

THROW ALL as you GO ?

OR

PAY as you THROW ?

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The Truro Board of Health has had four work sessions so far this year to discuss a S.M.A.R.T. Program ("Save Money and Reduce Trash," a/k/a Pay As You Throw Program.) These discussions were held to determine if this type of program would be a cost-saving measure for the Town of Truro's budget and taxpayers' pockets.

Per Town Charter, the Truro Board of Health governs the Truro Transfer Station, and the DPW Director oversees its day-to-day operations. The Board of Health is responsible for protecting public health and the environment, among other things.

#### **DO YOU KNOW THE TIMELINE ?**

**November 2014** Truro Board of Selectmen created an Ad Hoc S.M.A.R.T. Committee and assigned this charge:

"To research and report on the feasibility of, and make recommendations for implementing programs to reduce Truro's solid waste disposal costs - specifically the benefits and drawbacks of S.M.A.R.T. (also known as PAYT) and single-stream Recycling Programs. The Committee also will investigate and report on the current operating costs of the transfer station as well as associated in-kind technical assistance grants from Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection."

**December 2015 S.M.A.R.T.** Committee presented its recommendation to the Board of Selectmen as to whether or not this type of program would save money for the Town of Truro. It was an arduous task, with crunching numbers, taking field trips, attending seminars and approximately 15 S.M.A.R.T. committee meetings. The S.M.A.R.T. Committee voted "Yes" to recommend this type of program to the Board of Selectmen. Based on its comprehensive analysis, a S.M.A.R.T. program would save money for the Town of Truro. *(See Town of Truro website for full S.M.A.R.T. Report.)*

**January 2016** The Board of Selectmen asked the Board of Health to review the S.M.A.R.T. Committee's Report.

Members of the Board of Health began workshop sessions to probe into the Transfer Station's budget and the feasibility of implementing a S.M.A.R.T. Program for Truro.

**April 2016** During the fourth work session, the Board of Health made a comprehensive analysis of data obtained from the following sources:

- S.M.A.R.T. Committee spreadsheet
- Office of the DPW Director
- Transfer Station updates on current workflow change

This summer the Committee will review recycling upgrades at the beaches and municipal buildings, concrete data from Waste Zero Company, and information from the Barnstable County Regional Solid Waste Coordinator/DEP Representative.

*(See full report on the Town of Truro website.)*

*At this time*, the Committee comments that both the DPW Director and the Board of Health will monitor citizens' behavior (to include employees as well as taxpayers) at the Transfer Station during the busy summer season. The BOH and the DPW will try to move forward with a staunch effort to **reduce** the trash that goes into the hopper and off to Covanta/SEMASS, where it ultimately hits all our pockets!

**October 2016** The Board of Health will reconvene, revisit the issue, and review the Transfer Station numbers. Stay tuned.

#### **FAST FACTS:**

PAYT Programs have proven

- Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) tonnage reduced to approx. 44%
- Recycling increases approx. 40%
- It's Fair and Equitable-you only pay for what you use, just as with electricity & cable.
- PAYT programs help stabilize municipal solid waste costs.
- **REDUCED** Annual Sticker at Transfer Station with a S.M.A.R.T. Program (sometimes cut in half)! Yes, you must pay for special bags, BUT you pay for bags already. This, added to annual sticker fee reduction, it's a cost-saving program!

ZERO Brewster families took advantage of a PAYT financial assistance provision available when their PAYT Program was implemented in 2013, says Waste Zero.

Fiscal Year 2015

Truro MSW Residential Tons: 1464

Covanta/SEMASS price per ton \$ 65.00

Per Covanta, contract Tipping fees will increase 2.5% every year.



RECYCLE-REUSE-RESTORE-  
REPURPOSE-REPLENISH-

FOOD WASTE - Let's compost at home and remove wet waste from trash stream (ask kids for helpful hints!)

CLOTHING-CURTAINS-SHOES - Lots of recycling bins decorating Truro and the Cape

HAZMAT DAYS - designated days to purge hazardous waste items

BOOKS, FURNITURE, TEXTILES, CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS, YARD WASTE

LET'S RE – THINK ABOUT WHAT WE THROW AWAY

We will keep the Truro taxpayers updated this fall. Remember, everyone is welcome to attend our bimonthly meetings.

We hope everyone has a healthy, happy, and safe Summer on the sands in Truro!

Sincerely,

Truro Board of Health

Tracey Rose, Chair