



# RECYCLING NEWS



## Long Range Waste Disposal and Recycling Committee of Hingham

### Recycling at the Transfer Station

#### Wondering where something goes?

**Ask.** The Transfer Station staff are easily identifiable in bright colored shirts and happy to help you. Taking a minute to ask saves everyone time and work. As well as reduce costly contamination.

**CARDBOARD:** As online shopping increases so will the amount of cardboard brought to the Transfer Station. Here are some tips regarding cardboard recycling. Boxes should be broken down prior to arrival at the Transfer Station. That saves space for you and makes bailing easier for the staff. Boxes need to have all Styrofoam and packing peanuts removed before going into cardboard area. Soiled pizza boxes **cannot** be recycled. Food is one of the worst contaminants in the paper recycling process. When paper products, like cardboard, are recycled, they are mixed with water and turned into a slurry. Since we all know water and oil don't mix, let's keep the oil out of our recycling.

### The Numbers Are In

Each year at this time we have an opportunity to look at our waste and recyclable totals from the year before and see how we as a town are doing. Highlighted below is a portion of the "report card."

#### Household waste is constant:

Constant is adequate but we should always be striving for a reduction. Think before you throw. Another component of this grade is the town saw a reduction in Transportation Stickers issued. If this is the case those of us using the Transfer Station did not remain constant but in fact threw more into the trash!

#### Transfer Station Stickers:

All Red Round Transfer Station Stickers **have expired**. Green stickers will be expiring in 2017. Stickers will expire in the month which corresponds with the last number (not letter) on your license plate. Check your car that you have a current sticker. Stickers for household rubbish and all other Permits are issued at the Public Works office with proper identification of residency. Stickers and Permits are only issued at the Department of Public Works office M-F and the second Saturday of each month.

#### Glass Recycling is up:

While any increase in recycling is the goal this commodity has a caveat. Recycling glass is very expensive for the town because of its weight. How can you help? Bring your returnable glass bottles to a redemption center. You get your deposit back and the town doesn't pay to haul it, in effect you get paid twice. We can not accept glass returnables at the Transfer Station because it is a hazard to our youth groups participating in the plastic bottle/can redemption program.

## More Recycling Updates

### PLASTIC BAGS: Don't bag recyclables.

Bags clog the machinery and contaminate the system.



The Transfer Station accepts plastic grocery bags for recycling. Look for the marked chute on the side of the plastics bay in the baler building.

**UNIVERSAL WASTE AREA:** Please recycle each of the following in the labeled containers in the Universal Waste area of the baler building (between plastic bottle/can returnable area and the steps.):

- Fluorescent tube bulbs (contain mercury vapor)
- Ballasts (contain mercury)
- CFLs - compact fluorescent light bulbs - the new energy efficient bulbs (contains mercury vapor)
- Mercury items (thermometers, thermostats, elemental mercury, and any other devices containing mercury).
- Medical waste - Massachusetts Department of Public Health Sharps Container Disposal

Winter 2017

## More Numbers

### Textile recycling is down:

A quick stop at the clothing bins can change this number. MADEP reported that nearly 6% of waste delivered to Massachusetts combustion facilities contained textiles.

Contrary to popular belief, donations **in any** condition are welcomed by for-profit and non-profit textile collectors alike. This includes items with stains, rips, missing buttons, broken zippers, or holey socks. Why? Textiles are a valuable commodity! Items that don't sell in a thrift store are baled and sold to brokers or graders who sell to overseas markets. In developing nations, used clothing and textiles supply local enterprises with materials to repair and resell.

The only **UNACCEPTABLE** donations are: wet/moldy items, items contaminated with oil or hazardous substances.

### What to donate:

Clothing: Shirts, pants, jackets, suits, hats, belts, ties, gloves, scarves, socks (even single ones) undergarments, handbags, backpacks in any style, age or condition.

Footwear: Shoes, sandals, sneakers, cleats, boots, flip-flops, and slippers

Household textiles (even stained and torn items): Curtains, drapes, sheets, blankets, comforters, towels, table linens, throw rugs, pillows, stuffed dolls and animals

## Stories From the Swap

### Thank You

We look forward to hearing from you on how we can help make Hingham GREENER. If you have questions about recycling or waste issues, you can reach us at [recycling@hingham-ma.gov](mailto:recycling@hingham-ma.gov)

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