

January 1, 2009

SOUTH BERWICK IMPLEMENTS PAY AS YOU THROW—PAYT

The PAYT program was approved by the voters at Town Meeting on June 2nd. There was a .17 reduction on the tax rate for the first 6 months of this plan. The Town Council anticipates a .30 reduction for the entire tax year of 2010.

Pay as You Throw offers three valuable incentives to our residents.

1. We reduce the amount of items going to the incinerator thereby reducing the amount of ash in landfills.
2. We can reduce the tax rate as we will be paying less for tipping fees at MERC and our transportation fees will be decreased with an anticipated increase in recycling.
3. Each taxpayer pays only for the trash they generate. No one is subsidizing their neighbor or a local business.

PAYT is widely accepted as the best way to increase recycling while equitably charging the resident for trash service.

We have contacted the following retailers to sell bags; this list has not been finalized.

South Berwick Pharmacy
The Lunchbox
Nature's Way
Cumberland Farms
Shaws, Dover
Hannaford, Dover
Market Basket, Somersworth
Town Hall

Ways to decrease the number of bags you will need to purchase with PAYT include:

Composting food and yard waste

Increase Recycling: foil, foil plates, junk mail, pizza boxes, etc.

Separating out mixed paper; this includes cereal, food & detergent boxes, paper, non corrugated paperboard, hardcover books

**Donate clothing, books, toys, etc:
Goodwill
Salvation Army
Swap Shop (no clothing please)**

Purchase items in bulk

Share a newspaper or magazine subscription with a friend or neighbor

Reuse packing boxes & materials.

Reusable grocery/shopping bags

Upcoming workshops for PAYT implementation include:

October 1st, 6:30 pm Town Hall Auditorium: Composting
November 5th, 6:30 pm Town Hall Auditorium: Recycling Strategies
December 3rd, 6:30 pm Town Hall Auditorium: PAYT Q & A wrap up