

Pay-As-You-Throw in Worcester MA.



About Worcester

- 2nd largest city in New England (185,000 population)
- 38 Sq. Miles
- 11 Colleges....transient population
- Median household income (2020) = \$73,500
- MA median household income = \$79,800
- Old industrial city.....a “blue collar” town
- A “Gateway City”often a location for new immigrants to USA
- 500 miles of streets
- Trash (45,000 tons annually) collected from 53,000 household units weekly by city crews

The background to PAYT in Worcester

- In 1993, the City faced a significant financial crisis.
- City's choices to meet this crisis
 - Cut staff and services
 - Raise taxes
 - Find a creative way to increase revenue and reduce costs
- DPW&P recommended pay-as-you-throw to better manage its MSW and save money
- After **intense** debate City Council voted 6 – 5 in late June 1993 to implement PAYT beginning September 1, 1993

That year (1993) 2 candidates ran for Mayor's Office

- Candidate #1, an incumbent city councilor, was a college professor who understood the economic and environmental benefits of PAYT and was a staunch supporter
- Candidate #2, also an incumbent city councilor, was a political opportunist who saw the issue as a way to assume higher office. He understood how the public did not like change nor a new fee and promised to repeal the program if he won!
- Candidate #2 won in a close election!!!

Political flyer from eventual mayoral winner!

The new trash bag fee will be implemented shortly. Frankly, it's a bad idea. That's why City Councillor Ray Mariano has led the fight to stop it.

Ray Mariano has had the courage to stand up to the local newspaper and special interest groups, (many of whose members live out of town,) that think this fee is a great idea. He's taken a lot of heat because he tried to repeal this plan before it gets started.

Here are just a few reasons why Ray fought against this plan.

1. The City's professionals were afraid to recommend it.

In a report to the City Council, the DPW refused to recommend a bag fee because of the likelihood of increased illegal dumping. This plan was a creation of the City Council which only a few years ago totally rejected a similar plan as unworkable.

2. No other large City in the Northeast is willing to risk it.

According to a DPW survey, no other large urban community anywhere in the Northeast has implemented such a program. The largest is Utica, New York which is less than half our size.

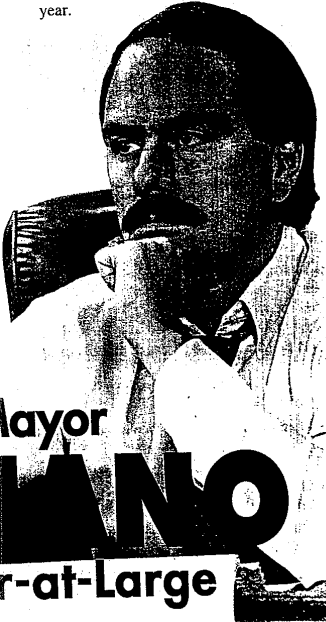
3. Two percent equals 3000 illegally dumped bags each week.

Even the most optimistic proponents would never predict greater than 98% compliance. If only two percent dump illegally, that translates into 1000 households. Multiplied by two or three bags each means that we can expect at least 2000 to 3000 illegally dumped bags strewn across our City each week!

Ray Mariano has had the courage to stand up to the local newspaper and special interest groups and led the fight against the new trash bag fee.

4. Wait until you see the cost next year!

The original recommendation for a bag fee wasn't 50 cents, it was \$1.12. But since this was an election year the cost was reduced. Just wait until you see what the City tries to charge you next year.



For Mayor
MARIANO
Councillor-at-Large

Authorized and paid for by the Committee to Elect Raymond V. Mariano.



No City Councillor has worked harder to promote recycling.

Over the past six years, no City Councillor has worked harder to promote recycling in Worcester - *no one!* Ray pushed for the first voluntary drop off site for recycling and then he fought for more and more sites.

