

Let's Talk

~~Trash~~

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Recycling!

**Hopkinton, NH
SOURCE-SEPARATES
their recycling**

What does that mean?

**(watch a short video on
source-separated recycling here)**



Source-Separated:

Residents bring their recyclables to a transfer station or recycling center and separate the materials there.

TYPES OF RECYCLING



SOURCE-SEPARATED

VS.

SINGLE STREAM



PROS: Materials are generally higher in quality, because there is less contamination.

CONS: Requires more effort by the user to either leave sorted items at their curb or take them to a drop-off site.

PROS: Recycling is more convenient because all recyclables go into one container.

CONS: The quality of the material can be degraded due to contamination, resulting in materials being sent to landfills.



Northeast Resource Recovery Association

Did you know?

RECYCLING CAN EARN MONEY AND DECREASE DISPOSAL COSTS



- **Revenue** is earned by selling high quality recyclable material to responsible vendors.

- **Disposal costs** (how much it costs for waste to be landfilled or incinerated) are decreased as material is diverted from the solid waste stream and is recycled instead.

- **Example:** Typically the cost to recycle is less than the cost to throw that material away. Waste may cost \$100 a ton to landfill or incinerate. A recyclable, like cardboard, may sell for \$140 a ton revenue. So if you recycle it, you would BOTH get the \$140 for the sale of the ton of cardboard, PLUS \$100 to avoid landfilling. So now that cardboard is worth \$240!

Did you know?

**JUST BECAUSE IT'S
RECYCLABLE DOES
NOT MEAN IT'S
PROCESSABLE.**

Most things are recyclable, meaning if you had the machinery, expertise, and market, most things could be broken down to their parts, compressed back into raw material, and used again. Think about items that may be recycled in one town and not in another. It's not that the item magically becomes recyclable once it crosses town lines, but rather, it means that the town that recycles that item has the machinery/expertise to recycle it - or a connection to a market that wants it.

WHAT GOES INTO THE DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT SOMETHING IS PROCESSABLE?

It depends on a few things: first, the **AMOUNT** of the item you have to recycle; second, the **LOCATION** of the processing facility; and third, the **COST** of recycling that item.

A good example is number 5 plastic (PP or polypropylene plastic) that you often find yogurt containers made out of. This plastic is recyclable **AND** often fetches a good price, **BUT** small towns and communities rarely have the ability to put together enough (the **AMOUNT** side of the equation) to make hauling and processing cost effective.

Recycling is a manufacturing process - machinery is used to create new items on a large scale.

As NRRA Board Member and recycling expert, Roger Guzowski, wrote:

“Recycling is not good because landfilling is bad. Recycling is good because recycling is good. In a manufacturing process without recycling, a natural resource (trees, iron ore, bauxite ore, silica, etc.) is extracted, processed, manufactured into sellable consumer products, consumed, and then discarded – typically into a landfill or combustion facility. Recycling is that same manufacturing process, only instead of extracting natural resources, we get those resources from stuff that someone was discarding.”

When we remember that recycling is a manufacturing process, we can better understand why contamination is such a problem. Just as you wouldn't want contamination in other manufacturing (such as the manufacturing of car parts or the manufacturing of food containers), contamination in recycling is also problematic.

The best material for manufacturing is clean and well sorted, free from anything that shouldn't be in the mix. You can help keep the manufacturing process of recycling run at its best - and get the most revenue back from your recyclables - by making sure you **ONLY** recycle items that **CAN** be recycled (no more wish-cycling for you!) and by recycling consistently. And when in doubt, **THROW IT OUT!**

Did you know?

RECYCLING IS A MANUFACTURING PROCESS



NO MORE #RECYCLINGMYTHS

How is Hopkinton Doing?

ALUMINUM CANS	5.26 TONS		You conserved enough energy to power 8.94 homes for a year!
PLASTICS	16.98 TONS		You saved 672.41 trash bags from ending up in a landfill!
SCRAP METAL	66.14 TONS		You conserved enough energy to drive a car 729,765.65 miles!

How is Hopkinton Doing?

PAPER	123.32 TONS		You conserved enough energy to charge 50,253,269.96 cell phones!
STEEL CANS	5.32 TONS		You conserved enough energy to swap 369.31 incandescent lightbulbs for LEDs!
TIRES	6.69 TONS		You conserved the equivalent of 2,808.75 pounds of coal being burned!

805 Tons of CO²

Amount of **avoided** carbon dioxide emissions averted thanks to Hopkinton's recycling efforts.



175 Passenger Cars

The equivalent number of **cars removed from the road for a year!**

RECYCLING FAST FACTS!

Did you know?



**YOU DO NOT NEED
TO REMOVE EVERY
PIECE OF TAPE
WHEN YOU RECYCLE
CARDBOARD**

NO MORE #RECYCLINGMYTHS



Did you know?



**SIZE MATTERS
WHEN IT COMES
TO RECYCLING.
USE THE 2" x 2" RULE!**

NO MORE #RECYCLINGMYTHS



RECYCLING FAST FACTS!

