

The Recycling Ad Hoc Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, April 17, 2024. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers at the Newtown Municipal Center. First Selectman Capeci called the meeting to order at 6pm.

Present: Dan Cruson, Laura Miller, Steve Goodridge, John Zachos, Bryce Chinault and Jeff Capeci

Absent: Chris Gardner

Also Present: Fred Hurely, Tiffany Carlson, Tory McBrien and Mark Dancy from Waste Zero and 3 members of the public

MINUTES: D. Cruson moved to approve the minutes from the 3/20/24 meeting. J. Zachos seconded, all in favor.

Public Participation - None

NEW BUSINESS

Zero Waste financial models - President and Director of Waste Zero Mark Dancy and CT Program Coordinator from Waste Zero Tory McBrien presented high level models (att.) for unit based pricing. It is anticipated that it will take about 4 to 6 meetings to determine which method will work best for Newtown if they should move forward. They are contracted through CT DEEP to assist the Town with different options to move to unit based pricing. They explained how important the recycling committees input is. They have developed a process that is transparent and democratic.

Their different types of programs are pay per bag, weight based, and stickers/tags/punch cards.

Bags – Waste Zero makes pre printed bags. That is a program where you buy them and those would be accepted at the transfer station without having to weigh or count. You avoid anyone having to take money at the transfer station.

There was concern that paying per bag would cause increased work load for attendants and longer lines for residents. Waste Zero explained that it is this committee's job is to decide how to move forward and suggested having a working meeting where everyone brings their objectives. At that point, they can determine which program they should be looking at that meets the majority of objectives.

Changing people's attitudes regarding recycling and public education were important to committee members.

F. Hurley explained that the Newtown Transfer Station handles more residents than any other in our region. The other thing that is frustrating, when you talk about changing pricing, that the changes only impact the 40% using the transfer station, it doesn't impact the 60% that have private haulers. Delivering services and promoting the program have some real challenges going forward. It is harder than just the fee and the color of the bag.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Arlene Miles

