

City of Loveland

Population: 65,000

Summary:

Since 1960, the City of Loveland Solid Waste Division has provided refuse collection services to residents. The division implemented a cutting-edge waste reduction, recycling and yard waste composting program out of concern for extending the life of Larimer County landfill life and other environmental benefits such as conservation of natural resources, as well as to prevent back injuries to employees from lifting overloaded bins containing grass clippings (and related worker compensation insurance premiums).

PAYT Ordinance:

By 1993, all Loveland's household trash accounts were converted to a collection system that applies a Pay-as-you-throw fee structure to encourage residents to reduce waste and recycle more and offers weekly curbside recycling, making it one of the first PAYT programs in the Western region. Customers may also subscribe to weekly collection of yard wastes in a City-provided container designed to minimize worker injuries, or haul their own yard wastes to a free drop-site. In 1997, the City adopted a licensing requirement for all private trash haulers who provide residential service in Loveland to also apply Pay-as-you-throw rates.

Loveland bills all household a mandatory fee of \$6.00 for a monthly base-rate to fund the waste diversion programs, which covers the costs for curbside recycling, a comprehensive recycling drop-off center that accepts a wide variety of materials, and unlimited use of the City's yardwaste drop-off site. The rates for trash collection are:

- 32-gallon-\$5.00/month
- 64-gallon-\$10.00/month
- 96-gallon-\$15.00/month

Residents may also buy trash stamps for \$1.30 at local grocery and convenience stores. Yard waste service is optional and is collected in a 96-gallon cart for an additional \$7.50 per month.

Results:

Loveland calculates that the community's residential waste diversion rate now exceeds 55%. Under the old system, residents generated an average of three, 32-gallon trash bags weekly; after the City implemented the new program, volumes dropped to under one bag on average. Recycling and yardwaste composting is popular with residents, and the City has received national awards for its innovative solid waste system.

Residents are able to recycle newspaper, glass containers, metal cans and plastic bottles, magazines, catalogues and junk mail, corrugated cardboard, paperboard and phone books in the curbside program. Yet more "hard to recycle" materials, as well as yardwaste, are accepted at the City's drop-off sites. The division anticipates collecting

single-stream recycling in 2008, at which point recycling carts will be provided to households (at a cost of \$1.25 million).

The Solid Waste Division is vigilant about private haulers' compliance with the City's volume based rate ordinance - and has taken efforts to prosecute violations - so that all Loveland households have an equal incentive to reduce waste and recycle. The City also remains concerned about the impacts from private sector trash collection in terms of: damage from extra trash trucks on city streets; reductions to the division's revenue stream; and, the appearance in neighborhoods from containers cluttering curbs and sidewalks more than one day per week.