Ray has lobbied to expand the program into our schools and he has had the courage to stand up, on the floor of the City Council, and let people know that he is willing to vote for the funding for a mandatory curbside recycling program.

If the question is which City Councillor has been the leader working to bring recycling to Worcester, the answer is *Ray Mariano*.

Our City is dirty enough already.

14 Fox Hollow
Worcester, MA 01605

The Trash Fee Is a Bad Idea!



City's Proposal

- Provide weekly curbside trash and recycling services to 53,000 household units
- Trash to be disposed in special 15 or 30 gallon bags that each cost 25 or 50 cents respectively and available for purchase from over 150 retail outlets. Bags were sold without markup
- The essence of the program was to reduce trash disposal by charging a premium for each trash bag. Recyclables were to be collected curbside at “no cost”.

Typical street scene on trash day



Program Results

- Trash cut in half (45,000 t/yr. to 22,500 t/yr.)
 - Recycling increased from 2%* to 36%
 - Average household uses 1.2 bags (30 gal) per week
 - Program compliance nearly 100%
 - Per capita trash disposal <350lbs; lowest in all of MA. State average >800 lbs.
 - Illegal dumping reduced!
- *note: prior to PAYT recycling service was drop-off

PAYT in Worcester—An Overnight Success



Vite G. Svildas of Worcester, and his daughter, Paula R. Sheehan, carry bags to the curb for recycling.

City sets records for recycling

First year exceeds expectations

By John J. Monahan
Telegraph & Gazette Staff

WORCESTER — "I think everybody was skeptical. But once you get the hang of it, it's pretty simple," said Evelyn Peterson, one of the tens of thousands of city residents who kicked their throwaway habits a year ago and began recycling.

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"I just started stepping on the can and putting the glass in the bin and I checked the little book to make sure I was doing the right thing," she said. The effort has put Worcester in an elite group of a

Turn to RECYCLING / Page A18

Curbside recycling saving city tons

By Roy Nilson
Senior Editor for Community Affairs

WORCESTER — The city's voluntary curbside recycling program collected nearly 347 tons of recyclable material and saved the city about \$3,000 in trash-disposal fees last year, according to the Department of Public Works.

VISIONS
2000

Robert J. Fiore, the city's solid-waste coordinator, said the experimental program uses a private contractor to pick up recyclable materials from homes. The program diverts trash from the city's regular trash collection and disposal system.

Under the arrangement, homeowners pay for the pickup service and the city pays \$17.80 per ton for glass, newsprint, cans and bottles collected through the program. If that material were collected by city sanitation trucks, it would cost about \$26 a ton to burn it at the Wheelabrator-Millbury trash incin-

eration plant, Fiore said.

Fiore said Troiano Trucking of Derby Street was the only company to bid on the recycling subsidy contract this year. A.J. Letourneau Inc. was awarded the bid last year.

The two companies are side by side on Route 20 near Granite Street.

Mark Troiano said his company has been running a curbside collection program without a subsidy and collects from about 300 customers.

Fiore said the program is limited to Worcester residents who have the city's regular trash collection service. It does not cover commercial accounts or large apartment buildings.

Troiano said he hopes to increase the number of recycling customers to 3,000 subscribers.

"The reason we bid this is that recycling is the way of the future," he said.

Letourneau said his company intends on staying in the curbside business and that it services about 1,000 curbside recycling customers.

More positive news stories following program implementation

In recycling, Worcester is at top of heap

City joins 'Over 50' club

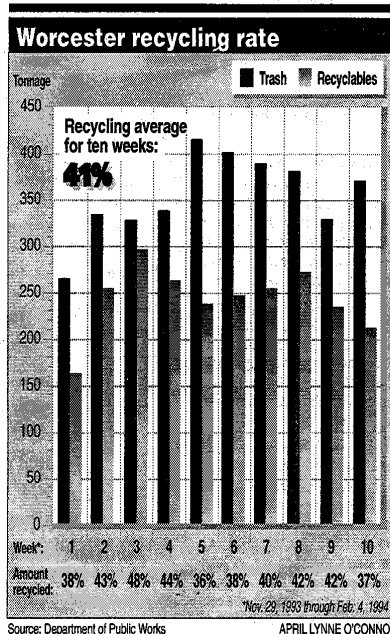
By John J. Monahan
Telegram & Gazette Staff

WORCESTER — Worcester is newest member of the nation's "Over 50" club, an elite group of a few dozen communities that compost and recycle more than half their household waste stream and make up the major leagues of community recycling.

