

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)

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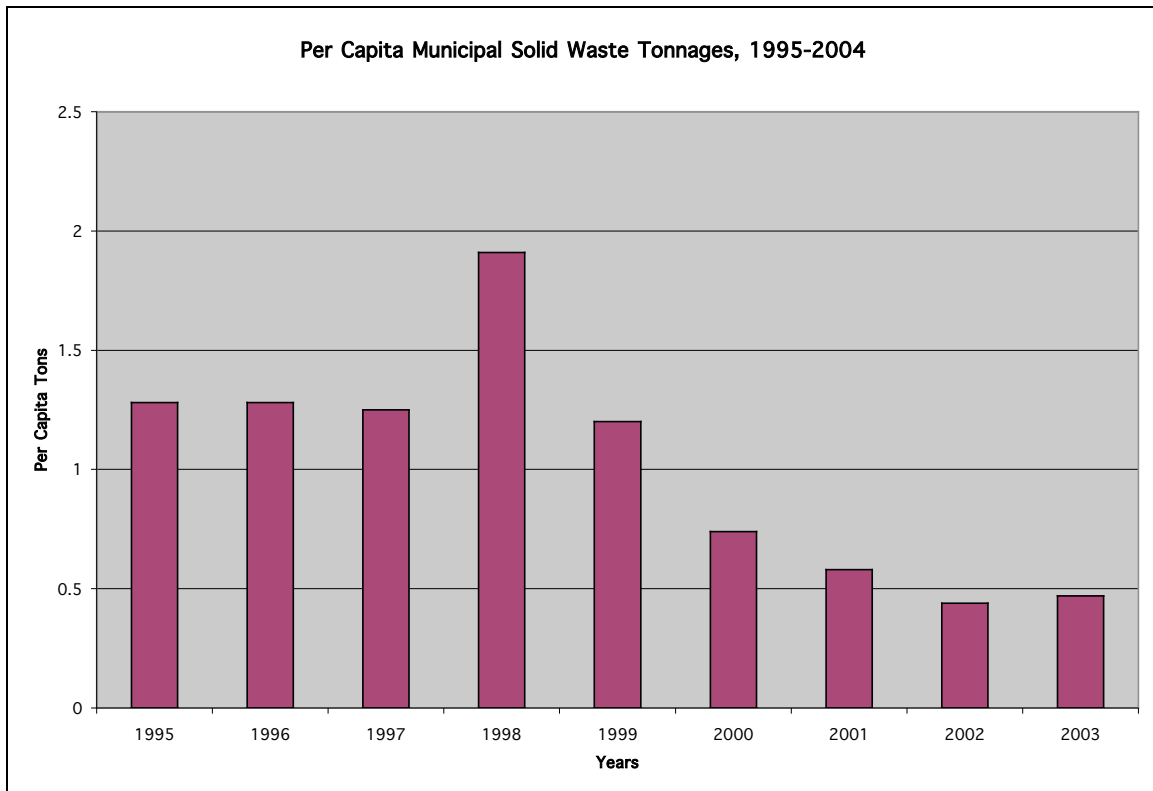


Figure 1

As is shown in Figure 1, per-capita waste generation for each of the Cape's fifteen towns increased between 1995 and 1998. Although the Cape's population increased by 14 percent between this time period, the per-capita generation of solid waste increased by only 3.4 percent during this time period. Between 1999 and 2003, the per-capita waste generation began to decrease. More recent figures show that the per capita waste generation for the Cape is again increasing. These fluctuations are likely reflective of economic activity; however, aggressive recycling programs and policies enacted at both the state and local level play a role in the reduction of MSW generation.

As of December 2005, there were no Pay as You Throw municipal solid waste disposal programs active on Cape Cod. Barnstable had instituted a pilot program in 2004 that was not implemented on a town-wide basis. However, as waste disposal prices increase after current long-term waste disposal contracts expire, Pay as You Throw as a component of a town's waste disposal operations may become viable. At that time, Cape Cod towns may consider adopting Pay As You Throw.