

YES WE TRASH CAN

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Problem

The city of Worcester is undergoing a substantial problem with illegal dumping. This issue affects the whole community because it is detrimental to the environment, negatively impacts health, and is a financial burden to the city. These effects are caused by the expensive Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) garbage removal program and a lack of information/resources available to the public.

Methods

- Conducted research on trash management
- Contacted DPW&P to understand how to pass legislation in Worcester
- Researched implementation of a property tax
- Created a proposed plan for a tax and education campaign

Background

Illegal dumping occurs when people dispose of their household waste in vacant lots, parks, foreclosed homes and other unrecognized areas. Illegal dumping is a problem worldwide and in the US; it is responsible for glass injuries in children, animals strangled in packaging materials, and leachate of toxic chemicals into soil and water sources that can cause numerous health problems.

The Proposed Numbers

5 Cents per \$1,000

Raise Property Tax 0.298%

\$24,000 in Fines

Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT)

The city of Worcester does not provide a free trash disposal service. Household waste pickup is funded by the PAYT Program, where residents purchase city trash bags. Many residents cannot afford these bags so that has resulted in the dumping of trash in public areas and vacant lots.



Goals

- Replace Pay-as-You-Throw program
- Institute a property tax that will cover the cost of the city trash service
- Educate the public on the negatives of illegal dumping
- Clean up Worcester

Solution

Propose a committee to replace Pay-As-You-Throw Program and Keep Worcester Clean

Implement a property tax to fund trash service

Create an advertising campaign to educate citizens

Annual Budget \$794,000

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