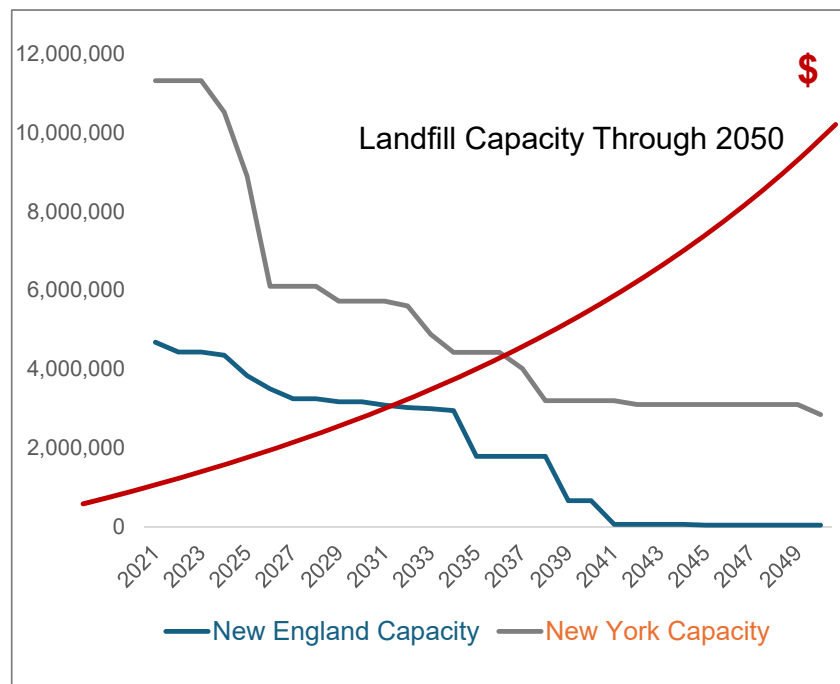
NEWTOWN

1.	Waste Crisis and Overview
2.	Why UBP
3.	UBP in Newtown

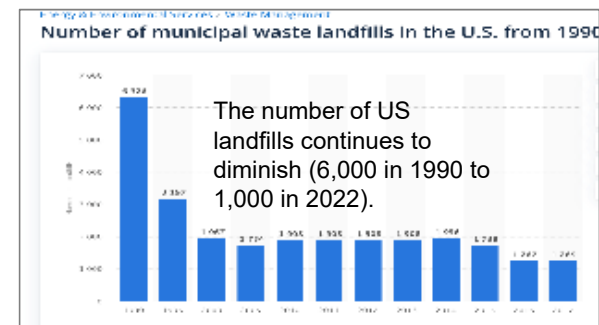


WASTE MANAGEMENT IS AN URGENT PROBLEM – COSTS WILL CONTINUE TO RISE

There are 39 million residents living in New England and New York. It is extremely unpopular and difficult to site a new Incinerator or landfill.



-----Estimated Waste Disposal costs (North East)



1. In 1990, the US had over 6,000 landfills. Today there are just over 1,000 landfills remaining.
2. Northeast will lose 40% of disposal capacity in the next 5 years.
3. Of the 75 Incineration facilities in the US, all but ONE are over 30 years old – end of their useful life.
4. There are 4 incinerators remaining in CT
5. 85% of disposal facilities are owned by corporations
6. Most incineration companies such as Winn Waste (Bridgeport and Lisbon) have diversified with out of state landfills.
7. **NIMBY Syndrome (Not In My Back Yard). Limits new facility site opportunities.**

Sources: Report to the Joint Standing Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources, Maine Solid Waste Generation and Disposal Capacity Report, January 2017; NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES, Material Recovery and Waste Reduction Program, ANNUAL REPORT, Fiscal Year 2007-08; BIENNIAL SOLID WASTE REPORT, OCTOBER 2019, Prepared by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services; MA Material Management Capacity Study February 11, 2019, MSW Consultants

OUT OF STATE WASTE MAY NOT ALWAYS BE AN OPTION

- The State of Connecticut produces **2,188,394** tons of Waste
- Projections 2024:
 - 1,306,396 disposed in state
 - 881,889 tons will ship out of state
- CT has 4 remaining incinerators over 30 years old. The Bridgeport RRF processes about 750,000 tons – and has chronic shutdowns due to age
- **Shipping Connecticut's waste to other peoples back yards is an environmental justice issue**



New Hampshire introduced two bills in 2024 Session

- New Hampshire Landfills have been accepting out of state waste for years
- One Bill seeks to take on the Interstate Commerce Law and will ban out of state material from landfills (HB 1145)
- Second Bill to limit waste from out of state (HB 1632)

