

Recycling & Solid Waste Committee

Contact: Rich Czarnec
 Telephone: (603) 365-8245

Transfer Station Hours of Operation:
 Wednesday Evening – 6 PM to 8 PM
 Saturdays – 7 AM to 2 PM

As always, we dedicate this report to the residents of Chester committed to protecting our environment and reducing property taxes by recycling.

2019 Recycling Center & Solid Waste Transfer Station Summary

In 2019, the facility’s waste stream totaled 826 tons, of which 226 tons were recycled. Of these 226 tons, 163 tons were kitchen* (household) recyclables (see list below). This year, the average net cost for recycling these kitchen recyclables was **\$63.37 per ton**, versus a **net cost of \$115.64 per ton** for disposal via the solid waste compactor. As a result, the 2019 recycling program **resulted in a net savings of at least \$8,535**. This is a notable cost savings, considering the total disposal cost of the 600 tons of compacted solid waste was **\$69,443**.

Overall, **27.3% percent of the Transfer Station’s waste stream was recycled**. Unfortunately, this percentage is again **the lowest rate of recycling we have ever seen**, and it falls well short of the 40% minimum standard recommended by the US EPA.

From observing the general waste disposed of in the trash compactor, there are still two obvious areas for improvement. The first is more diligent sorting out of mixed paper, cardboard and other recyclables. The second is encouraging home (backyard) composting of specific kitchen and other organic wastes. Conscientious attention to these items will reduce the waste stream by another 15% to 25%.

Summary of Recycling Tonnages:

Newspaper & Mag.*	19.9 tons
Mixed Paper*	32.9 tons
Cardboard*	29.6 tons
Scrap Metal	53.9 tons
Co-mingled Cans*	6.5 tons
Aluminum Cans*	4.2 tons
#1 - #7 Plastics*	17.9 tons
Glass*	52.3 tons
Tires	2.5 tons
TVs & Computers	3.3 tons
Used Motor Oil	2.4 tons
Total:	225.5 tons

(*kitchen / household recyclables)

Important Requests

Over the last 5 years we have seen the rate of kitchen / household recyclables (see list) **decline** by about **45%**. We are seeing more recyclables mixed into the trash. **Please do your part in holding down costs and reducing the Town's future liabilities by following the mandatory recycling rules!** Remember that residents who do not follow the rules may be barred from using the Transfer Station, in which case they will have to assume the cost of a commercial curbside pickup service.

We also reiterate our appeal to residents to please be more diligent about crushing your plastics and cans. Please do this, as well as the sorting of recyclables, **prior to** arriving at the Transfer Station. It only takes a minute or two each day to do this as you accumulate your recyclables. Our load hauling schedule is based on a storage volume basis, and **it costs a lot of money to haul loads that are mostly air!**

Please also try some backyard composting of appropriate food waste. It is amazing how much this can reduce the weight and volume of solid waste hauled to the landfill. There are many resources available online for advice and ideas on how to do this.

Lastly, a reminder that we recycle certain types of batteries. Alkaline batteries can go in the trash, however, please drop off all non-alkaline, rechargeable, and button-cell batteries with our attendants in the main building. Car batteries are still dropped off by the storage units. No fees are involved.

Our usual ending ☺...

More residents are utilizing the Transfer Station than ever before. We encourage those of you who are still not using the Transfer Station to come and visit the facility and try it out. The facility is open on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, and on Saturdays from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Our staff, Rich, Roger, Russ, Leona, Richard and Darrell would like to express their appreciation for the enthusiasm and support by our residents for the recycling program and facility in general.

In closing, we would like to encourage any citizens with constructive ideas or suggestions to talk to one of our Transfer Station attendants or contact the Board of Selectmen's Office at 887-3636 Ext. 114.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Hadik, Planning Coordinator
Richard Czarnec, Transfer Station Supervisor
Charles Myette, Selectman