



# CITY OF CONCORD

## REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Earle M. Chesley, P.E., General Services Director  
**DATE:** October 29, 2015  
**SUBJECT:** Pay As You Throw Semi-Annual Status Report

### **Recommendation**

Accept this report relative to solid waste and recycling collection and disposal operations with Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT).

### **Background**

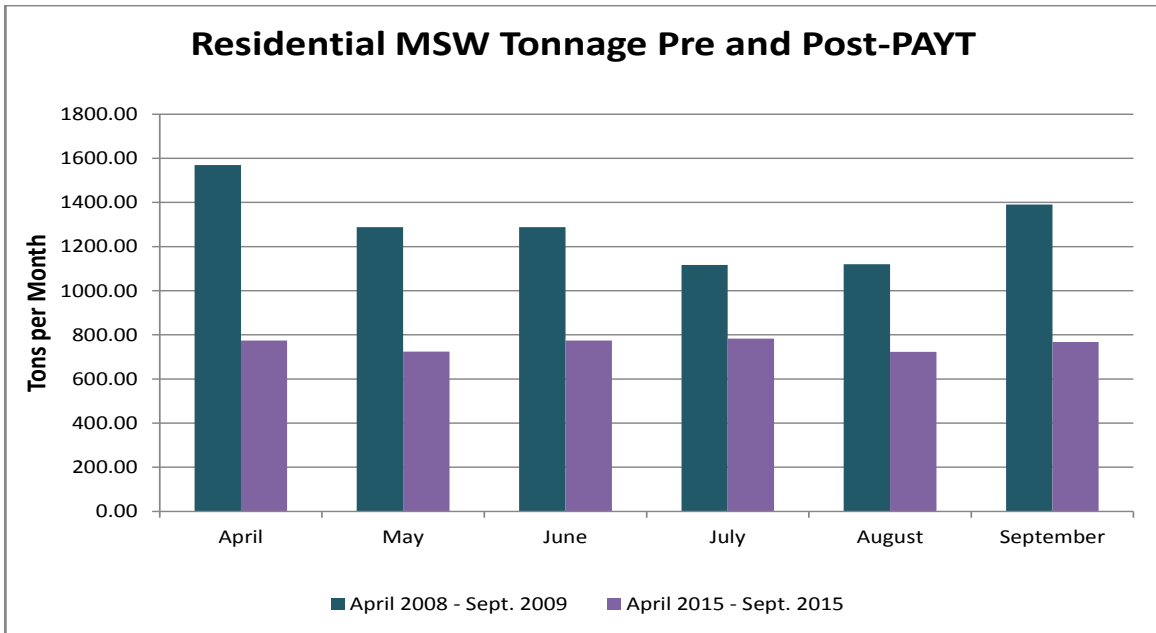
July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 marked the six-year anniversary of the City's Pay-As-You-Throw user fee system designed to help support increasing solid waste collection and disposal costs. Residents who receive curbside collection service (approximately 75% of Concord's households) are required to place their trash in City-authorized trash bags that are purchased at local retailers. Similarly, residents in multifamily properties manage their solid waste in large containers that are invoiced monthly based on the number, size, and collection frequency. In all cases, recyclables have been collected at no cost to the resident since the beginning of Pay-As-You-Throw.

### **Discussion**

#### *Residential Solid Waste Volumes*

Residential Solid Waste tonnage in the six month period April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 through September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 represents a 45% decline from the same six month period, (April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 through September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008), prior to the implementation of PAYT. Modest increases in volumes have been seen in recent years as can be expected with an improving economy.