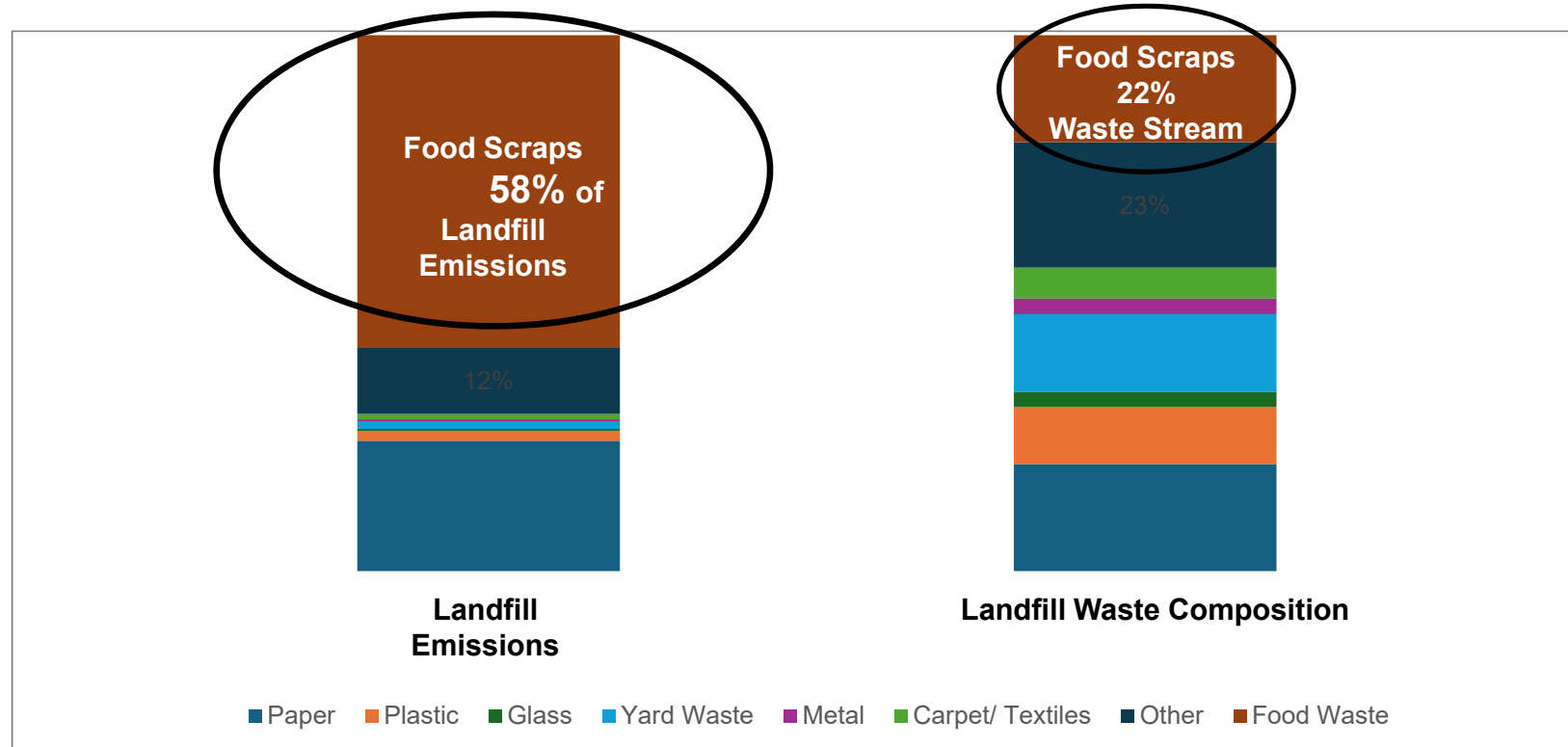
Headlines New Hampshire

Bills target out-of-state trash



WHY TARGET FOOD SCRAPS?

Food Waste makes up about 22% of the waste stream but responsible for nearly 60% of all emissions

