



# RECYCLING NEWS

## Cleaner Greener Hingham

Long Range Waste Disposal and Recycling Committee of Hingham



### From the Transfer Station

#### What CAN you recycle?

In an effort to provide clarity on what can be recycled, we'll provide a deep dive into types of materials that must be recycled and those that can't. First up: Corrugated Cardboard.

#### Accepted items:

- Any size corrugated cardboard that has open holes along sides (a wavy interior layer with top and bottom cardboard layers)
- Any Styrofoam or plastic inserts must be removed. These are contaminants to the cardboard collection and may result in rejection or trashing of a load.
- Please make every effort to remove plastic tape, and plastic address coverings. Staples and paper tapes are OK.
- Please flatten all cardboard boxes prior to recycling. This helps with efficient bailing of cardboard for transport and ensures that any Styrofoam, plastic inserts, or other non-cardboard materials have been removed
- Corrugated pizza boxes are acceptable **only if** they are not saturated with grease or other food residue. You may rip off the top or any part that is food free and recycle.

#### Prohibited items:

- No single layered cardboard such as cereal/cracker boxes, shoeboxes, and gift boxes. These go with recyclable paper in the paper recycling compactor.
- No waxed/sealed boxes such as frozen food, milk, or other such food boxes are acceptable.

\*Side note: At this year's Household Hazardous Waste Day, people asked about latex paint and motor oil. Latex paint goes in the paint shed, and motor oil goes in the back of the baler building.

### Sustainability is Front and Center at the Fruit Center Marketplace

#### Green Spotlight

Mark Mignosa and his brother Mike co-own The Fruit Center Marketplace with locations in Hingham and Milton. Mark and Mike are passionate about the environment and felt an obligation as business owners to change several of their practices in response to environmental concerns.



*As a business, we have contributed to the problem of waste over the years and we feel it is our duty to do what we can to change what we can to create less trash and use less plastic.*



- Mark Mignosa, Fruit Center Marketplace

#### What are some of the practices at your business to contribute to a Cleaner Greener Hingham?

As of May 1<sup>st</sup>, we stopped using all single-use plastic bags at both our store locations. Our cashiers wore stickers announcing the change for weeks before.

As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, we are now charging 5 cents for every single use paper bag that customers take. There are signs on light poles in the parking lot and by the store entrance reminding customers to bring their reusable bags and we sell several types of reusable bags if customers would like to purchase some. We have been composting all our food waste for the past 3 years. All employees are encouraged to bring reusable coffee cups and water bottles to work and employee meals are consumed using washable plates and utensils, rather than disposables.

We've also changed some of the packaging we use in the store – meat and chicken are packaged on compostable cardboard trays, rather than Styrofoam and we've added an option for customers to use compostable packaging for take-out salads.

Know a local business or citizen we should highlight?  
Contact us at [recycling@hingham-ma.gov](mailto:recycling@hingham-ma.gov)



## Green Spotlight

### Fruit Center cont'd...

#### What impact have you seen from your customers?

So far, customer reaction to the elimination of plastic bags has been very positive. Customers seem motivated to remember their reusable bags when they shop. We were nervous about charging for the paper bags but most customers are supportive. We have faith that our customers can make the switch to reusable bags. Now that plastic checkout bags are gone, cashiers are wearing stickers that say "Thank you for using reusable bags!"

#### Do you have a dream Cleaner Greener Hingham project you'd love to do with your business?

We looked into putting solar panels on the roof a few years ago and at the time, it didn't make financial sense. But now that panel efficiency has increased, we might consider it again. We would love to use solar to meet some or all of the store's energy needs.

#### HOW TO REMEMBER YOUR REUSABLE BAGS

1. Have a large selection of reusable bags available.
2. Stash them in your car, your most used handbag, or right by your front door.
3. After you unpack your groceries, put your bags back in the same location.
4. Always write "BAGS" at the top of your shopping list.
5. Get your kids involved. Have them gather up your "special bags" right before your shopping trip.

Need your own reusable bags?  
We have a few options available  
right here!



