

Lafayette Curbside Single-Stream Recycling & Trash Program: A Bid Process

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Econservation Institute Superior, CO

Why Contract for PAYT

- The lowest cost will be provided to your customers – Key Reason.
- More efficient for the hauler
- Eliminate duplication of recycling/trash services on City streets and, therefore, eliminating multiple trash trucks on each road
- In Lafayette's case equalized the price discrepancy between HOA's and non-HOA's.
- Also for Lafayette, the recyclable materials provide a revenue source for new environmental programs

Lafayette's Journey to PAYT

- Waste Reduction Advisory Committee (WRAC)
- 2005/2006 Council Goals
- RFP - May, 2006
- Meeting with Trash Haulers – Constitutional Rights
- August, 2006 – Public Hearing
 - Over 150 citizens, 4 hours long, 6 proposals

Lafayette's Journey to PAYT

- Western Disposal Services of Boulder lowest responsible bidder (a true PAYT proposal)
- Costs – 32 Gallon Trash Cart = \$5.99/month
 - 64 Gallon Trash Cart = \$11.98/month
 - 96 Gallon Trash Cart = \$17.97/month
- Recycling = \$1 per month (Pays for the Cart)
- Itemized on the Lafayette Utility bill
- Council OK – Proceed with Contract Negotiations

Lafayette's Journey to PAYT

- Recycle carts – Lease/Purchase with Boulder County – City owns Carts (key issue)
- Communication with Citizens – Two direct mailings with 100% bi-lingual.
- “Talking Trash” with citizens
- Two Open Houses with translator

Lafayette's Journey to PAYT

- Program started October 1st, 2007
- The Phone Calls
 - For about six weeks – 40 a day
 - Explain, explain & explain some more
 - Dealing with the people that do not read newspaper, city newsletter or their mail!
 - We are idiots and communists!!!

Ordinance

- **Mandatory – You can choose not to participate and dispose of your trash in some other fashion but you will still be billed for the service + recycling.**
- **Tied to Water Service portion of the Utility Bill.**
- **Failure to pay for Trash/Recycling portion is applied to Water Service – Shut off of Service**
- **HOA's with trash/recycling exempt. (Will be included next contract)**

Contract

- Financial disincentives for poor customer service
- Monthly Customer Service Report
- 5-Year contract – Re-bid in 2012
- Annual Price Increase tied to Denver-Boulder-Greeley All Urban CPI
 - (2.2% increase 7/1/08 & 3.9% increase 7/1/09)
 - 32 gal. = \$6.36 / 64 gal. = \$12.72 / 96 gal. = \$19.09
- Reporting of Customer complaints and trash/recycling tonnage.
- Hauler handles all customer service.

Value-Added Service

- One free bulk pick-up per quarter.
- Citizens contract with Western directly for additional bulk pick-ups.
- Extra trash bag pick-up with sticker (\$3 per sticker).
- Key Item: Change trash cart level of service on the first of any month with advance notice.
- Extra recycle carts for free.
- Calendar sent to each customer with schedule of pick-ups and holidays.
- Extra 96 gallon trash carts @ \$1 per month each.
- Requirement: Trash cart lid must shut.

RESULTS

- Thru February, 2010 (+2 years of data):
 - Averaging 27.8% Diversion Rate
 - Customer Outreach minimal
 - Generated over \$21,000 in revenue (avg. 140 tons/month)
 - Gate Fee = \$20/ton Single Stream (was \$7/ton)
 - As of 1/1/09 = No revenue..Global Economy
 - Cart Distribution (5,600 customers) =
 - 18% have 32 gallon trash cart (18%-12/08)
 - 62% have 64 gallon trash cart (54%)
 - 20% have 96 gallon trash cart (28%)

CONCLUSION

- I would do this again
- Hard work but fantastic rewards
- The bid/contract process was highly successful
- Very low prices for the consumer
- Looking forward to the re-bidding process and expanding this program to HOA's and adding a third cart for organics collection