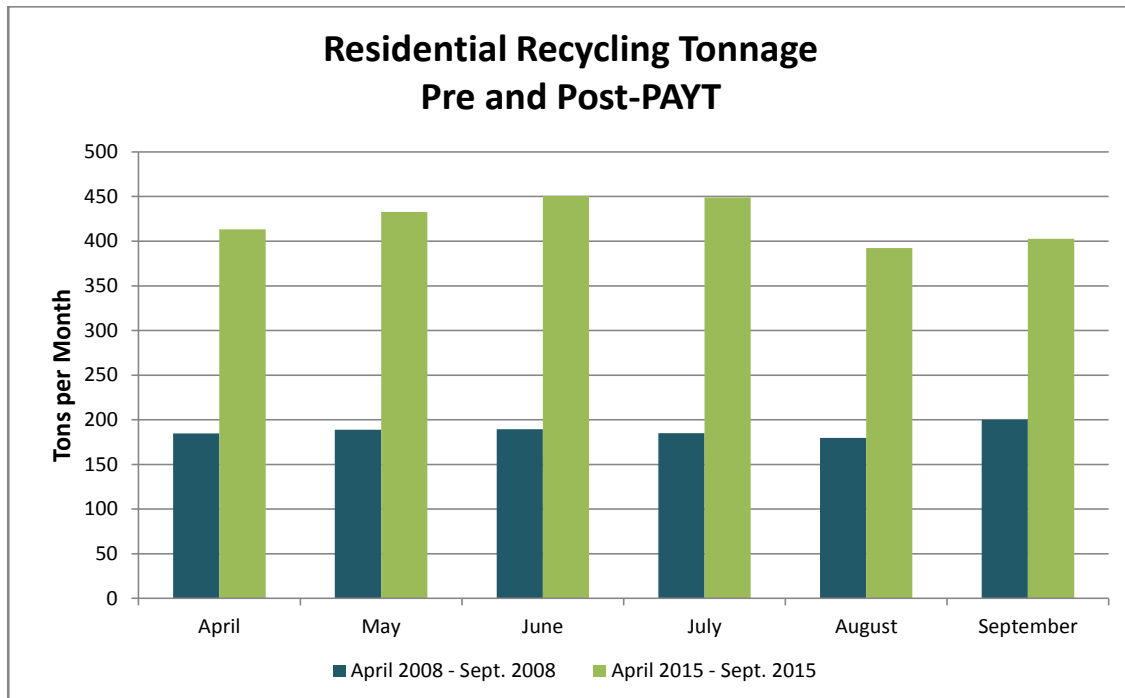
Below is a chart comparing residential solid waste volumes in the six month period, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 through September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 with that of the same six month period prior to the establishment of PAYT.



### *Residential Recycling Volumes*

As expected, the volume of recyclables collected and diverted from the waste stream increased as a result of the Pay-As-You-Throw program. With recyclables collected free of charge from residents, there is a financial incentive for residents to recycle materials that would otherwise take up space in the PAYT bag or container. The General Services Department remains focused on getting the word out on recycling to residents to further drive up these volumes.

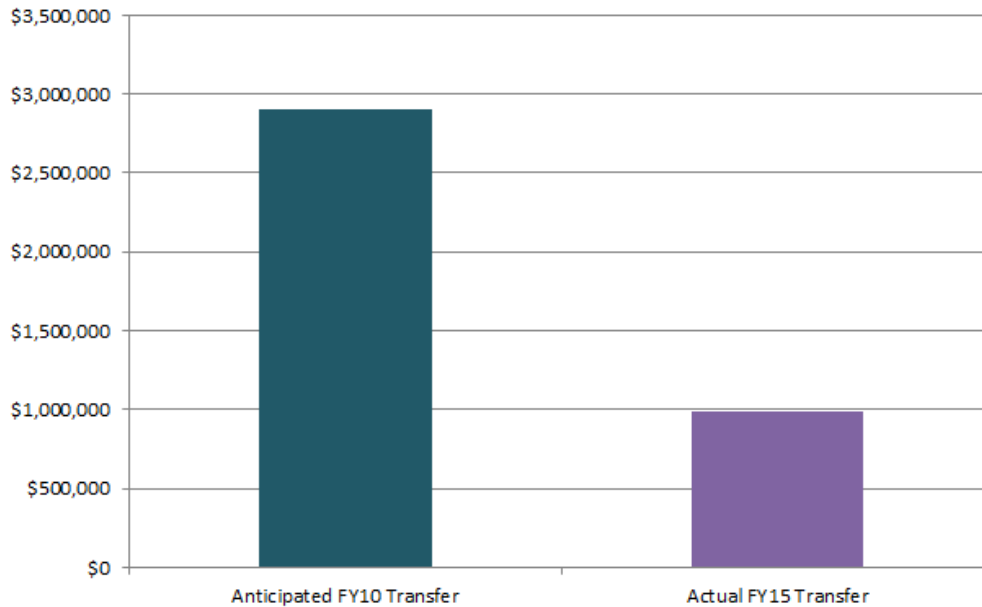
Below is a chart comparing recycling tonnage in the six month period April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 through September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 with the same six month period prior to PAYT implementation. Recycling volumes have grown by more than 125% when comparing the time periods.



## *Financial Performance*

When Pay-As-You-Throw was adopted by the Mayor and City Council in June, 2009, it was projected that the General Fund would need to increase its transfer of funds to the Solid Waste Fund to approximately \$2.9 million. Since that time, the General Fund has been able to reduce its transfer to \$991,930, a decrease of over 65%. Pay-As-You-Throw has significantly reduced the financial demand upon the General Fund by almost \$2 million annually while providing recycling services to every Concord home.

### **General Fund Transfers to the Solid Waste Fund**



That said, revenues collected through Pay-As-You-Throw are currently less than the cost of residential solid waste collection and disposal costs provided by the City through its vendors. As demonstrated in the FY 2016 Solid Waste Pro Forma, projected revenues generated through solid waste collection and disposal do not meet anticipated expenditures in the out years. General Service's staff has reviewed this matter with the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and is assessing options to address this trend.