Did you know?

PLASTIC AND GLASS
BOTTLES ONLY NEED A
RINSE BEFORE RECYCLING



NO MORE #RECYCLINGMYTHS

Did you know?

YOU DO NOT NEED TO
SOAK PAPER OFF OF
CANS AND BOTTLES
BEFORE RECYCLING



NO MORE #RECYCLINGMYTHS

YOUR RECYCLING HABIT

RECYCLING BASICS

Your recycling habit: Make it Easy

STEP 3: CREATE A DEDICATED RECYCLING SPACE



(No fancy bin needed! A trash can, box, or paper bags work just as well.)

RECYCLING BASICS

Make it a recycling HABIT

ALWAYS DRIVE THROUGH THE RECYCLING LANE AT THE TRANSFER STATION



(Make this route part of your habit!)

PLASTICS RECYCLING

A QUICK GUIDE TO ♻️ NUMBERS



YES, RECYCLE! Items include soda and water bottles, milk and juice jugs, shampoo and cleaning bottles.



NO, TOSS IT. Items include plastic wrap and food trays, cooking oil containers, vending cups, vinyl and styrofoam products.



MAYBE, ASK? Items include yogurt containers, shopping, and dry cleaning bags

THIS SYMBOL:



Does **NOT** mean something is recyclable. This symbol, known as “chasing arrows” with a number in the middle tells you what type of resin - or plastic - the item is made out of. This means it can give you a CLUE as to whether or not it's recyclable. Some numbers - like #1 are often (but not always - we're looking at you clamshell food containers) recyclable. Other numbers, like #6 (eg. Styrofoam cups) or #7 (eg. cell phone cases) are very difficult to process and therefore rarely accepted.

Click here to watch a video on each type of plastic and why it is/is not recyclable.

PLASTIC FAST FACTS

I HEARD **STYROFOAM** IS RECYCLABLE,
WHY CAN'T I PUT IT WITH MY
PLASTIC RECYCLING?



Made of 95% air, 5% polystyrene,
styrofoam is **Hard** to process,
Expensive to store and ship, and a
common **Single-Stream Contaminant**.

WHY CAN'T I RECYCLE **PLASTIC BAGS**
OR FILM AT MY TRANSFER STATION?



Plastic bags and film require a
different type of processing.
At a typical recycling plant,
**this type of plastic can tangle and
jam the processing equipment.**

(YAY!) Good News: Plastic bags and film (eg. anything stretchy like bread bags, ziplock bags, and other stretchy plastic film) ARE RECYCLABLE!

(BOO!) Bad News: Generally, you CANNOT toss them in with your plastic recycling or your single-stream recycling bin.

(YAY!) Good News: Lots of places will take your film! Check your local supermarket, grocery store, or big box store like Target or Walmart. The collection bins are usually located near the entryway door. If you don't see one, JUST ASK! They may be willing to put a collection bin in your local store if there isn't one there yet.

(BOO!) Bad News: When not recycled correctly, plastic bags and film can wreak havoc on processing equipment, getting wrapped and tangled. This can cause processing to stop, which costs money, and can be VERY dangerous for recycling center workers to clear.

RECYCLING TAKEAWAYS

Did you know?

**WISH-CYCLING IS
JUST TRASH WITH
GOOD THOUGHTS.**



NO MORE #RECYCLINGMYTHS

Did you know?

**PREVENT
RECYCLING
CONTAMINATION:
WHEN IN DOUBT,
THROW IT OUT.**



Northeast Resource Recovery Association

NO MORE #RECYCLINGMYTHS

We know, it can feel like there are a lot of recycling "rules." And we get it, it SUPER frustrating that HOW and WHAT gets recycled differs from place to place - even between neighboring towns! It may make you want to throw up your hands all together when it comes to recycling...

BUT DON'T LET "PERFECT" GET IN THE WAY OF "GOOD"!! Even if you only recycle one thing, that's better than nothing every day of the week! If you KNOW your town takes cardboard and that's all you can handle, that's great! If you know there's a hazardous waste event coming up and you're planning on bringing in your old paint cans, well, we couldn't be happier! You don't have to recycle everything in order to make a difference. If most people recycled a little bit, that's better than just a few people recycling a ton.

To take it a step further, it's also important we CELEBRATE the recycling that is happening, instead of shaming community members for not doing more. Let's face it - we are all only human.

Eco-shaming - shaming other people for not recycling or doing other eco-friendly behaviors - has a seriously BAD impact. DON'T DO IT!

"By shaming someone for a habit, you've now become an unsafe space for them to come to you with questions. It discourages this person to approach you to discuss these life changes that they may feel confused about it. Shame inherently attacks the person, and not the behavior, which makes them hide away from it or not admit it."

- Alley L. Biniarz

Instead, strive to be an example, not a judge and educate through empathy.

Find more recycling information: nrrarecycles.org/recycle-right



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