

Community Dumpster System - Haulers Pick up from Group

The dumpster system is somewhat unique to New Mexico and may be more difficult to enforce PAYT compliance. However it is possible. New York City has a similar predicament. While New York City does not currently have PAYT, they do have a high recycling and disposal compliance rate. Each multi family building has an appointed resident trash and recycling monitor. It is primarily enforced by an honor and a peer pressure system. The appointed monitor is asked to provide verbal warning and even report non-compliant residents [directly to the city]. This system is effective because no one wants their neighbors to know that they are not following the rules.

The New Mexico community dumpster program could be handled similarly by appointing a community monitor to watch over local dumping. This position could change annually. In PAYT programs we find that most residents comply with the rules immediately, regardless of being watched. Colored bags would make the process especially easy. Any resident that is seen dumping in an inappropriate bag by a neighbor will feel 'some' guilt that their neighbor has paid and followed the rules. New Mexico could also spot check at the landfill when loads arrive from dumpster routes. Landfill attendants could look through non-compliant bags to find out who dumped. If a particular route or neighborhood has excessive non-compliance a compliance officer could be sent out to inspect the dumpsters. If a household is caught with a non-compliant bag, the resident could be fined heavily [like a litter or illegal dumping fine].

Two-bag system options could be used in group dumpster situations

- 52 free bags per year; or
- A reduced fee/tax and a bag charge for each bag; or
- No reduction in fee/tax and a charge per bag.

Additionally, the community could concurrently change to a volume-based cart system for waste disposal (and possibly add recycling collection during implementation) at the same time as transitioning to PAYT. The cost to upgrade the equipment is built into the PAYT rates.

Rates structures should be determined following the "Drop-off Communities and Multiple Hauler guidelines."