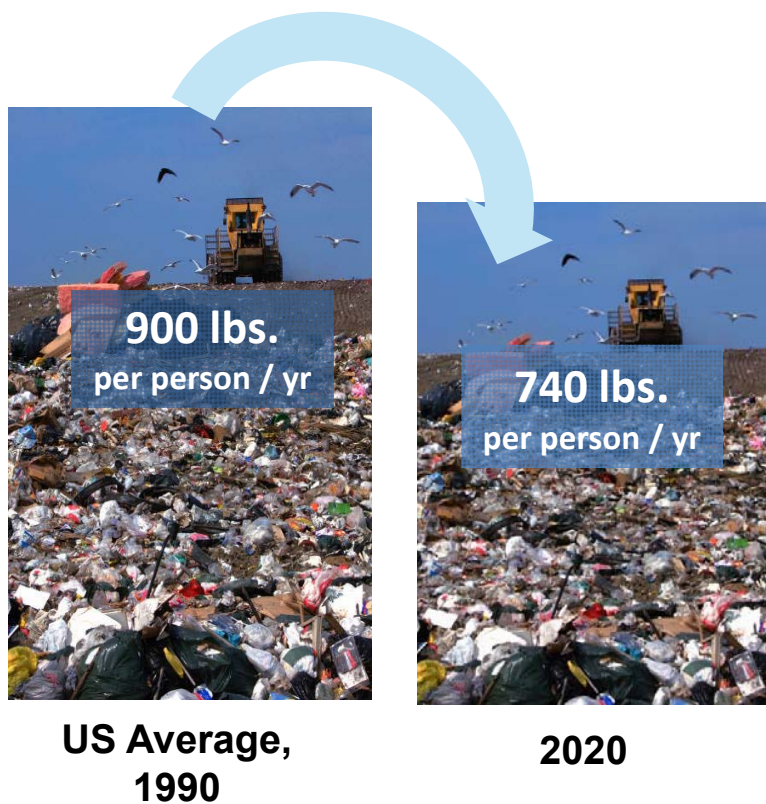


WHY CO-COLLECTION

1.	Waste Crisis
2.	Why UBP
3.	UBP in Newtown

WHY UNIT BASED PRICING –

UBP is the single most effective action that a municipality can take to reduce residential waste (USEPA) – Average reduction 44%.
UBP is the engine that maximizes all other diversion programs like textiles and food scraps (CT DEEP)



Bottle Bill (1980)

Electronics, Paint and Mattress EPR

Education Campaigns (What's In, What's Out)

Aggressive Waste Reduction Goals

National Packaging Innovation (down gauging, light weighting)

