

Annual Report Recycling & Solid Waste Committee

Transfer Station Hours of Operation:
Wednesday Evening – 6 PM to 8 PM
Saturdays – 7 AM to 2 PM
Tel. Contact: Lloyd Healey: (603) 365-8245

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

2016 Recycling Center & Solid Waste Transfer Station Summary

In 2016, the facility's waste stream totaled 899 tons, of which 303 tons were recycled. Of these 303 tons, 234.7 tons were kitchen* (household) recyclables (see list). This year, the average net profit from recycling these kitchen recyclables was \$1.22 per ton, versus a net cost of \$106.20 per ton for disposal via the solid waste compactor. As a result, **the 2016 recycling program resulted in a net savings of at least \$24,926**. This is a noteworthy cost savings, considering the total disposal cost of the 596 tons of compacted solid waste was \$63,296.

Overall, **33.7% percent of the Transfer Station's waste stream was recycled**. Unfortunately, this percentage still 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. Besides the regular kitchen recyclables, 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 could reduce the waste stream by another 10% to 20%.

Summary of Recycling Tonnages:

Newspaper & Mag.*	30.9 tons
Mixed Paper*	63.7 tons
Cardboard*	44.0 tons
Scrap Metal	59.1 tons
Co-mingled Cans*	6.5 tons
Aluminum Cans*	3.6 tons
#1 - #7 Plastics*	23.1 tons
Glass*	63.0 tons
Tires	1.8 tons
Car Batteries	0.6 tons
TVs & Computers	2.3 tons
Used Motor Oil	4.3 tons
Total:	303.0 tons

(*kitchen / household recyclables)

Important Requests and / or New Information

We reiterate our appeal to residents to please be more diligent about crushing your plastics and cans. Please do this prior to arriving at the Transfer Station (as well as the sorting). It only takes a minute or two each day to do this as you accumulate recyclables. Our load hauling is scheduled on a volume basis, and it wastes a great deal of money to haul a load that is mostly air!

Also, we request that more folks try backyard composting of some of their food waste. It is remarkable how much this can reduce the weight and volume of waste hauled to the landfill. There are many resources available online for advice and ideas on how to do this.

For your information, the NH DES has directed that dog and cat waste no longer be disposed of in the compost pile. Instead this must be bagged and disposed of in the solid waste compactor.

Some Interesting Data

A recent comparison of municipal waste disposal and recycling costs, using 2015 data, finds Chester's annual cost to be ~\$35.01 per capita. This is half the average cost (~\$71.19 per capita) for the seven surrounding towns relatively similar in size to Chester. These great results would not be possible without the dedicated staff at our meticulously operated facility!

Next year will be the Transfer Station's 20th Anniversary!! Expect a small celebration in the fall!

Our usual ending ☺...

Many residents still do not utilize the Transfer Station and the convenience it provides. We encourage those of you who are 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, Lloyd, Bonnie, Rich, and Roger, would also like to express their appreciation for the enthusiasm our residents have for the recycling program and the facility in general.

In closing, we would like to encourage any citizens with constructive ideas for improvements or who have an interest in serving on the Committee to please talk to one of our Transfer Station attendants or contact the Board of Selectmen's Office at 887-4979 for information about joining our Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Hadik

Bonnie Healey

Lloyd Healey

Stephen O. Landau, Selectman