"I'd say you are probably one of the record setters in the country," said Brenda A. Platt, who has tracked high-performing community recycling programs around the country since 1980 for the Institute of Local Self Reliance in Washington D.C.

"I think it's remarkable, in just 10 weeks," said Platt of the city's 41 percent trash recycling rate achieved since a new curbside collection program started up Nov. 29.

When added to an estimated 10



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State boosts recycling efforts

By John J. Monahan
Telegram & Gazette Staff

BOSTON — State officials are holding firm to a 10-year goal to recycle nearly half the state's trash, and yesterday outlined plans to spend millions to expand community recycling programs and markets for collected materials.

Plans for increased recycling efforts came as state officials issued a proposed update of the 1990 solid waste master plan, which set a goal to recycle 46 percent of the state's trash by the turn of the century.

So far the state has boosted compost and recycling programs to include 23 percent of the state's trash, while all but 10 of the state's 361 cities and towns now offer drop-off or curbside recycling services.

To further increase recycling, starting in July, state officials have proposed a nine-point program to expand markets and increase public education using \$10 million from unclaimed bottle and can de-

posits.

One proposal is to establish base prices for recyclable materials that are picked up by collection firms and delivered to a state-owned processing facility in Springfield, which is used by more than 90 communities, including Worcester.

Phil Weinberg, acting director of the state Division of Solid Waste Management, said some firms have been reluctant to enter into long-term contracts to collect recyclable garbage from cities and towns, fearing that the resale value of the materials could drop dramatically.

Under the state's proposal, those firms would be guaranteed a minimum price.

Another proposal would create a state fund, providing financial help for entrepreneurs who use recycled goods in their businesses or launch other ventures that increase demand for recycled materials.

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Compliance reveals civic pride

If tangible proof were needed that Worcester is primed to enter a promising new era, the unequivocal success of the new curbside recycling and fee-per-bag trash collection program provides it.

During the program's first week, an incredible 37 percent of the solid waste stream was diverted from trash incineration to recycling. Well-established, long-running programs such as Seattle's rarely exceed a 25 percent diversion rate.

More than 160 tons of paper, glass, metal and plastic went on to serve another day in another way, thereby preserving dwindling environmental resources.

Clearly, the 50,000 Worcester households initially included in the program got the word and readily embraced recycling.

The rate likely will drop as people work through backlogs of recyclables. But the day-by-day statistics during the first week reveal a

