

Recommendation

Based on the analysis completed by SERA, staff recommends that the PED Committee support an on-going community and policy discussion and exploration of options to maximize solid waste reduction efforts through a cart-based model. The basis of this recommendation includes:

- A preference expressed by those completing the survey for a cart-based PAYT system
- Analysis by SERA indicating marginal differences in recycling rates between the cart-based and bag-based PAYT models
- SERA projects a higher cost differential for a bag-based PAYT system for customers
- A cart-based system is easier to explain to customers
- Operations are simpler for a cart-based system
- A bag-based system would require a higher level of enforcement

Pro:

- Enables staff, the community, stakeholders and policy makers to narrow its focus on one type of PAYT model

Con:

- Delayed implementation of pay as you throw

Fiscal Impact: Since the two models would require significantly different capital and ongoing investment for the City, the specific fiscal impacts are not measurable at this time. In each case, an initial investment is necessary to implement the change in collection model. As staff continues to evaluate options, estimated costs - both capital and ongoing - will be provided.

Next Steps: If the PED Committee endorses a particular PAYT model, next steps would involve a presentation on the selected model to City Council. If approved, staff will propose rates based on cost recovery goals, will work with the consultant to develop an implementation strategy, and timeline particular to the recommended model.

Attachment (1): Asheville Pay As You Throw (PAYT) Options Analysis