National Recycling Campaigns

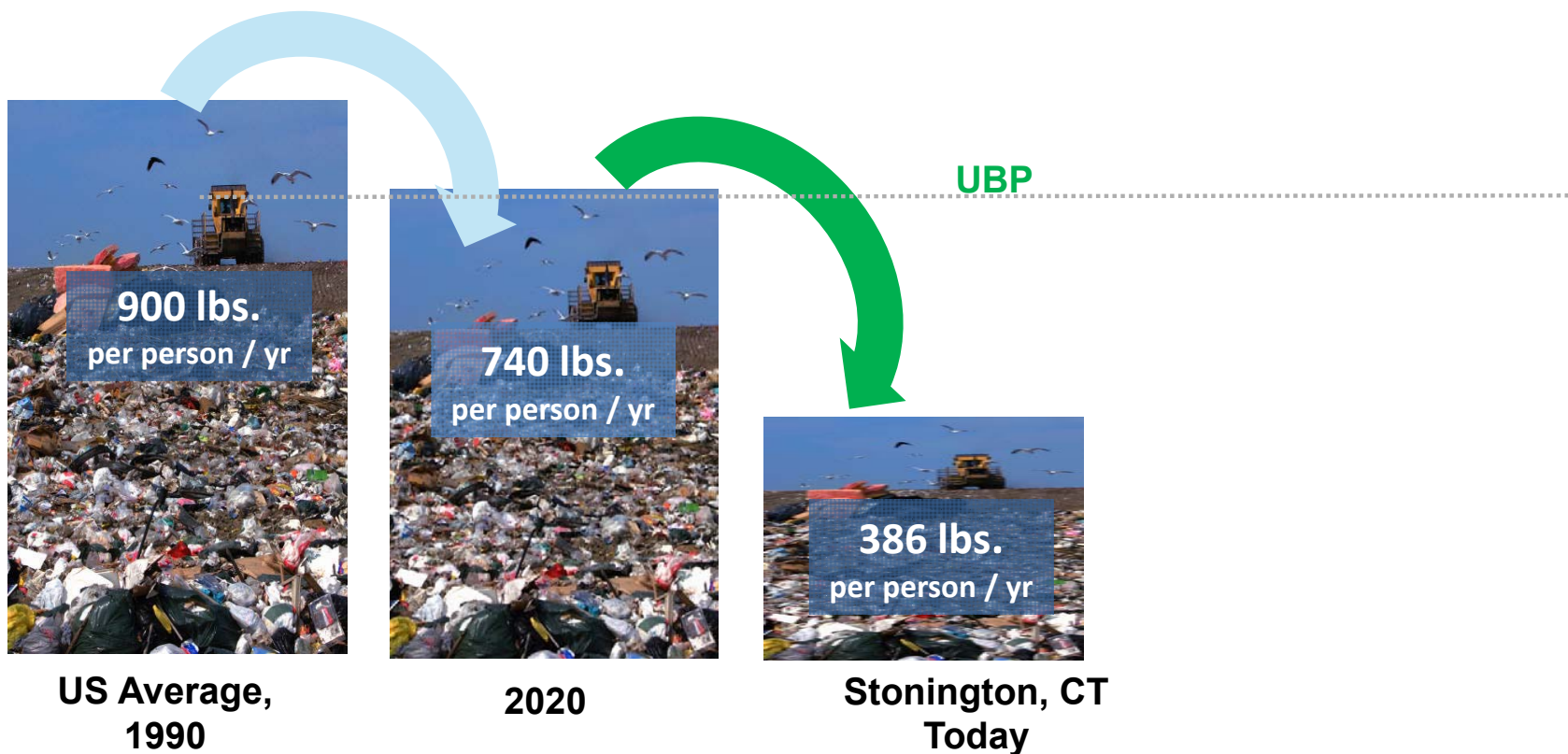
Single-Stream Recycling

Increased Consumer Access (curbside and drop-off recycling)

Other Programs (yard waste, event recycling days, etc.)

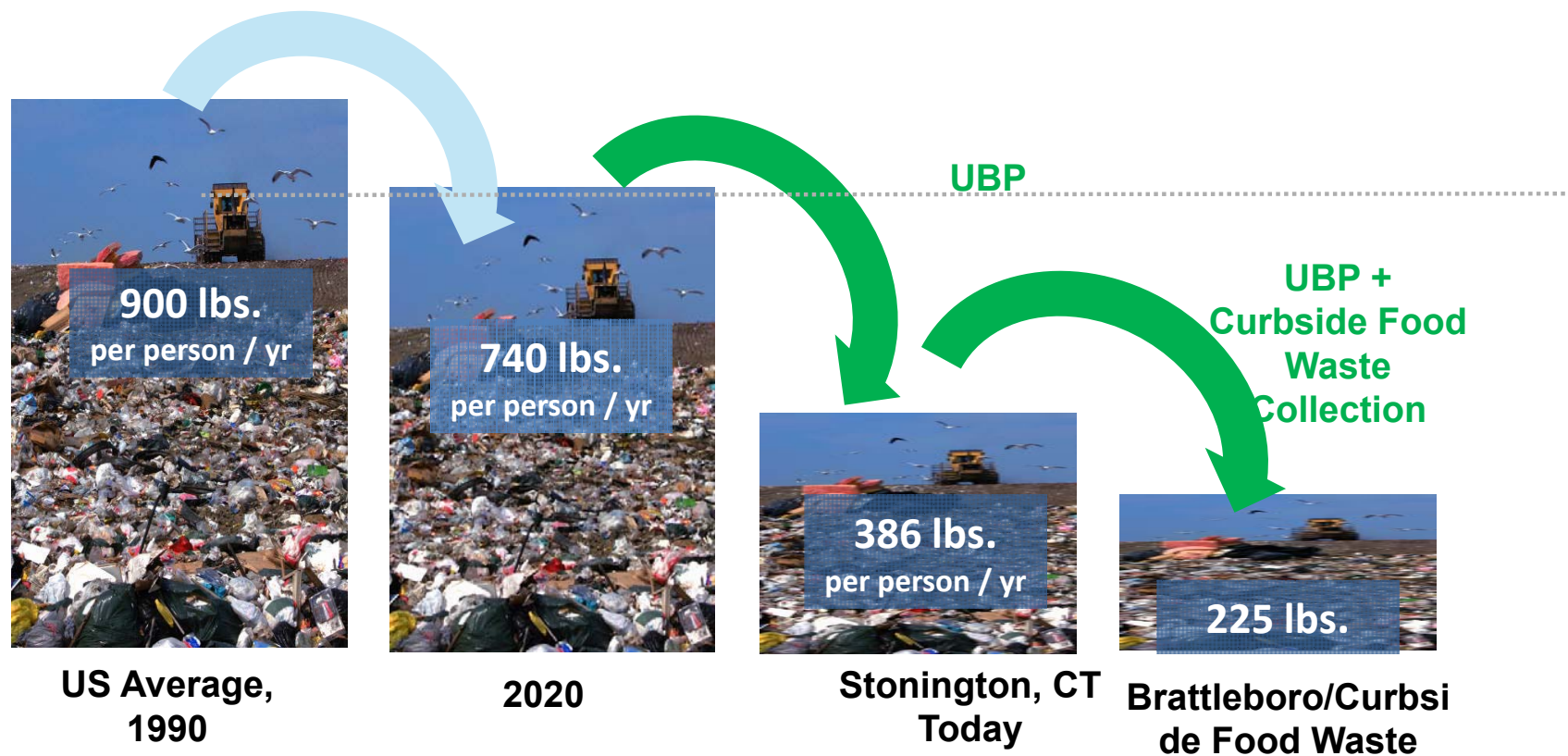
WHY UNIT BASED PRICING – Two Tiered Fee System

