



# Zero Waste AVL

## Pay as You Throw (PAYT)



Posted 08/10/2015  
Revised 10/12/2015

### Project Timeline

**August 10, 2015** – City begins survey about recycling, PAYT collections, solid waste and yard brush collection. Survey runs through September 14.

**September 16, 2015** – Consultant provides update of preliminary analysis and survey findings to SACEE.

**October 1, 2015** – City will launch a public housing recycling pilot program in Livingston, Erskine and Walton Housing Developments.

**October 1-2, 2015** – Public Information Sessions on Solid Waste Reduction Strategies. More info to come.

**TBD** – Presentation of solid waste analysis and reduction strategy recommendations to the Planning & Economic Development Committee.

### Solid Waste Milestones

**1995** – City begins curbside recycling

**2008** – City creates Office of Sustainability to achieve carbon footprint reduction goal and champion green practices

**2012** – City rolls out Big Blue, all in one recycling cans to residents

**February 2014** – Council adopts resolution to reduce solid waste by 50% by the year 2035.

**February 2015** – City's Sustainability Advisory Committee (SACEE) presents a letter to Council's Planning & Economic Development Committee recommending the city approve a PAYT waste management system.

**April 2015** – City of Asheville and Buncombe County receive a draft Organic Waste Processing Feasibility Study from consultant CDM Smith.

**May 2015** – City engages consultant for analysis of solid waste reduction strategies.

### What's happening now?

The City of Asheville is exploring new strategies to reduce residential solid waste. Among these strategies is Pay as You Throw (PAYT), a usage-type model, in which a variable rate is charged for municipal solid waste services based on the volume of trash produced. Many local governments employ PAYT systems to more equitably distribute the costs of sanitation services based on the volume of the consumer, encouraging waste reduction practices and increased recycling efforts.

### Why it's happening

In 2014, the Asheville City Council created Resolution 14-27 establishing a waste reduction goal and benchmarks for the City. The City's long-term waste reduction goal of 50% municipal solid waste reduction by 2035 aligns with the City's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Zero Waste AVL was created through the Office of Sustainability as a step toward reducing the amount of waste entering the landfill. At the time, the goal of the program was to make recycling easier and more convenient for the residents of Asheville by providing a 96 Gallon Blue Recycling Cart. The pilot program yielded a 50% increase in the amount of recyclables collected curbside.

Envisioning a Zero Waste AVL is a goal the City and the Sustainability Office strives for its community. When addressing waste reduction efforts and "zero waste," it's critical to understand the waste stream, ensuring there are the right avenues in place to divert organics and recyclables from the landfill. The City will explore different approaches that will lead to the overall goal of 50% municipal solid waste reduction by 2035.

Link to Pay as You Throw Survey – **survey is now closed.**

[Pay as You Throw FAQs](#)

### Supporting Documents

[City Council Waste Reduction Resolution](#)

[PAYT memo from SACEE to PED](#)

[Organic Waste Processing Feasibility Study \(draft\)](#)

[Community Waste Reduction & Recycling Grant](#)

[Staff Report – Community Waste Reduction & Recycling Budget Amendment](#)

Comments about Zero Waste AVL may be submitted to:

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