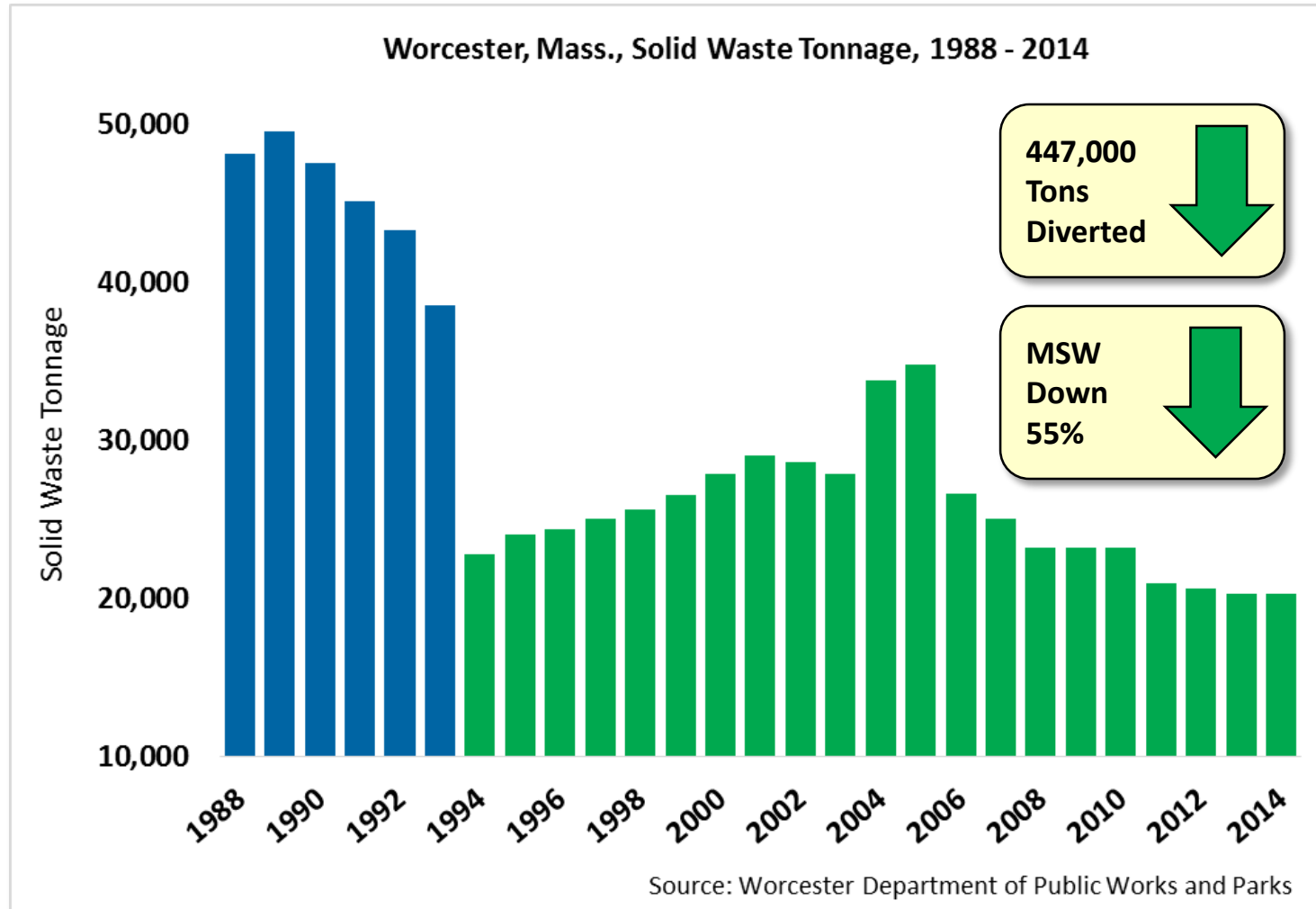
That is an 'A' by any grading system I know of. As the largest city in the commonwealth to begin curbside recycling, Worcester will serve as a model for Massachusetts and New England."

TRUDY COXE
STATE SECRETARY
OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

