



MEMORANDUM

P.O. Box 4100 ♦ FRISCO, COLORADO 80443

TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: HILARY SUEOKA, ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS COORDINATOR
RE: PAY-AS-YOU-THROW AND UNIVERSAL RECYCLING ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTATION
DATE: FEBRUARY 14, 2023

Summary and Background:

The Town of Frisco adopted the Summit Community Climate Action Plan (CAP) in April 2019 by Resolution 19-18. To meet the goals as stated within the CAP pertaining to each sector, (renewable energy, building energy, transportation, forests, and waste) a number of strategies are recommended. A key strategy identified for waste reduction is a Save-As-You-Recycle ordinance. The Pay-As-You-Throw and Universal Recycling ordinance is another version of this. Town staff worked closely with High Country Conservation Center (HC3), surrounding jurisdictions, and other stakeholders to develop an implementation plan for this policy. A detailed timeline of past and future dates is included below.

The intent of Ordinance 22-04 (PAYT and URO), is to increase the diversion of recyclable materials through price signals. This is intentionally designed to be relatively easy for residents and businesses to comply with, though it will still require some changes for many customers. If residential customers have curbside trash pickup, they will need to add curbside recycling pickup as well. The price varies with the size of the trash container, with a larger sized container associated with higher pricing. Much of the responsibility will rest with the haulers, who have worked diligently and cooperatively with HC3 and Frisco staff to create a plan for implementation. Haulers must provide the various rates to customers ahead of required implementation dates for three sizes of trash containers and one recycling container. By compliance dates, haulers must offer recycling services to all non-exempt customers through compliant rates and bin delivery. Town staff and HC3 will lead enforcement through an education-first method, seeking to achieve compliance through outreach before fines or other enforcement methods as detailed in Chapter 1 Section 1-14 of the Code.

Since the approval of Ordinance 22-04, staff has met frequently with HC3 and haulers, created website content, communicated with concerned residents and HOAs, and has continued to meet with the Zero Waste Task Force. The intent of the February 14 Work Session is to provide a reminder of the PAYT and URO ordinance requirements, an update on progress to date, and planned implementation for the near future. Jen Schenk with HC3 will provide an education and outreach (marketing) timeline during the presentation.

PAYT/URO Timeline:

Fall 2021-early 2022:

Frisco staff worked with community stakeholders, residents, and businesses to develop the Pay-As-You-Throw and Universal Recycling programs. Summit County's Zero Waste Task Force met four times during this period to create an updated recycling program to meet Town of Frisco's specific needs. Local waste haulers, large and small businesses, local government staff, and residents are all represented on this 35-member task force.

December 14, 2021: PAYT/URO Town Council Work Session

January 2022: HC3 hosted three public forums via Zoom to provide program information and Q&A for residents, business owners, and HOA representatives

Early 2022: HC3 conducted a survey to request input from residents and businesses on proposed programs; over 300 responses received and utilized to improve PAYT and URO programs

March 8, 2022: First reading

March 22, 2022: Ordinance 22-04 adopted on second reading

Spring 2022-present: Town Staff works with HC3 and haulers to create implementation plan

February 1, 2023: Breckenridge received preliminary hauler pricing for PAYT internal planning purposes. Breckenridge's pricing is not public at this time. Local hauling companies have indicated Frisco pricing would closely follow Breckenridge; however, it has not been provided as of the date of this staff report.

April 1, 2023: Town of Frisco Ordinance effective date

October 1, 2023: 90% Residential containers distributed

June 1, 2024:

Group accounts must have volume based collection

Valet customers must have compliant recycling

50% of the total number of Commercial customers must have compliant recycling collection.

June 1, 2025: 100% Commercial customers must have compliant containers and collection service

Why PAYT?

The Summit County Resource Allocation Park has a limited allowable expansion for the landfill if we continue to throw out as much as we do today. While permission for landfill expansion is possible, it is extremely difficult, and does not align with either the Zero Waste Task Force goal to increase our diversion rate to 40% community-wide by 2035, or the Summit Community Climate Action goals to reduce emissions from waste 50% by 2030 and 90% by 2050. Given the proximity of these dates, it is necessary that we do our part and lead by example to reduce waste and increase recycling rates in Frisco.

