

Big Savings for Your City/Town



Municipalities can save on trash disposal costs with SMART, a program that manages waste like a utility.

How does it work?

Trash collection will be the same as before SMART, the difference is the use of official bags or bins for trash. Official bags are offered in a variety of sizes (13 - 33 gallons) and also range in price – usually \$1 to \$3 per bag. Residents purchase these bags at area retailers and use them for their household waste.

The revenue from bag sales, minus administrative fee paid to the vendor, go to the City/Town towards general expenses (teachers, fire), to cover waste and recycling expenses or other programs.

Paying directly for trash incentivizes everyone to produce less waste due to the per-cost of each bag.

To cut down on trash, residents make changes such as:

- **Increased recycling**
- **Increased donation of reusable items**
- **Increased composting**
- **Purchasing products with less packaging**



Learn more: www.ct.gov/deep/SMART

“Stonington’s program allows people to control their own costs for waste disposal. Costs are no longer based on general property tax, but rather on what a resident actually generates”

- John Phetteplace, Solid Waste and Recycling Director, Stonington, CT

How is this not a tax?

With SMART, residents only use an average of one bag per week. As a result, municipal trash drops an average of 44% lowering disposal costs in the municipal budget. Taxpayers will get comparable service at less cost under the new system.

Will this increase illegal dumping?

After years of research, U.S. EPA has concluded that illegal dumping is more of a perceived barrier than an actual issue with SMART programs. Public works directors, city councilors and mayors consistently report that illegal dumping did not increase after they implemented SMART.

What if my neighbors don’t participate?

Based on other communities who have implemented SMART, compliance reaches 99% within the first month. However, municipalities will need to create a protocol to handle those that do not comply, starting with a warning and moving from there. A few weeks of targeted enforcement generally works.

Save Money And Reduce Trash

Be SMART and manage waste like a utility

FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE

Municipalities that implement a **SMART** program, which manages trash service like electric, gas and other utilities, see an average of 44% reduction in trash and reduced costs.

When trash is managed like a utility, residents only pay for the trash they generate.



When trash is managed like a utility, residents have greater control over how much money they spend on trash disposal. This leads to residents to learn more on what can go in the “blue bin” for mixed recycling, where they can recycle items not meant for the bin (like plastic wrap), where they can donate used textiles, how to compost food scraps at home and more.

ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE

Reducing how much trash we generate provides significant environmental benefits. If all municipalities in CT reduced their trash by 40% through implementing SMART that would reduce CO₂ by 846,000 metric tons.

Adopting SMART statewide would:

➤ **Have the same impact as using 875,000 solar panels annually**



➤ **Reduce CO2 levels equivalent to removing 1,800 cars from our roads**



➤ **Improve efforts to Recycle More, Recycle Right**



SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE

When municipalities implement a **SMART** program, trash disposal becomes more equitable. Residents who reduce their waste, increase donations and recycle are rewarded with a lower trash bill.

Most CT communities currently pay for trash disposal through their taxes or a flat fee. Those who generate less trash or recycle more are paying for their neighbors who may generate two or three times as much waste.



Are you a SustainableCT Town?

SMART is a best management practice that can earn your municipality points towards certification. SustainableCT.org