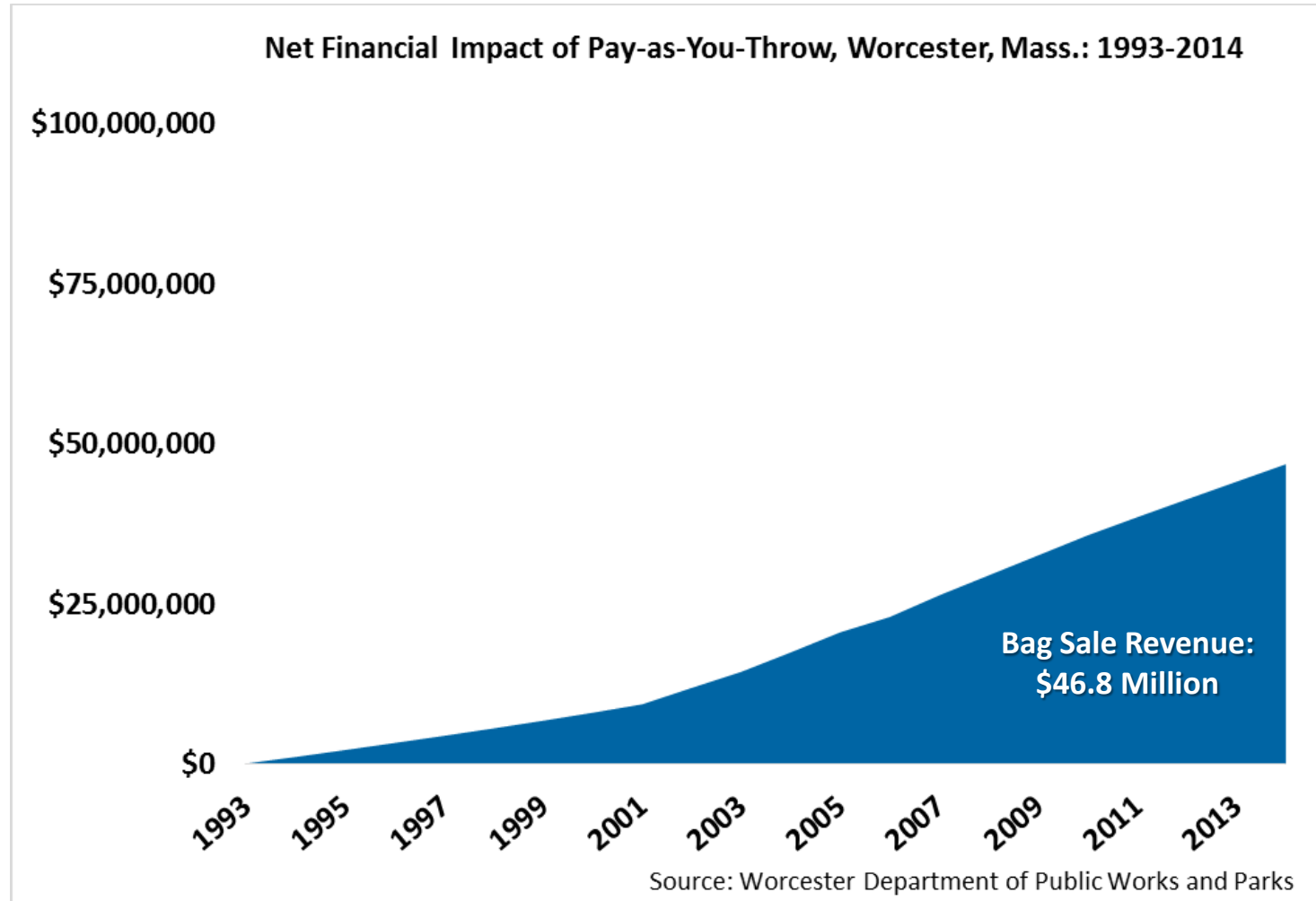


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