

Mass. communities start 'pay-as-you-throw' waste system

Nov. 19 -- Some 130 Massachusetts communities are now operating under a "pay-as-you-throw" garbage system, an approach that saves money and boosts recycling, the state said.

While pay-as-you-throw has been around since the 1980s in the state, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection said there has been "a steep increase" in the number of communities participating. A total of 10 communities switched last year.

"The results consistently show that per-bag disposal policies reduce the amount of trash a community throws away between 25 to 40%, while increasing the amount a community recycles by about 25%," DEP Commissioner Laurie Burt said.

Massachusetts pay-as-you-throw communities are listed at www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/reduce/paytdb09.xls.

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