



CITY OF SALEM

Written Testimony

City Council

555 Liberty St SE
Salem, OR 97301

Monday, June 21, 2021

6:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

City Council Work Session - Solid Waste Recycling and Collection

2.a. [21-276](#) Work Session on Solid Waste Management.

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

Result Area(s): Good Governance; Natural Environment Stewardship;
Safe Community; Safe, Reliable and Efficient Infrastructure; Strong and
Diverse Economy; Welcoming and Livable Community.

Attachments: [2019 DEQ Material Recovery and Waste Generation Summary / Letter](#)

[Recycle Right Mixed Recycling Guide](#)

[Curbside Recycling Poster](#)

[Current Solid Waste Rates - Resolution 2019-82 Exhibit B](#)

[Written Testimony](#)

Add - Written Testimony

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Susann Kaltwasser <rkaltwas@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2021 6:08 AM
To: CityRecorder; citycouncil; Steve Powers
Subject: INFORMATION FOR SALEM CITY COUNCIL JUNE 21 WORK SESSION ON WASTE MANAGEMENT
Attachments: PAYT document for Salem City Council 6-16-21 2.pdf
Categories: Council Dox

Please accept the attached document as information for the City Council regarding solid waste management for the June 21, 201 work session.

We offer this information regarding a plan for "pay-as-you-throw" as a way to provide options to customers to reduce their cost for local garbage services in Salem.

Susann Kaltwasser
Clean Air Now Coalition



June 18, 2021

To: Salem City Councilors, Mayor Bennett and City Manager
From: Susann Kaltwasser, Clean Air Now Coalition
RE: INFORMATION FOR SALEM CITY COUNCIL JUNE 21 WORK SESSION ON
WASTE MANAGEMENT

In its June 21 work session the Salem City Council will be considering options for the management of solid waste in the City. The Clean Air Now (CAN) coalition offers this document to provide specific recommendations that we believe will help:

- 1) Reduce waste and the greenhouse gas that results from that waste, and
- 2) Give Salem residents greater control over the amount they pay for trash disposal.

In a recent Fact Sheet that we gave to Councilor Hoy, CAN presented examples from Eugene, OR*, and Vancouver, WA**, of Pay-As-You-Throw solid waste management programs in which city residents are given a wide array of waste disposal options that allow those who reduce their waste to be rewarded with **significantly** lower trash pickup fees in comparison to residents who do not use waste reduction methods. (See that Fact Sheet here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1E0ndgQ11Ku3qZCbHtB7q4AHETzhuJmC8rs3H_6z_X0/edit?usp=sharing.) Currently in Salem there is relatively little difference in cost for using the smallest trash can option versus the two larger options. There is only a 46.4% fee increase for a 250% trash can capacity increase for going from a 20-gallon container to a 65-gallon container. Also, nearly everyone has their trash picked up weekly, and they have virtually no incentive or option for cutting back to a less frequent trash pickup schedule. As a result, many people choose to simply "throw it away" without considering how they can significantly reduce their waste.

RECOMMENDATIONS

CAN recommends that Salem adopt a Pay-As-You-Throw structure similar to Eugene's or Vancouver's that fits with the City's resources and circumstances. In the past the Marion County side of Salem has seemed to be "held hostage" by a State law that gives Marion County officials control of the County's waste stream. Since the County chooses to send most of the trash to the Covanta Marion waste incinerator in Brooks, trash haulers have to pay the high

tipping fee charged by Covanta Marion. They then ask the City to set trash pickup rates that allow them to pay that high tipping fee and still make a profit. A Pay-As-You-Throw fee structure will allow Salem residents to gain a greater degree of control over what they must pay. It will also be more fair and comparable to other services such as water or electricity for which those who use more will pay more.

CAN recommends that Salem find ways to provide recycling and composting services for multifamily dwelling sites. This might include requirements that owners of the buildings ensure that the service is available, locate drop boxes within walking distance of these buildings, or find other methods by looking for examples of this in other cities.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

The switch to a Pay-As-You-Throw fee structure should be accompanied by a public education program that encourages residents to reduce waste and helps them understand how to do it. Some of this is already being done by Marion County Environmental Services so it would seem appropriate for the City to collaborate with them. You can contact the Environmental Services Director, Brian May, at 503-365-3147.

There is also a plethora of information about waste reduction methods on the Internet and via the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's Materials Management Program. David Allaway at DEQ (phone 503-229-5479) is a local resource in the DEQ Materials Management Program who is sought after nationally for waste reduction information as evidenced in his and a colleague's presentation in this US Environmental Protection Agency webinar: Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) Web Academy Webinar: Oregon's Wasted Food Strategy: Highlights of current work, recent research and next steps | Sustainable Materials Management | US EPA . Additional waste reduction information from Oregon DEQ can be found at this website: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/mm/Pages/default.aspx> .

A side benefit of Pay-As-You-Throw that has been demonstrated in cities all over the country is that people will waste less. As an example, WasteZero, a company that contracts with municipalities to implement waste reduction programs, says, "Our Pay-As-You-Throw programs have a proven track record of cutting trash by 44%, with some programs successfully reducing total trash by up to 80%." CAN has communicated with Kristen Brown from this company (phone 843-241-3276), who says they would be happy to work with Salem. Their program, however, differs from the ones in Eugene and Vancouver in that they use a "fee per bag" program as described at their web site: <https://www.wastezero.com/payt> . This would require an entirely different fee structure than Salem has been using and is probably more amenable to a trash pickup system that is run by the City than by multiple private trash hauling companies. It is good for reducing waste, but it can be unpredictable as a source of revenue to

pay for the trash pickup services. However, this does give some further perspective on the variety of Pay-As-You-Throw and other waste management systems that are possible if Salem authorities decide to evolve in other directions in the future.

Footnotes:

* The fee schedule for trash pickup in Eugene needs the following information to be interpreted adequately. The Eugene trash pick-up system allows the haulers to add up to a maximum of 10% to the rates quoted in the table in the Fact Sheet. This allows for competition among the haulers if they choose to add on less than 10%. Also, note that there are separate fees in the chart for the pickup of recycle and compost material. A slight disadvantage of the Eugene system is that all four haulers may duplicate coverage in the same area of town since the customer is allowed to choose which of the four haulers they will use.

** Similar to Eugene's fee schedule, Vancouver also has additional details, such as an extra fee for optional organics service with pickup every other week at an extra cost of \$4.70 for 20 gallons, \$5.76 for 32 gallons, and \$6.82 for 64 gallons. To get even more details see Chapters 6.12.208 to 6.12.213 at this link: <https://vancouver.municipal.codes/VMC/6.12> . The recycle fee is included in the basic trash pickup fee, and recycle pickup is every other week. They also have a 96-gallon trash can that was not included in the Fact Sheet table.

Submitted by Susann Kaltwasser
Ward 8
Clean Air Now Coalition
<http://cleanair-now.org>