

## Menu of Programs and Initiatives for Unit-Based Pricing

**Narrative:** Unit-Based Pricing (UBP) or pay-as-you-throw programs create a structure where residents are charged for the collection and disposal of municipal solid waste based on the amount they throw away. Traditionally, residents pay for waste collection through property taxes or a fixed fee, regardless of how much—or how little—trash they generate. UBP breaks with tradition by treating trash services just like electricity, gas, and other utilities. Households pay a variable rate depending on the amount of service they use. This creates a direct economic incentive for residents to change their behavior - to recycle more and to generate less waste. UBP programs are the driver for participation and optimization of other materials management programs.

UBP and how interacts with other WG topics:

UBP programs reduce residential waste by an average of 44% immediately after implementation, resulting in waste disposal of 350-500 pounds per capita compared to the state average of 740 pounds per capita.

UBP programs can be approached in a variety of ways, including town-by-town, led by regional entity, led by waste-to-energy facility, or statewide legislation.

## Implementation Methods for Municipalities

Implementation Method	Concept	Pros <u>Strengths</u> <u>Opportunities</u>	Cons <u>Weaknesses</u> <u>Threats</u>	Legal Considerations	Comments/Questions for Follow-up
Cart-based	Residents pay (usually on a quarterly basis) for the containers they use for the waste they generate and that the hauler empties each 1-2 weeks; some programs require multiple carts; pricing must be proportional to incentivize waste reduction	Convenient; Cost of disposal included in the cost of collection; Residents only have to pay on a quarterly basis	Costs (of collection and disposal combined) set based on the size of the cart and are not pro-rated based on volume; does not provide a consistent and frequent reminder of the costs of disposal or incentive to reduce generation of MSW; Less effective waste reduction and recyclables diversion results; Multiple-cart programs' billing can become complex; Expensive capital outlay;	None	

			May require contract negotiation with collector		
Bag-based	Residents pay per bag for MSW being disposed.	Convenient; cost of disposal is paid through the bag purchase; Residents receive consistent reminder that what they throw away has a cost associated with it; incentive to reduce the generation of MSW; incentive to increase diversion of recyclables ; facilitates co-collection of food waste for added diversion from disposal; Municipalities may funnel additional funds from property taxes for other town services	Costs for the bags; low-income/economically strained communities have to pay for bags; Concern re: single-use plastics;	Co-collection of MSW and Food waste may require legislative consideration re-sorting of MSW; may require ordinance change for subscription communities	Subsidies for bags; generally residents buy garbage bags and these bags would replace those
Hybrid	Combined Cart and bags for “overflow”	Costs for disposal included in cost of collection for the cart(s); Maintains convenience of quarterly billing for residents; co-collection of Food waste	When more MSW is generated than what the cart can contain, resident incurs additional costs; Less residential engagement in diversion and waste reduction; complex cost structure and billing; Municipal collection systems bear the burden for the complex program; Costs for the bags; low-income/economically strained communities have	Co-collection of MSW and Food waste may require legislative consideration re-sorting of MSW	Subsidies for bags; generally residents buy garbage bags and these bags would replace those

			to pay for bags ; Concern re: single-use plastics		

How can we utilize DEEP's Communication Team and social media to help with successful implementation?

Bibliography: