TOWN OF
MONTAGUE
MASSACHUSETTS

Selectboard Office
One Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

413-863-3200
Ext. 108 & 107

Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) Curbside Trash Collection Policy

Adopted by: Montague Selectboard
Effective Date: January 1, 2027
Administered by: Department of Public Works

1. Purpose

The Town of Montague operates a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) curbside trash collection program intended to promote waste reduction, encourage recycling, and ensure that residents contribute toward the cost of trash collection and disposal in proportion to the amount of waste they generate.

This policy establishes uniform requirements for residential curbside trash collection and discontinues the annual barrel sticker program in favor of a single, consistent bag sticker system.

2. Trash Collection Fees and Requirements

Effective January 1, 2027, the following requirements shall apply:

1. **Sticker Fee:** Each individual trash bag must display one valid Town of Montague trash sticker at a cost of $3.00 per sticker. There is no change to the existing sticker fee.
2. **Bag Size:** Each trash bag shall have a maximum capacity of 33 gallons. Two 16 Gallon bags (i.e. kitchen bags) may use one sticker. Bags exceeding 33 gallons (i.e. contractor bags) shall require two stickers.
3. **Sticker Placement:** A valid trash sticker must be securely affixed at the neck of each individual bag, where the bag is tied or secured closed. Stickers must be visible and readily identifiable by collection personnel.
4. **Individual Bag Requirement:** Every bag must have its own sticker, regardless of whether multiple bags are presented together for collection. One sticker shall not authorize the collection of multiple bags.
5. **Barrels and Containers:** Residents may continue to use trash barrels, cans, and wheeled carts for curbside collection. Bags may remain inside these containers, provided every individual bag is separately stickered at the neck. A sticker placed on the barrel or on only the top bag does not authorize the collection of additional unstickered bags.
6. **Annual Barrel Stickers:** The Town shall discontinue annual barrel stickers effective January 1, 2027. Annual barrel stickers shall no longer authorize curbside trash collection.

3. Sticker Sales and Availability

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Individual $3 trash bag stickers shall be available for purchase at the following authorized locations:

- Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls
- Montague Village Store, 60 Main St., Montague Center
- Carroll's Super Market, 32 East Main St., Millers Falls
- Scotty's, 106 High St., Turners Falls
- Nouria, Third Street, Turners Falls
- Cumberland Farms, Montague City Road, Turners Falls
- Food City, Avenue A, Turners Falls
- Weatherhead's Convenience Store, Erving

The Town may designate additional authorized sales locations as needed.

4. General Collection Requirements

1. Residential trash shall be collected once per week according to the Town's established collection schedule.
2. All trash must be contained in securely closed bags and displaying its own valid $3 sticker(s).
3. Residents may place individually stickered bags inside barrels or wheeled carts. All bags must be readily accessible for collection, and stickers must be visible to collection personnel.
4. Trash must be securely contained to prevent litter or spillage.
5. Loose trash, oversized bags, and unstickered bags shall not be collected, except as temporarily permitted during the implementation period described in Section 6.
6. Recyclable materials and other materials prohibited from disposal as solid waste under applicable laws and regulations shall not be included in curbside trash.

5. Enforcement and Administration

The Department of Public Works, in coordination with the Town's contracted collection service, shall be responsible for administering this policy.

Collection personnel may decline to collect trash that does not display the required sticker, exceeds the maximum authorized bag capacity, or otherwise fails to comply with this policy.

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The Town shall provide public information regarding sticker requirements, sticker sales locations, and proper preparation of trash for curbside collection.

6. Implementation and Transition Period

The revised PAYT program shall take effect January 1, 2027.

Old stickers may be traded in for new stickers at no cost at the Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

Recognizing that the Town is transitioning from a longstanding barrel sticker system, and that previously purchased bag stickers contain instructions reflecting the former collection requirements, the Town shall establish an educational transition period from January 1 through January 31, 2027.

During this period:

- Residents shall be instructed to place one $3 sticker at the neck of every individual bag, including bags placed inside barrels or carts.
- Existing, valid $3 bag stickers may continue to be used, notwithstanding any printed instructions that are inconsistent with this policy.
- The Town shall provide updated information through its website, public notices, authorized sticker vendors, and other appropriate communication channels.
- Collection personnel may issue warnings or provide educational notices for noncompliant trash. Limited collection of improperly stickered bags may be permitted during this period at the discretion of the Town and its collection contractor.
- Beginning **February 1, 2027, full enforcement** of the individual bag sticker requirements shall commence. Existing, valid $3 bag stickers may continue to be used past February 1, 2027, notwithstanding any printed instructions that are inconsistent with this policy.

7. Policy Review and Amendments

The Selectboard may periodically review sticker fees and collection requirements to ensure the continued financial sustainability and effectiveness of the Town's PAYT program.

Any amendments shall be adopted by the Selectboard, subject to applicable law and any required Town Meeting authorization.

8. Effective Date

This policy shall take effect January 1, 2027, and shall supersede prior administrative policies or practices inconsistent with its provisions