



Pennsylvania Pay-As-You-Throw Programs

Perkasie Borough, Bucks County

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2000 Population: 8,828

Program inception: 1988

Program type: Bag program

Container description: Small bags: 15 gallons or 20 pound; large bags: 30 gallons or 40 pounds. Large bags are green with municipal logo and small bags are black with municipal logo. Residents can buy bags at borough office and retail outlets

Cost structure: Small bags \$1.35, large bags \$2.35

Annual budget: \$313,125

Service provider: Borough collection for waste and recycling for residential properties and businesses that voluntarily use the program. Other businesses contract individually.

Recycling program: Curbside collection for newspapers, glass bottles, aluminum cans and cardboard. Drop-off center for those items plus plastic bottles and tin cans.

Bulk waste collection: Bulky waste is collected once a month, appliances require a sticker costing \$10. Household hazardous waste collected through Bucks County.

Composting program: Borough collects leaves in the fall and Christmas trees seasonally. Other yard wastes are collected periodically. The borough chips brush to make mulch which is available to residents.

Ordinances: Recycling is required by ordinance. Participation in PAYT required for single family residences and apartments with fewer than 4 residential units. Businesses may participate. Apartments with 4 or more units may arrange for private collection. Burning and dumping are prohibited.

Education program: The Borough distributes an annual brochure, quarterly newsletter with reminders about recycling and PAYT programs and press releases about holiday schedule changes. A welcome package, including a recycling and PAYT brochure, is sent to new residents.

Comments: During the first year of operation, the Borough experienced a 59% reduction in total municipal waste collected, compared to the average during the three previous years. The recycling rate has stabilized at 43-45% (including leaf collection but excluding brush chipping, white goods and Christmas trees).