

**FY 2019-2020 Virginia Beach Budget
Response to Council Questions**

Question Number: FY 20 62

Question: What steps can the City take for residents who receive waste management services to pay a fee relative to their trash output?

Date Requested: 4/8/2019

Requested By: Councilmember Abbott

Department: Budget and Management Services

Response: In 2014, the City studied a number of Pay-As-You-Throw initiatives. They considered volume based programs based upon residents purchasing special bags or stickers and weight based programs that would attempt to weigh waste collected from each resident, and variable container sizes. Only the variable container size program was considered feasible given the substantial existing investment in the City's automated waste collection vehicles and infrastructure.

Under such a program, relative to a single standard 96-gallon container, the monthly charge for a 64-gallon container would be priced at 88% of the 96-gallon container. A household with two 96-gallon containers would be charged 136% of the single 96-gallon charge. Two 64-gallon containers would be charged 112% of the single 96-gallon charge.

The difference between the 64-gallon and the 96-gallon containers was not proportional to their volumes because waste collection costs are virtually the same regardless of the container size. Only waste disposal costs vary with container size. Since 2014, waste disposal costs have declined relative to waste collection costs. Therefore, if the study were to be replicated today – and still adhere to cost-of-service principals – the differences between the 64-gallon container and the 96-gallon container would be less.

There would be additional costs associated with administering such a program, including the need to frequently audit households to insure that billing was consistent with the number and size of containers being placed at the curb.