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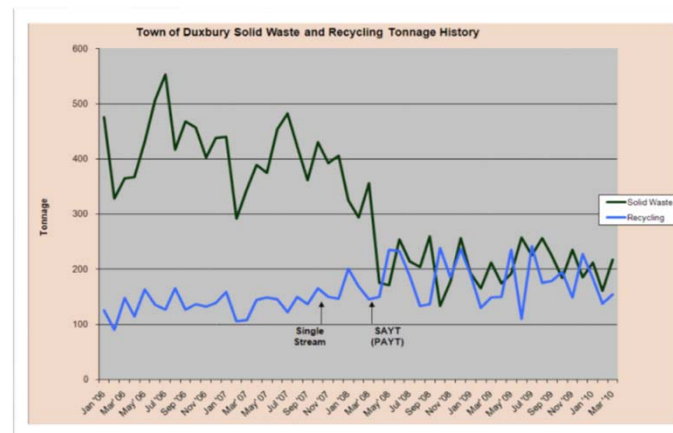
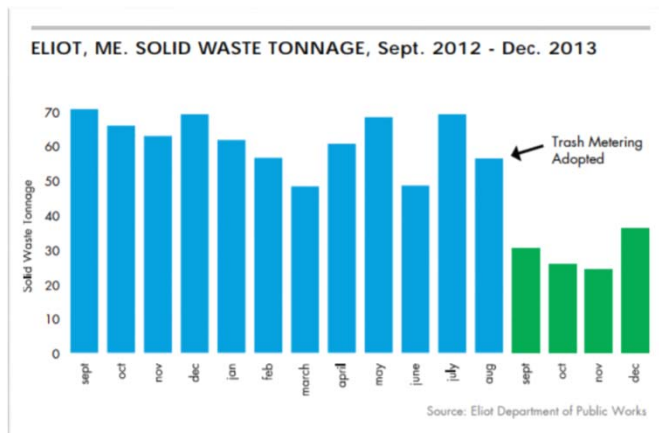
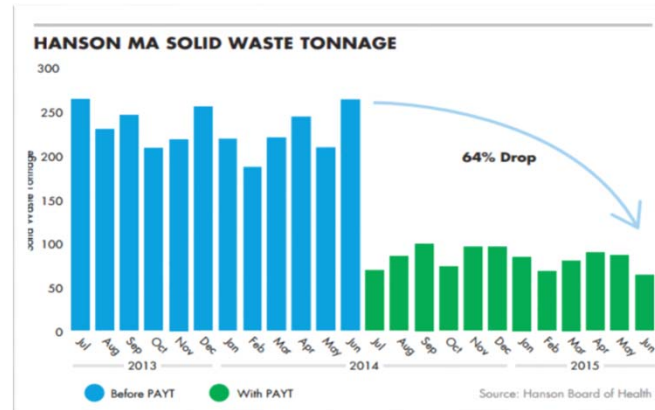
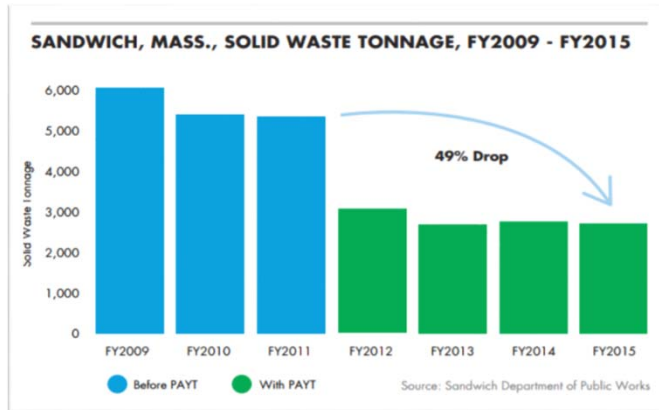


