



## **City of Salem Solid Waste Committee**

Finance Department, Room 230, Conference Room  
Thursday, August 17, 2023, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30p.m.

View Via YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQLj9RKZNHu4wfYcs\\_TCOTA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQLj9RKZNHu4wfYcs_TCOTA)

Si necesita ayuda para comprender esta información, por favor llame 503-588-6274

---

### **\*\*\* ADDITIONS AGENDA \*\*\***

3. Public Comment
  - a. Correspondence from Jim Schepke regarding solid waste rate

**From:** Jim Scheppke <[jscheppke@comcast.net](mailto:jscheppke@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 15, 2023 8:19 PM  
**To:** Franchise <[franchise@cityofsalem.net](mailto:franchise@cityofsalem.net)>  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the 8/17/23 Solid Waste Committee

Dear Solid Waste Committee:

I am writing on behalf of 350 Salem and the Clean Air Now Coalition.\*

We want to thank the City Council for establishing your committee and for your service on the committee. I plan to come in person to the public comment period at your meeting this week to talk about Pay-As-You-Throw rate setting. Some of you may recall that our group advocated for this last year and we were pleased that the City Council worked with the haulers to add 20-gallon every-other-week service in 2023. This was one step in the right direction, but much more needs to be done.

In advance of my remarks on Thursday I wanted you to have the attached Pay-As-You-Throw Factsheet that we have prepared for your information.

I look forward to speaking to you on Thursday.

Jim

\* 350 Salem OR  
Beyond Toxics  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Energy Justice Network  
Salem Democratic Socialists of America

Jim Scheppke  
[jscheppke@comcast.net](mailto:jscheppke@comcast.net)  
503-269-1559

## Pay-As-You-Throw Factsheet

Salem can implement green waste policies that reduce waste and greenhouse gas emissions and also reduce waste costs for our community members by adopting Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) rates for residential waste.

- Pay-As-You-Throw breaks with tradition by treating trash services just like electricity, gas, and other utilities.
  - Flat rate fees are unfair to residents who produce little waste.
  - Flat rate fees provide no incentive to reduce household waste.
  - PAYT allows households to pay a rate that depends on the amount of services they use.

### Residential waste collection rates for the City of Eugene (incl. recycling)

Monthly rates	Price	Additional Services	Price
20 Gallon Weekly (food waste/yard debris exempt)	\$14.45	Food Waste/yard debris for exempt categories; every other week	\$3.55
32 Gallon monthly (food waste/yard debris exempt)	\$7.45	Additional food waste/yard debris container, every other week	\$2.65
32 Gallon every other week	\$16.75	Food waste/yard debris only, every other week	\$4.80
32 Gallon weekly	\$24.65	Recycling service only	\$7.60
60 Gallon weekly	\$42.75	Extra bag or container, each, per pick up, per 32-gal unit	\$4.80
90 Gallon weekly	\$52.75	Container Exchange Fee (per occurrence)	\$15.00

- More information about the Eugene model can be found here: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/4504/Licensed-Haulers-and-Rates>

The EPA supports this new approach to solid waste management because it encompasses three interrelated components that are key to successful community programs:

- **Environmental Sustainability** - Communities with programs in place have reported significant increases in recycling and reductions in waste.
- **Economic Sustainability** - Effective tool for communities struggling to cope with soaring municipal solid waste management expenses.
- **Equity** - One of the most important advantages of a variable-rate program may be its inherent fairness.
- Source: <https://archive.epa.gov/wastes/consERVE/tools/payt/web/html/index.html>
- Additional Resources: <https://archive.epa.gov/wastes/consERVE/tools/payt/web/html/index-4.html>



*Prepared by the Clean Air Now Coalition, July 2022*

**Zero Waste strategies are capable of achieving deep reductions in waste generation**

Unit-based pricing (a.k.a. “Pay-As-You-Throw”) is the single most effective and cost-effective way to rapidly reduce waste. Over 10,000 communities use this system, and it has the proven capability of reducing waste generation by an average of 44%. When combined with curbside composting collection, the diversion average reaches 70%. Washington State and Oregon have model programs with established best practices that Salem could immediately adopt.

Source: <http://www.energyjustice.net/md/beyond.pdf>

**Chart comparing Salem to Vancouver residential collection options and costs**

Vancouver, WA*			Salem (Marion)		
Cart Size	Frequency	Cost	Cart Size	Frequency	Cost
32-Gallon	Monthly	\$14.14	N/A	N/A	N/A
20-Gallon	EOW	\$17.57	20-Gallon	EOW	\$22.10
20-Gallon	Weekly	\$21.01	20-Gallon	Weekly	\$30.95
32-Gallon	EOW	\$21.01	N/A	N/A	N/A
32-Gallon	Weekly	\$26.73	35-Gallon	Weekly	\$34.75
64-Gallon	EOW	\$26.73	N/A	N/A	N/A
64-Gallon	Weekly	\$46.02	65-Gallon	Weekly	\$45.35

\*Organics pick-up is an additional cost, \$5.25 to \$7.62.

- More information about the Vancouver model can be found here: <https://www.cityofvancouver.us/publicworks/page/garbage-recycling-organics-services-home>

**There is no evidence that PAYT results in costly unintended consequences**

“Concern over illegal dumping and burning is often cited as the major barrier to acceptance of PAYT programs. Many communities charging a variable rate for trash services point out, however, that they have not observed significant increases in these activities. For these cities and towns, education and enforcement have been the most effective ways to prevent illegal diversion.”

Source: <https://archive.epa.gov/wastes/conserva/tools/payt/web/html/top8.html>

**Additional considerations for equitable residential waste costs and to reduce residential waste through increased recycling:**

- Low-income households should be charged at reduced rates that are equitable. <https://archive.epa.gov/wastes/conserva/tools/payt/web/html/top19.html>
- All residential dwellings - including apartment buildings - need recycling containers to support city-wide recycling goals.
- All households generate organic waste. Therefore all households need options for organic waste collection relative to household size to increase per capita composting.



Prepared by the Clean Air Now Coalition, July 2022