## Even Dewey Recycles

### CHECK OUT How the Hingham Library Can Help You REDUCE

A key step to reducing waste is to buy only what you need and use regularly and to borrow things you use only occasionally. The Hingham Library now has a large collection of devices and equipment available to borrow for a two week period. And the library offers training on how to use the technology you borrow via:

<http://ma-hinghamlibrary.civicplus.com/290/Technology-Training>

In the collection, you can find

- **Cameras and Equipment**
- **Computers, Tablets, eReaders**
- **Conversion equipment (e.g. Film to Digital)**
- **Entertainment devices**
- **Kindle Paperwhites**
- **Robots and Coding Tools**
- **Utility and Wellness devices**
- **Games and Puzzles of all sorts**

Check Out the many useful and fun devices and technology available to borrow from the Hingham Library and thus Reduce the things you buy, the waste you generate and the impact of so much "stuff" on our environment. For more information go to:

<http://ma-hinghamlibrary.civicplus.com/333/Technology>

## Around Town

### Hingham Has a Taste for Recycling

The Taste of Hingham organizing committee (from the Hingham Congregational Church) did a great job coordinating a low waste event this year. "Trash" was separated into compostable plates, bowls & napkins (see photo below), food waste, plastic bottles and true trash (which was pretty minimal - only plastic utensils).

The compostable plates were taken to the compost area of the Hingham Transfer Station, the food waste was taken to Weir River Farm for composting, recycling and trash went to the transfer station. One organizer said that trash to the transfer station was reduced by at least 50%. Great job Taste of Hingham and Hingham Congregational Church!



## Study Up

### Study Shows Potential For Earth-Friendly Plastic Replacement

The quest to keep plastic out of landfills and simultaneously satisfy the needs of the food industry is filled with obstacles.

Among the obstacles, products to date have been too brittle for food packaging.

In a new study published in the journal *Polymers*, the research team reports success with a rubber-toughened product derived from microbial fermentation that they say could perform like conventional plastic.

The end product was 75 percent tougher and 100 percent more flexible than PHBV on its own - meaning it is far easier to shape into food packaging.

Increased flexibility, without a significant loss of strength, is particularly important when it comes to plastic films commonly used to package everything from fresh produce to frozen foods, she said.

Beyond packaged foods, a bioplastic could potentially be used in other food-related applications such as utensils and cutting boards.

The researchers are looking to collaborate with colleagues outside of food science to consider other applications for their product, such as to create building materials, gloves for those working in food service, or parts for cars and airplanes.

As the team works to move its technology out of the lab and into the food industry, there will be many details to work out depending on a company's individual priorities and concerns, Vodovotz said, and that may mean tinkering with the mix.

"As we get closer and closer to working with food manufacturers, there are specific questions our potential partners are asking," Vodovotz said.

Original article: <https://news.osu.edu/study-shows-potential-for-earth-friendly-plastic-replacement/>

## Motion Carried (in a reusable bag)

### Hingham Plastic Bag Reduction and Encourage Reusable Bag Bylaw Approved!

At the town meeting on Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Hingham joined 120 other communities in the state by enacting a bylaw to eliminate single use plastic bags. The primary goal of the bylaw is to reduce the amount of single use plastic that enters the environment. This is especially important because as Hingham is a coastal town, it would assist in preventing plastic from entering our waterways and conservation lands. Because of this it also will help avoid wildlife not inadvertently mistaking it as a food source.

With businesses no longer providing single-use plastic bags at checkout, they will be permitted to offer a bag made of paper. To assist our downtown businesses in making the change, the bylaw allows the business to offer a plain paper bag or one that is made of recyclable material. This caveat helps them make the transition without any substantial increase in operating costs.

The second goal of the bylaw is to encourage and promote the usage of reusable bags instead of paper. While paper is better for the environment as it can be composted, it does affect the environment in other ways because of the carbon footprint from its production.

Another note of the bylaw is that produce bags/product bags should be compostable and not rated as biodegradable.

The bylaw goes into effect on Nov. 1st 2019.

