

## Illegal Dumping as a Result of Variable Pricing

According to the EPA<sup>1</sup>, communities that have implemented variable pricing have found that illegal dumping is less of a concern than anticipated. One study<sup>2</sup> found that 48% of cities and towns saw no change in illegal dumping, 6% felt it declined, and 19% saw an increase (27% had no information).

Strategies to minimize an increase in illegal dumping based on experiences from other municipalities in the United States and Canada include:

### Enforcement

Successful strategies for minimizing illegal dumping require that the practice of illegal dumping be clearly established as a violation within a local bylaw. Enforcement measures often allow enforcement personnel to search abandoned trash for indications of its origins. Fines or other penalties also are usually included as part of these ordinances.

In Saskatoon, the Waste Bylaw (8310) already has provisions for illegal dumping; however, a report will be tabled at the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services in September to suggest amendments to expand the definition of illegal waste, propose an increase in fines for illegal dumping, and introduce more effective ticketing.

### Adequate Capacity

The desire for illegal dumping is reduced if the municipality ensures that residents have as many legal options for waste disposal and diversion as possible with adequate capacity. Saskatoon provides 360 L of garbage capacity collected every 2 weeks, with additional weekly collections between May and September. In addition, each curbside property has 360 L of recycling capacity every 2 weeks.

Specific to recycling, in a survey completed in July 2017, 93% of people indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with the amount of room in their blue cart (single family) and 85% with the amount of room in their bin (multi-family).

### Education and Outreach

In tandem with enforcement, communities typically report that public education and outreach can help to prevent illegal dumping from becoming a problem. Simply informing residents about the program and how they can participate will facilitate greater compliance with its rules and procedures. To help allay residents' concerns, communities also can include information in their outreach efforts about how they plan to use enforcement and penalties to control illegal dumping.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://archive.epa.gov/wastes/conservation/tools/payt/web/html/top8.html>

<sup>2</sup> Duke University, described in the [Fall 1997 PAYT Bulletin](#)