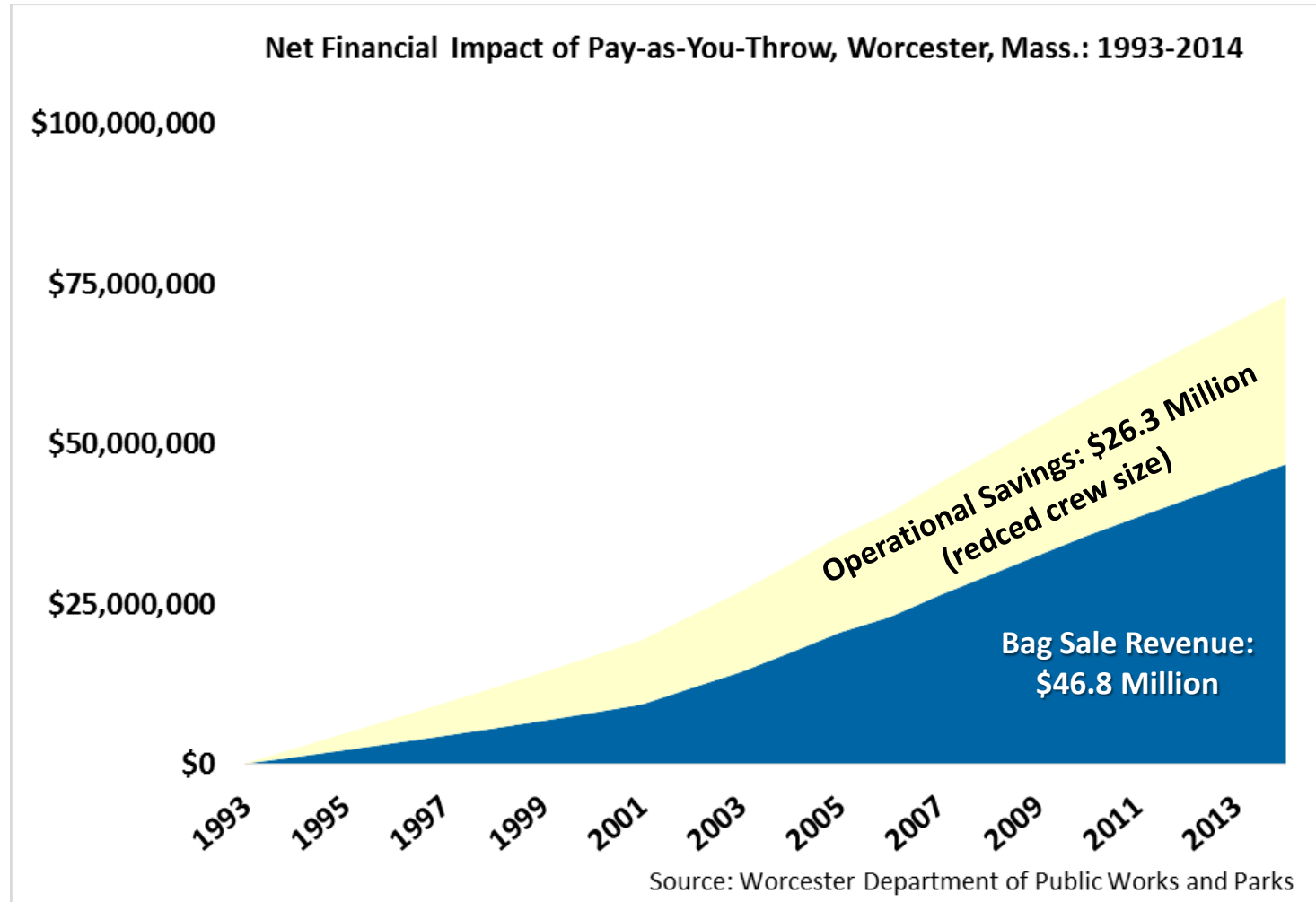
PAYT in Worcester—Powerful Waste Reduction



