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## Statement on Montgomery County DEP Draft 10-Year Solid Waste Management Plan

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I encourage the DEP to focus on unit pricing, or Pay As You Throw, for garbage collection in Montgomery County. Unfortunately the Draft 10-Year Plan does not focus on this waste reduction tool even though PAYT was recommended ‘as a top strategy’ by both the HDR report to the Department of Environmental Protection, DEP, and the County Zero Waste Task Force report to the County.

Unit pricing is a decades old strategy that provides an economic incentive to participate in recycling, reuse and composting programs in order to keep the amount of materials put in the garbage can is reduced. Households pay for garbage collection based on the amount of materials they place on the curb each week. Recyclable and compostable materials are collected for free or at reduced costs; thus providing an incentive to participate in recycling and composting programs. Further, purchasing habits

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change: Households become aware of the materials they bring in the house and have to pay to get rid of.

Cities have realized up to 57% reduction of solid waste as a result of implementing Pay As You Throw. Other cities have reduced their per capita waste generation to less than one pound per day. The national average is 4.5 pounds per day.

<https://ilsr.org/metering-residential-garbage-can-pave-the-way-to-zero-waste/>

The Pay As You Throw pilot program implemented in New Windsor in Carroll County realized a 43% reduction in solid waste.

<https://ilsr.org/payt-pilot-carroll-county-md/>

No other method of reducing the waste stream has been as successful and as immediate as Pay As You Throw.

Finally, the County Council should seize upon the PAYT tool if they are serious about reducing greenhouse gases and the toxic pollution that is coming from incinerating the County's trash. The County Council should encourage the DEP to prioritize this on their agenda.

Do not wait three years to start a pilot. The first step is to implement a pilot program, which is a cost effective way to get the county up and running in a program quite quickly. Consultants are available for modest fees to provide this service to the County. The state of the art has developed to the extent that PAYT throw systems are flexible – they provide consideration for low income, allow for addition of textile, food discards, glass and collectible items generated by households. Systems have proven effective with bins, carts and bags used by households.

Thank you for your time.