

Lafayette, CO

Population: 23,197

Summary:

Lafayette began their PAYT program in October 2007. The City released an RFP for waste collection and recycling services and as part of the RFP specifications they required that the proposing haulers provide variable rates for residential garbage collection. A local hauler won the contract by submitting the best, most complete proposal including PAYT rates, embedded recycling, and reporting. Under the new contract dual stream recycling was switched to single stream collection in one 96-gallon cart. The City decided to buy the recycling carts themselves so that the next contract bidding process (in 5 years) would be fair to all the potential haulers (if the hauler owned the carts, then they would have an advantage in cost on the next RFP). Although the trash is collected by a hauler, the city handles the billing. Trash and recycling service is mandatory in the city and bills are included in the residential utility bills. If the resident doesn't pay their trash/recycling bill, their utilities can potentially be cut off.

The highlights of the PAYT program and hauler contract are:

- Recycling rates are embedded in the trash fees.
- Variable rates must be charged.
- Hauler must report tonnages to city.
- Participation by all single family residences and multi-family residences up to, and including, 7 units per building.
- The program at this time does not cover Home Owner Associations , which are around 40-50% of the population.
- Recycling is single stream in one 96 gallon cart.
- Recycling is collected every other week.

The fee for a 32-gallon cart is \$5.99/month, the rates double and triple for the next available sizes of 64 and 96 gallons at \$11.98 and \$17.97 respectively. Residents must also pay a \$1/month cart fee and are allowed to change their cart sizes for free. The \$1/month fee is called a mandatory recycling fee and is used by the City to pay the amortized cost of the new carts. The carts have the City of Lafayette logo on them. The residents can also buy \$3.00 stickers to put on extra bags.

Results:

Lafayette had a diversion rate of 28% in 2007. Since the City and hauler didn't previously measure diversion rate before PAYT, there isn't any data to compare to. After implementation, the City received hundreds of phone calls. Overall, there is high participation and satisfaction with the program, but there are a few residents who don't like the "mandatory" aspect. The few dissatisfied people make the most calls and are the 'loudest', but the good outweighs the negative.