Rate Structures and Zero Waste

Best practices and sample contracts/results

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Overview

Sample contracts

PAYT/Best Practices study

Summary: Beyond waste and beyond pricing





Sample contracts - pricing

PAYT/Best Practices study

Summary: Beyond waste and beyond Rates

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Contract Example #1: Seattle (no disposal)

- Contractor paid separately for base collection costs for trash, recycling and compostables.
- Contract base price adjusted annually for units changes and tonnage changes
- Ancillary fees added to base price for each material collected
- Residential and commercial rates both contemplate base pricing with adjustments for tonnage shifts and unit count changes
- CPI adjusted pricing







PAYT Pricing - Don't forget Compostables!

Food and Yard Cart Options

- * 13-gallon cart / \$3.60 per month
- 🗰 32-gallon cart / \$5.40 per month
- 🗰 96-gallon cart / \$6.90 per month
- * No cart service exemption * * Customers who compost food waste in a worm bin, Green Cone or other food composter may request an exemption. Learn more about composting at www.seattle.gov/util/services/yard/composting or 206-633-0224



- People intuitively understand that organics collection has a cost
- Many communities have aggressive yard waste diversion programs and yard waste bans
- Yard waste services increases overall recycling rates by as much as 39%

Contract Example #2: Renton (disposal included)

- Significant service shift created base rate uncertainty (move to EOW trash, weekly FW/YW)
- Contractor paid cost of service pricing for services in base contract pricing plus CPI
- City sets retail rates
- Contract base price adjusted based on CPI only





Contract Pros and Cons

Pros

- Building fees into collection reduces risk to for shifting tons
- Formula pricing brings certainty to customers and contractor

Cons

• Requires review of units and tons by material

Question

Can we get there another way? Are new rate models necessary?

Sample contract pricing

PAYT/Best Practices study

Summary: Beyond waste and beyond pricing

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Washington State PAYT/Best Practices Study

- Looked at almost 3 dozen service areas in Washington State
- All had some form of PAYT (required by state law)
- Reviewed price differential by container size (small variables up to linear rates)
- Reviewed container size by city
- Reviewed basic rates by city
- Reviewed single stream and organics recycling rates by city
- Contemplated impact of public education programs

Variable Cart Rate Analysis

Note: As calculated, 1.0 = linear rates (meaning 64gal ≈ 2 x 35gal). The closer the slope is to 0.0, the less expensive the additional gallons above 35.

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Findings of Washington Best Practices Study

- PAYT increases recycling Washington State generally has high recycling rates.
- Basic pricing plays a role Recycling rates do not increase when rates are very low, even with PAYT rates
- PAYT rates impact recycling rates to a point.
- Successful programs combine PAYT with a range of other programs. Pricing is not the only driver for success



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Example: City of Kirkland, Washington

City of Kirkland, Washington

- Highest recycling rate in suburban King County: 70%
- Population: 51,000
- Rate structure: 0.869 linear (based on 32 gallon can)
- Rates: \$22.25 (35), \$40.66(64), \$60.00 (96).
- Diversion rate 70%
 - 45% single stream recyclables
 - 25% FW/YW
- Recycling and YW/FW provided weekly at no additional charge
- Commercial recycling cost embedded in trash cost
- Commercial FW programs
- MF recycling and FW offered to residents
- Numerous community programs, education, outreach provided

Example: City of Duvall, Washington

City of Duvall, Washington

- High trash rates, high recycling rate.
- Linear rate relationship is very low 0.012 (based on 35 gallon cart)
- Population: 7,200
- High rates: \$27.10 (35), \$36.16(64), \$43.98 (96).
- Diversion rate 61%
 - 24% single stream recyclables
 - 37% FW/YW
- Recycling and YW provided EOW at no additional charge.
- Targeted foodwaste diversion has been effective
- Good community programs, education, outreach provided

High trash rates creates incentives to recycle. Strong community engagement, especially to divert foodwaste from City's WWTF.

Example: City of Wenatchee, Washington

City of Wenatchee, Washington

- Low recycling rate: 14%
- Population: 13,500
- Rate structure: 0.013 linear rate ratio (based on 35 gallon cart)
- Rates: \$12.51 (35), \$16.62(64), \$22.78 (96).
- Diversion rate 14%
 - 11% single stream recyclables
 - 3% FW/YW
- Recycling provided EOW weekly at no additional charge
- YW extra charge new, undeveloped program with little incentive
- Few community programs, education, outreach provided

Low overall cost structure creates little incentive to recycle

Example: Low trash rate = low diversion rates



- Low rates impact container size/subscriptions
- Low trash rates lead to low recycling rates (14%), even with variable can rates (0.013 slope)
- Extra charge for YW combined with low garbage rates (and no regulations) result in low organics diversion (3%)

Reduced risk of container size shifting



- Ability to predict container sizes reduces risk to City/Contractor
- Ability to develop optimal rate structures reduces risk to City/Contractor

Examples: Linear rates work - to a point



- Linear rates only get you so far. Other programs are important to achieving goals.
- PAYT, high base trash rates, convenient service offerings and public education all impact recycling rates

City of Renton: 1990-2010



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2010 CURBSIDE RESIDENTIAL WASTE STREAM

Renton Recycling Results - 2012

- Services include EOW garbage, EOW recycling and weekly YW/FW
- Garbage rates are high
- Recycling programs are leveling off – what's next?
- Focused public education targeted to material left in waste stream?



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Corporate Snapshot

Sample contract pricing

PAYT/Best Practices study

Summary: Beyond waste and beyond pricing

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Looking forward: where do we go from here?

Balancing rates with programs

- Do not count on rates alone to achieve high diversion
- Thoughtful programs to meet community needs are at least as important as rates
- Zero Waste goals can be achieved with rates that contemplate services, pricing incentives, programmatic costs and human behavior
- Don't forget organics folks understand that there is a cost to organics not so much recyclables. Variable rates for organics can help offset costs
- Don't scrimp on public education costs.