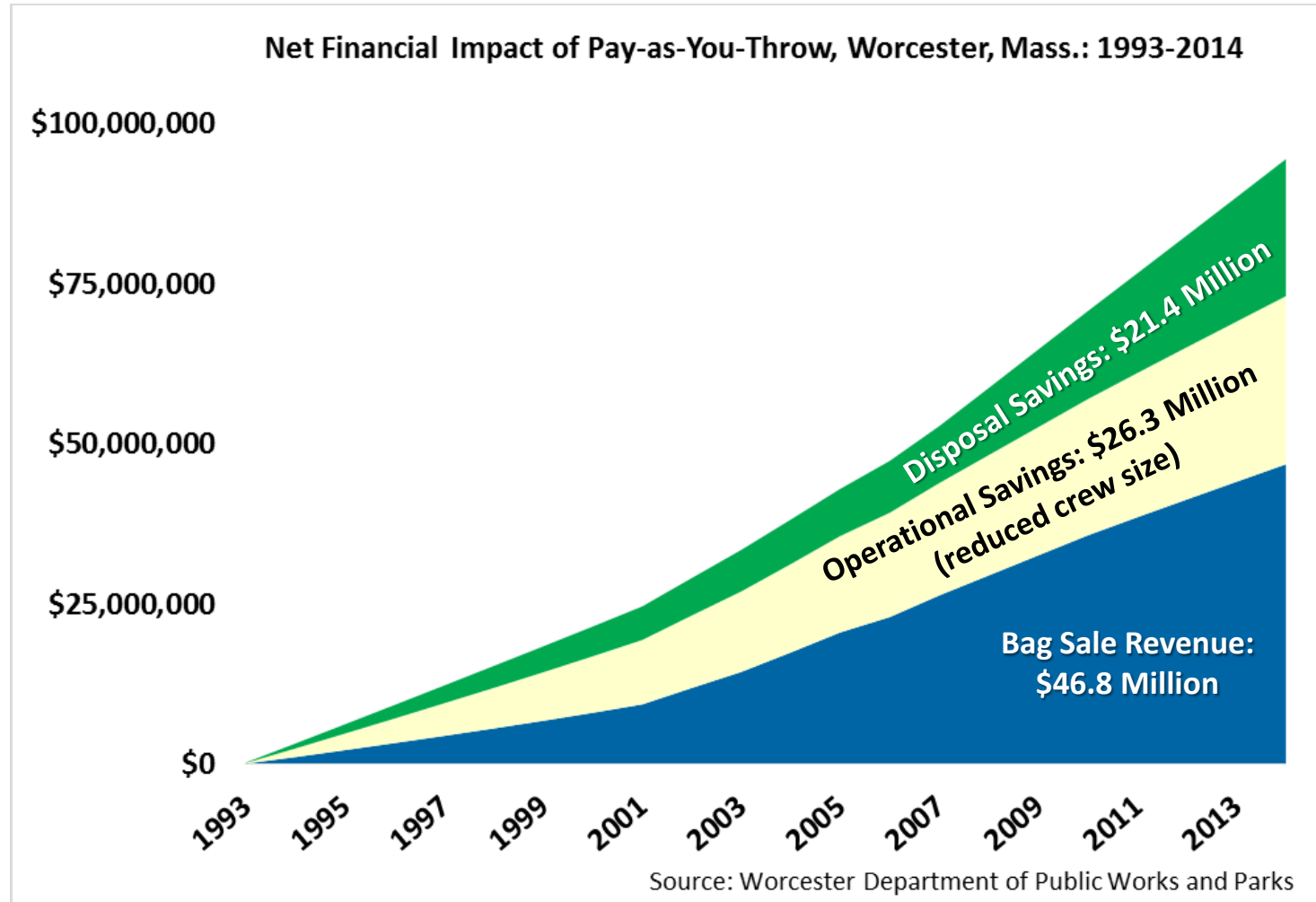
PAYT in Worcester—Financial Results



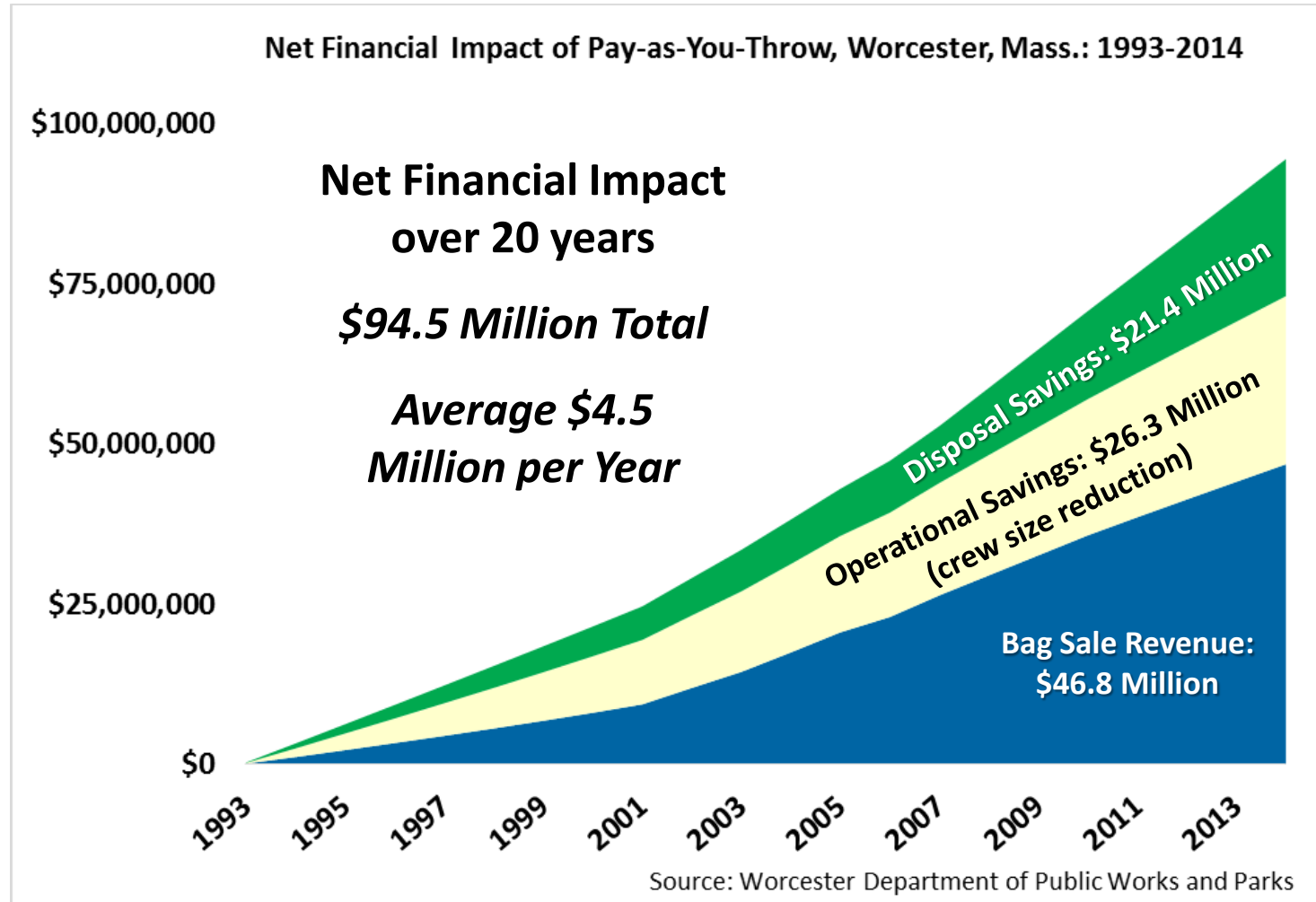
PAYT in Worcester—Financial Results



PAYT in Worcester—Financial Results



PAYT in Worcester—Financial Results



Conclusions

- PAYT is the most effective way to reduce MSW costs for a municipality
- It takes political courage to institute PAYT BUT once done, it is with rare exception, reversed
- \$ saved from a PAYT program can be used to
 - Fill budget gaps
 - Reduce taxes
 - Fund other city/town programs

Consider.....

危機
危机

In the Chinese language the word crisis is composed of 2 characters, one representing danger and the other representing opportunity