Pay-As-You-Throw programs have been successful in many other towns across the country including other municipalities with high visitation rates, such as Vail. In 2017, Recycling Resource Systems identified PAYT policy as a viable option for Frisco with medium to very high impact, potentially the largest material diversion of any program. Other suggested programs included a Construction and Demolition recovery facility (a C&D plan is currently under review for the greater community) and Disposal Bans. While a C&D recovery facility could have greater impact on diversion, it also has a higher cost than PAYT policy.

Analysis:

Updates on surrounding community PAYT adoption/implementation

- Breckenridge: received pricing from haulers February 1, 2023, and is on track to implement along the same general timeline as Frisco, though may receive services on a slightly accelerated schedule.
- Summit County: Board of County Commissioners is waiting to evaluate pricing in Breckenridge before making a decision on policy adoption, though there is potential for a pilot project to adopt PAYT policy for unincorporated areas adjacent to Frisco and Breckenridge (such as Bill's Ranch).
- Silverthorne, Dillon, Blue River: not adopting at this time, will observe implementation in Frisco and Breckenridge.

Haulers: largest haulers are actively participating in recurring meetings with town staff and providing information critical to the assistance programs for residents. Haulers are working to organize necessary materials and operations to implement PAYT. Frisco pricing and implementation should be available on schedule with the dates listed in the Ordinance.

Implementation projects in progress:

- Town-specific PAYT/URO information online – coming soon: some information will be found on TOF's sustainability pages under "Your Government." [Waste Reduction - Frisco Town Government \(friscogov.com\)](https://www.frisco.gov/your-government/waste-reduction). This will be the future home of all PAYT and URO information, resources, applications, etc. Links to HC3's page will be located here as well. In the near future, residents can be directed to these pages for more information on PAYT compliance, though haulers will also reach out to customers prior to compliance dates with options and pricing.
- Residential financial assistance application: Qualifying low-income residents (those who qualify for local or state food assistance programs AND see an increase in hauler bills after complying with PAYT) may apply for financial assistance for the difference in bills.
- Commercial financial assistance: details expected summer 2023, 1 year in advance of initial 50% compliance date June 1, 2024. Estimated rebate ~\$2000/compliant commercial customer for dumpster enclosure expansion or construction. Staff will continue to research EPA grant application in 2024 which could increase rebate amount/commercial customer ([Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling](#)).

Financial Impact: The County Commissioners have allocated Strong Futures recycling budget funds to implement PAYT in Frisco and Breckenridge. In addition to Strong Futures funding, Frisco's specific budget for PAYT / URO implementation is below and does not include any additional funding from the Strong Futures Fund.

Frisco PAYT/URO Budget 2023

Residential Cart Support	\$36,500.00
- cart delivery fees and broken bin recycling	
Marketing and Outreach	\$21,970.00
Low-income Resident Support	\$6,530
- financial assistance program	
Commercial Support for Universal Recycling	
- grant program	\$33,000.00
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Total	\$98,000

Environmental Sustainability: This policy advances environmental sustainability community-wide and aligns with the Town's Community Plan Guiding Principle 6: Sustainable Environment and more specifically, 6.1A Support implementation of the Climate Action Plan and 100% renewable energy initiatives. Pay-As-You-Throw and Universal Recycling policies support waste goals and are highlighted as strategies in the Summit Community Climate Action Plan. PAYT/URO policy also supports the Zero Waste Taskforce goal to divert 40% of our waste by 2035 community wide. Implementation of this policy may also result in co-benefits such as increased number of compliant (wildlife proof) dumpster enclosures, and by extension, healthier wildlife and decreased negative interactions between humans and wildlife.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: One of the Council's Environmental Stewardship Goals is to implement the Climate Action Plan, which lists PAYT (aka as "Save-As-You-Recycle") as a Waste Strategy. URO aligns with Council's environmental stewardship goals to increase waste diversion at businesses.

Staff Recommendation: Questions and comments welcome; no council action requested at this time.

Reviews and Approvals: This report has been reviewed and approved by:

Diane McBride, Assistant Town Manager
Leslie Edwards, Finance Director
Don Reimer, Community Development Director