT bags. A PAYT Technical Assistance Report on the Elizabethtown program is available from <http://www.dep.state.pa.us> (directLINK recycling technical assistance).