WHY UNIT BASED PRICING (UBP) PLUS FOOD WASTE

UBP is the single most effective action that a municipality can take to reduce residential waste (USEPA) – Average reduction 44%.
UBP is the engine that maximizes all other diversion programs like textiles and food scraps (CT DEEP)



Results: Immediate & Predictable



The Different Types of UBP (Unit Based Pricing)



Pay per Bag

Set fee in cash for each regular trash bag disposed of at a Transfer Station – based on size.

Operationally less efficient, prone to abuse, requires payment system on site, requires staff interaction, creates back ups, harder to visually determine bag size



Weight Based

Resident pays by weight for amount disposed

Meters trash based on use. Does not require a special bag or tag, operationally less inefficient, requires staff interaction, requires payment on site, slows traffic



Stickers/Tags/Punch cards

Pay by the bag by affixing a pre-paid tag or sticker to each bag of trash

Meters trash based on use, can be difficult to enforce (see tags), prone to abuse (i.e. people put lower cost sticker on larger size bag).



Overflow

Flat fee for everything that fits into a certain size 'Free' bag, and then extra is paid for via a bag. Bags can be distributed with sticker.

Offers most people some incentive to reduce waste, can be a stepping-stone to full UBP, requires bag distribution



Bags

Pay by the bag with specialized bags approved by the municipality

Maximizes waste reduction (average 44% decrease) due to strong incentives and easy enforcement

WHY CO-COLLECTION

1.	Waste Crisis
2.	Why UBP & Co-collection
3.	UBP in Newtown

PROFORMA EXAMPLE

Newtown Budget and Pro Forma

WASTE / RECYCLE (10133)	2023-2024	2024-2025					
		Do Nothing	Food Scraps with Full UBP	Food Scraps with No UBP	Overflow UBP with Food Scrap*	Food Scraps with Tag based UBP	Food Scraps with Weight Based UBP
Expense							
Transfer Station General Expense	\$1,315,640	\$1,315,640	\$1,315,640	\$1,315,640	\$1,315,640	\$1,315,640	\$1,315,640
Salary & Benefits	\$309,318	\$309,318	\$309,318	\$309,318	\$309,318	\$309,318	\$309,318
Food Scrap Processing	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sub Total Expense	\$1,624,958	\$1,624,958	\$1,624,958	\$1,624,958	\$1,624,958	\$1,624,958	\$1,624,958
Resident Tipping Fees	\$252,044	\$252,044	\$118,911	\$227,500	\$159,864	\$160,061	\$143,117
Total Expense	\$1,877,002	\$1,877,002	\$1,743,869	\$1,852,458	\$1,784,822	\$1,785,019	\$1,768,075
Revenue							
Approximate Revenue from Fees	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Revenue From UBP (Net)	\$0	\$0	\$157,084	\$0	\$58,347	\$169,231	\$189,671
Net General Fund Budget	\$1,477,002	\$1,477,002	\$1,386,785	\$1,652,458	\$1,526,475	\$1,415,788	\$1,378,404
Net Benefit		\$0	\$90,217	(\$175,456)	(\$49,473)	\$61,214	\$98,598
* Cost to residents for regular bags			No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Extra labor to handle transactions			No	No	No	No	Yes
Estimated Waste Reduction			55%	10%	38%	38%	45%

Mini Bag \$0.65, 13-gallon \$1.00, 33-Gallon \$1.65